



**Rieke Field - Parks Replacement Bond – Community Meeting – May 18, 2016**

**Overview**

The second open house for the Rieke Field Replacement Bond Project was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 from 6pm-7:30pm at Rieke Elementary’s Library. Outreach included a post on the project & Parks websites; yard signs near the Field; electronic distribution to Rieke families; flyers distributed to businesses in the Hillsdale town center; and two rounds of emails to interested parties. The Open House was attended by approximately 10 community members. A paper comment form was provided at the Open House, and a similar version was posted online for one week after the Open House. A total of 24 comments were received.

The goal of the Open House was to provide an update on the project, share decisions made about turf material selection, and answer questions. The Open House included presentations on the Project Scope, Schedule, and Turf Infill Materials by Gary Datka, PP&R Project Manager and the field concepts by David Evans & Associates. Questions and comments were taken from the audience.

It should be noted that this report reflects the opinions of those who chose to participate. It is not necessarily representative of the broader community. This information, in addition to information provided by Parks maintenance & athletics staff; PPS staff; the Technical Advisory Committee; and other stakeholders will be used to inform the development of the final design for the Rieke Field replacement.

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**1. The primary goals of this project are: improving safety for users, creating a more accessible field, informing the community & stakeholders about key decisions, and creating a field that can be easily maintained into the future. Do you agree that these goals are being achieved?**

Strongly agree     Agree     No opinion     Disagree     Strongly disagree  
50%                      42%                      0%                      4%                      4%

**2. Public input was incorporated into the overall design concept.**

Strongly agree     Agree     No opinion     Disagree     Strongly disagree  
29%                      33%                      17%                      13%                      8%

**3. What do you think are the measures of success for this project?**

- o Safe for all user-groups 29%
- o Open to various user-groups/accessible 29%
- o Completed on time 24%
- o Within budget 18%
- o All-year usability 12%
- o Other responses included having lighting and lacrosse lines

#### 4. What else would you like to share with us about this project?

- Concern about the crumb rubber, cancer risks, and how often research will be done and shared with the community **26%**
- Thank you/excited for this to be happening **21%**
- Thank you for including lacrosse lines **11%**
- Please include lighting **11%**
- Other responses included adding bleachers, addressing drainage issues, including a protective screen between fields, pitching circles/bases, and having a ribbon cutting ceremony with the school.

#### Please tell us about yourself:

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##### How far do you live from Rieke Field? (pick one)

- Five blocks or less **18%**     Less than one mile **27%**     More than one mile **55%**

##### How often do you visit Rieke Field? (pick one)

- Every day or every other day **50%**     Once or twice a month **18%**  
 Once or twice a week **18%**     A few times a year **14%**  
 Never **0%**

##### Do you...

- Have a child who attends Rieke Elementary **17%**     Live nearby **14%**  
 Have a child who attends another school **17%**     Attend or work at Rieke Elementary **10%**  
 Have a child at Wilson High School **17%**     Play soccer at Rieke **7%**  
 Own or work at a business near Rieke **14%**     Child will be attending Rieke **4%**

##### How did you hear about this event?

- PP&R email **34%**     PP&R website **3%**  
 Rieke PTA **20%**     Hillsdale Neighborhood Meeting **3%**  
 Yard sign in park **14%**     High school rec coach **3%**  
 PP&R flyer **9%**     Lacrosse community **3%**  
 Word of mouth **9%**     Wilson High School **3%**



**How many children do you have living with you under the age of 18?**

- Zero **29%**
- One **14%**
- Two **48%**
- Three **9%**

**How old are they?**

- 1-5 years old **22%**
- 6-10 years old **26%**
- 11-15 years old **33%**
- 16+ years old **19%**

**I am age**

- Under 16 years old **0%**
- 16-24 years old **0%**
- 25-34 years old **0%**
- 35-44 years old **38%**
- 45-59 years old **52%**
- 60-79 years old **10%**
- 80 & over **0%**

**I identify as**

- Female **33%**
- Male **67%**
- Other **0%**

**Regarding residence, I**

- Own **90%**
- Rent **5%**
- Other **5%**

**I identify as (please check all that apply):**

- White **95%**
- Slavic/Eastern European Immigrant **5%**
- American Indian/Alaskan Native **0%**
- Asian **0%**
- Black or African American **0%**
- Hispanic or Latino **0%**
- Recent African Immigrant **0%**
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander **0%**
- Some Other Race (please specify) **0%**





## MEETING NOTES: RIEKE FIELD IMPROVEMENTS – OPEN HOUSE 2

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### **Meeting Discussion Notes:**

#### **Pre-presentation questions or expectations:**

- What is the project timeline?
- Will there be any impacts to the Farmers Market (held in the parking lot)?
- What will be the impact to School operations?

### **Audience Questions During and After Presentation:**

#### **Project impacts to Farmers Market?**

- (Gary) Every effort will be made to keep staging and parking lot use/access down towards the Rieke end of the lot, anticipating not significant impact to the farmers market. We will also be exploring using the northern entrance behind the retail strip mall, if they are agreeable to that.

