

Greater Clark Parks District Program Re-Evaluation: Sports Field Questions & Answers

Q. What guided the proposal for sports fields as part of the Grater Clark parks District program?

A. An analysis was done by Paul Dennis of Eric Hovee’s office that projected the growth needs for all little league and soccer clubs within Vancouver’s urban growth boundary. These youth sports programs are all neighborhood based so Parks staff followed Paul’s work by identifying publicly owned properties within or nearby the boundaries of these groups where fields could be added, assuring participant’s reasonable access. In some cases, there were no parks nearby but school sites were available with an adequate land base and available parking and the schools were willing partners. Field needs were divided into 10 and 20 year needs. The Greater Clark Parks District proposal addressed the 10 year need.

Over the last two years, changing conditions have had some influence on our plans for sports fields. In one case, it was a change in corporate management at a privately owned site where we were reasonably assured of expanding our number of fields. In other cases, it has been wetland delineations making it more costly to develop fields at a reasonable cost. Where we had to, we adapted to these changes and, relying on Hovee’s Sports Field report, looked for ways to keep us on track. We will continue to be faced with changing conditions but staff is committed to looking for new solutions when doors are closed to ensure youth sports organizations have the fields they need to keep their programs viable.

Q. What did the original proposal include and who was expected to provide field maintenance?

A. It included 41 sports fields (20 little league fields and 21 soccer fields) with maintenance services provided as noted below:

Little Leagues:	Fields proposed to be built where?	How many?	Maintained by?
Cascade Little League	Harmony Sports Complex	1	Harmony Sports
Evergreen Little League	China Ditch site	7	Parks District
Glenwood Little League	Laurin-Troxell site	3	50% Parks District
Hazel Dell Little League	HB Fuller Community Park	2	Little League
Highlands Little League	China Ditch site	4	Little League
Salmon Creek Little League	Fairgrounds Community Park	3	Parks District
SUB-TOTAL		20	
Soccer Clubs:	Fields proposed to be built where?	How many?	Maintained by?
Eisenhower Soccer Club	Eisenhower School/Park	1	School District
Orchards Soccer Club	Harmony Sports Complex	2	Harmony Sports
Prairie Soccer Club	China Ditch site	7	Soccer Club
Salmon Creek Soccer Club	Fairgrounds Community Park	7	Parks District
Salmon Creek Soccer Club	HB Fuller	2	Soccer Club
Salmon Creek Soccer Club	Alki MS	2	School District
SUB-TOTAL		21	
TOTAL		41	

Q. Will all the proposed fields be maintained by Greater Clark Parks District funding?

A. No, in following the plan for field needs in the Hovee report, some school sites were expected to be used. In limited cases, schools provided the best opportunities for expanding sports fields and these sites will continue to be maintained by the school district. Some sites will be maintained with Greater Clark Parks District funding, but others have been traditionally maintained by the sports groups themselves or by a mix of public and private funding. For the moment, our emphasis has been on getting new fields sited and built but we can see an important future discussion on how Greater Clark Parks District maintenance funding is equitably distributed.

There will be a partial Greater Clark Parks District benefit for Prairie Soccer Club which serves a population outside the Urban Growth Boundary since they will be operating, in part, on sports field space shared with Evergreen Little League. But, for the four, dedicated Prairie Soccer Club fields at the Hockinson Community Park/China Ditch site and for Highlands Little League, which also serves a population outside the Urban Growth Boundary, there is no current commitment to provide Greater Clark Parks District-funded maintenance services.

Of the original 20 little league fields, 13 were to receive Greater Clark Parks District maintenance funding while another 3 could receive parks district funding through re-negotiated use agreements. The remaining 4 fields are planned for an urban community park site, but serve a population which resides outside the Urban Growth Boundary.

Of the original 21 soccer fields, 10 were to receive Greater Clark Parks District maintenance funding, 3 would be maintained by the school district, and another 4 could receive parks district funding through re-negotiated use agreements. The remaining 4 fields are planned for an urban community park site but serve a population which resides outside the Urban Growth Boundary.

