



## **Rieke Field Parks Replacement Bond Project Frequently Asked Questions, December 2015**

### **When will the Parks Replacement Bond-funded replacement of Rieke Field begin?**

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) has already started planning work for this project.

Preliminary geotechnical investigations must be completed to understand the drainage issues and subsidence (unevenness) of the turf surface before any design and planning can be done. This work is underway, and on-site work will be completed when students are out of school for winter break.

The complete schedule for the project will likely follow this timeline:

- **Project Setup and Design Consultant Contracting:** Currently underway
- **Public Input:** Winter – Early Spring 2016
- **Design and Documentation:** Early Spring – Summer 2016
- **Permitting and Bidding:** Fall – Winter 2016
- **Construction:** Spring or Summer 2017

### **Can the project be completed any sooner?**

The project schedule could be shifted to expedite the Design and Documentation phases; however, that would mean that construction would start late Fall 2016 - Spring 2017. These months are typically Portland's rainy season making construction of fields difficult to accomplish. Starting construction at the wrong time of year can be counter-productive on certain types of soils, resulting in a construction period that could take longer to complete than simply waiting. An expedited time frame would also take the field out of use for a longer period of the school year.

PP&R and PPS, with public input, will continue to review the schedule and proceed accordingly.

### **What elements will be included in the Rieke Field replacement bond project?**

#### **What sports will it be designed for?**

Rieke Field will receive a completely new synthetic turf system. The field will be the



same size and in the same location, supporting both adult and youth sports. It is planned at this time for the field to be permanently striped for soccer and boys and girls lacrosse. Any additional or future uses can be temporarily painted.

Field improvements will include subsurface drainage, removing and reconstructing the sub-base supporting the synthetic turf system, new synthetic turf mat and infill consistent with industry standards, and sports furnishings.

PP&R will also be installing a new drinking fountain, provisions for field lighting (poles and lights are NOT included in this project), and as part of PP&R's commitment to universal accessibility, this project will be making specific improvements to pathways and access to the field.

**What is the Bond project budget for the Rieke Field replacement?**

The total not-to-exceed budget allocation for this project including hard construction costs, design consultant fees, permitting costs, public involvement, and internal staff costs is \$2,173,057.00. As with any budget allocation, our goal will be to bring in the project for LESS than this amount.

**There have been many news stories and research focused on the health and safety impacts of synthetic turf fields. Has PP&R considered the health and safety impacts? What materials are planned to be used in the Rieke Field replacement?**

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) is committed to providing safe and accessible recreational opportunities for all Portlanders. To that end, we are pursuing the installation of an artificial turf (crumb rubber) field for this project, while paying close attention to the national conversation surrounding artificial turf. The safety of our fields, along with every facility we own and manage, is paramount.

PP&R has a strong interest in conclusive research on crumb rubber infill; though right now such research is not decisive. We are monitoring as more research is done, always looking for improved technologies, and we will look for opportunities to collect data ourselves. It should also be noted the potential health concerns surrounding synthetic fields must also be balanced with both the dangers of uneven/waterlogged/baked-dry grass fields causing falls, broken bones and/or sprains. We also must acknowledge that in our climate, natural fields are unsuitable for use many months of the year – most typically during the school year when fields (and especially this field) are needed for active play space.

We will continue to consult with other park associations nationwide to understand any other data available, and their decisions on crumb rubber.

The current project approach is to use synthetic turf at Rieke Field. The final decision, however, will be made after considering many design factors including public input, initial cost, usability, longevity, long-term maintenance costs, and other considerations.

**What about using products such as the Nike fill used at other local fields?**

PP&R has not ruled out the use of alternative products at this time. As soon as the design consultant and field specialist are under contract, we will begin to explore the use of alternative infill products and their impact on availability, durability, cost, and public health, and we will include the public on our explorations.

**What is the recommendation for current use of Rieke Field?**

The field surface is uneven, hard, and not suitable for competitive use. The field should be used with caution.

**What other recent field replacement projects has PP&R done?**

There have been several synthetic turf field replacements in recent years and a couple that are currently in design and planning.

These include:

- Buckman Field
- Delta Park
- Grant Park
- Dunaway Park
- Lents Park

**What is the Parks Replacement Bond?**

The Parks Replacement Bond was passed with the support of over 75% of voters in November 2014. Its primary focus is on repair and replacement of the most critical needs in the park system. The total bond is for \$68 million, and work has begun on the first list of 35 Bond projects citywide.

**Where can I get more information?**

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- Maija Spencer, PP&R Bond Community Engagement, [maija.spencer@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:maija.spencer@portlandoregon.gov), (503) 823-5593
- The project page can be found at [www.parksreplacementbond.org](http://www.parksreplacementbond.org). Please check there for ongoing updates.