#### **The extents of work area slide implies that access to the softball field will be cut off?**

- (Gary) Construction is intended to occur during the summer months and not interfere with softball access or other school operations. If that ends up not being the case, the project can look at ways to accommodate access from the school to the backstop when needed.

#### **When will the decision on using a shock pad be made?**

- (Nick) It is an on-going discussion between PP&R and PPS.

#### **Why else not natural grass?**

- (Gary) This is also a joint use field with PPS and together they cannot accommodate the maintenance needs of a grass field that would be necessary to keep it in available year-round as a high-use field. There is a shortage of high-use fields on the west side and this project is in response to that need.

#### **Are there any natural lawn fields in the system with high-end drainage features?**

- Not sport fields. The only lawn in the city with a very advanced drainage system is at Waterfront Park, where large events like Rose Festival, etc. are held. The lawn has a special soil mix, turf variety, and is regularly overseeded and has sand applied, among other activities. It is a maintenance intensive lawn.





**What is the cost-comparison of natural lawn versus synthetic turf for on-going maintenance?**

- PP&R will be responsible for the maintenance of the field. Synthetic fields have very low annual maintenance needs and costs: they require once or twice-per-year raking/grooming to re-distribute the infill material as well as a thorough cleaning that could be performed at the same visit(s). By comparison, lawn fields require weekly mowing, heavy irrigation, fertilizers, pesticide, plus occasional intensive maintenance like re-seeding, aeration or thatching.

**In response to a comment about blood on the field for 10 days:**

- (Gary) PP&R will address that but they must be notified. PPS can be notified or PP&R can be notified through a maintenance hotline or their website. PP&R encourages coaches, spectators and parents to also assume some responsibility for self-cleaning spills on the synthetic turf.
- (PPS Steve/PPS Eric) stated that the issue should have been reported to the school staff for cleaning. If they cannot handle the extent of cleaning PP&R would be called for service.

**Does PP&R have or keep injury statistics for lawn fields versus synthetic turf?**

- Not readily that Gary was aware of, but data could probably be provided in the future.

**Would PP&R adjust their position on infill material based on pending national research results and recommendations?**

- (Gary) yes, in the future, depending on the findings and recommendations PP&R would assess the need to make adjustments in response to national recommendations. The current design is adaptable to national changes and if they were to come out sooner, infill changes could be instituted possibly without impacting the project's current schedule. An infill change does not change the design but rather a part of the specifications, which should be easy to modify.

**Is there a 'Citizen Scientist' opportunity at this field for the Rieke community? Have other similar programs been done with the Park Bureau?**

- Gary was aware of one such program: in the Cully neighborhood where a PP&R property (a former landfill) had been tested for soils samples by the local community. The on-going monitoring PP&R has committed to at the Rieke field for water and air quality could provide local neighbor or educational partnership opportunities; PP&R would welcome local involvement. PP&R is currently interested in partnering with a nearby university (PSU or OSU, potentially) to help establish and run the monitoring program.

**Since the California EPA pioneered SBR infill, are they biased in its evaluation?**





- (Gary and Audience) the testing is being shared by three national testing organizations in order to not highlight any individual agency bias.

**Could the existing field be tested for its current Gmax? Recess staff at the school are being instructed to not allow specific activities such as cartwheels, due to the comparison of the field being “like asphalt.” Perhaps, based on Gmax testing, certain portions of the existing field that are indeed unsuitable for this kind of play could be spray-painted, leaving the other portions of the field open for exercise and play?**

- (Gary) PPS and PP&R will coordinate to explore getting the field Gmax tested for this purpose. Still, there is the need to be clear that PP&R does not consider it a safe surface for certain activities. It was suggested that PPS conduct g-max testing to identify and delineate the area of the field that do not meet the g-max safety standards and say those are off limits.

**How will the new field be programmed? In two-hour blocks? Some concern expressed about the programming/scheduling resulting in rec games being scheduled for early evening (ie, 6PM), which may be too early for players to make it on time.**

- Gary believed this field will be programmed according to the ‘traditional’ PP&R method, but was going to follow up with this particular participant with more detailed information from the PP&R programming staff to address specific needs or concerns.

**What infill material would Gary choose if SBR crumb rubber were eliminated as an option?**

- PP&R believes that SBR crumb rubber is a good, reliable and safe product, and it is the baseline product installed at many of its fields. However, although they are unproven in our region/climate and have their own areas of concern regarding environmental consequences, Gary expressed a personal interest in exploring the plant-based infill products like cork and coconut.

**Additional Comments, after meeting adjourned:**

- (Steve and Todd) the softball run off and silty drainage issues have been reviewed and are being addressed through system design and separate conveyance systems.
- (Gary) the project does not provide any additional security fencing or access control measures. This is consistent with other PPS properties.