Q. Were the sports fields described as being built within community parks in Greater Clark Parks District campaign literature?

A. Yes. The information about all the sports field locations had to be edited to fit into parks district campaign literature and was mistakenly listed simply as “community parks.” While the fields are being proposed at locations that best serve the youth sports organizations, not all are on community parks.

Q. Where are the non-community park sports fields located exactly?

A. In addition to the community park locations, some sports fields will be located at:

1. Harmony Sports Complex, which is a Clark County owned site and home to Cascade Little League and Orchards Soccer Club. The site contains parking, baseball fields, and soccer fields and, under terms of the use agreement, must provide public access.
2. The Laurin-Troxell site, outside the Urban Growth Boundary and central to Glenwood Little League’s service area, is identified in our inventory as a Regional Park.
3. Eisenhower School/Park site is near Eisenhower Soccer Club’s home fields at Jason Lee Middle School and will accommodate the soccer club’s expansion needs. While the site contains a 7.5 acre neighborhood park, the sports fields are on school property adjacent to a 120 car parking lot.
4. Alki Middle School

Q. Is the sports field plan proposed in the parks district campaign intact?

A. Yes and no. We are still moving forward with many of the original plans, but some conditions have changed over the last two years that have required that we find solutions to these changing conditions. Fewer dry acres and more wetlands is one example of the challenges we’re facing. The higher cost of general park development affects our ability to make the improvements on community park sites that serve both park and sports field users.

Despite some surprises, the Evergreen Little League fields are moving forward; the Eisenhower project is near completion; we have found reasonable solutions to the drainage problem at Alki that will add two fields to Salmon Creek Soccer's field inventory; and an agreement with Prairie High School can help Prairie Soccer Club's need for fields.

Q. What is the current status of the proposal for 41 sports fields, and how many remain viable?

A. At this point the number of viable fields ranges from 26 to 38. Planning for the sports fields has meant adjusting to new conditions, whether it is a change in management at HB Fuller Corporation or a wetland delineation that makes developing certain park property at a reasonable cost impossible.

We continue to be guided by our original plan of meeting the 10 year field need in 10 years and we remain confident we can do it.

Little Leagues:	Fields proposed to be built where?	Original number	Amended number	Comments
Cascade Little League	Harmony Sports Complex	1	1	No change
Evergreen Little League	China Ditch site	7	8	1 field added to pick up 300' field need from HLL
Glenwood Little League	Laurin-Troxell site	3	3	No change
Hazel Dell Little League	HB Fuller Community Park	2	0 - 2	Mgmt change at Fuller Corp puts doubts on expansion
Highlands Little League	China Ditch site	4	4*	Placeholder until funded by HLL and/or Reg. REET
Salmon Creek Little League	Fairgrounds Community Park	3	0 - 3	Placeholder but fields at risk due to high costs. Other sites being reviewed
SUB-TOTAL		20	16 - 21	
Soccer Clubs:	Fields proposed to be built where?	Original number	Amended number	Comments:
Eisenhower Soccer Club	Eisenhower School/Park	1	1	Near completion
Orchards Soccer Club	Harmony Sports Complex	2	2	No change
Prairie Soccer Club	China Ditch site/Prairie HS	4	3 - 4*	Placeholder until funded by PSC and/or Reg. REET. PHS can substitute for some of China Ditch fields
Prairie Soccer Club	China Ditch site	3	2 - 3	2 to 3 fields secure as part of ELL outfield areas
Salmon Creek Soccer Club	Fairgrounds Community Park	7	0 - 3	Placeholder for fewer fields but any fields at risk due to high costs. Other sites being reviewed
Salmon Creek Soccer Club	HB Fuller	2	0 - 2	Mgmt change at Fuller Corp puts question on expansion Discussing all weather field to increase capacity
Salmon Creek Soccer Club	Alki MS	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	All parties in agreement on improvements but use terms being negotiated
SUB-TOTAL		21	10 - 17	
TOTAL		41	26 - 38	

* placeholders at urban park site but capital funding not provided through urban funding sources