



Parks & Recreation Commission

ACTION CALENDAR
December 6, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Parks & Recreation Commission

Submitted by: Yolanda Huang, Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission

Subject: Derby Street Athletic Field

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution endorsing the Berkeley Unified School District's request to work together to close Derby Street between Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Milvia Street in order to create a multipurpose athletic field, including a regulation baseball diamond.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) is the property owner and as such would bear the cost of converting the street to an athletic field. It would only be at the discretion of the City to apply for grants or otherwise agree to any funding for this project.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On October 24, 2005, the Parks & Recreation Commission approved endorsing BUSD's request to work together to close Derby Street to create a multipurpose athletic field. Ayes: Chavez, Huang, Porter, Price, Gurdziel, Becker, Barrantes. Abstain: Amosslee

At the October 24 meeting, several members of the public spoke during public comment in support of creating a multipurpose athletic field and regulation baseball diamond on Derby Street.

Speakers relayed the need for additional athletic fields throughout the city, the severely overcrowded conditions at San Pablo Park, and the overall lack of open space in the South and West Berkeley neighborhoods. The need to create an opportunity for the local neighborhood children to use the park was emphasized, as well as the need to keep "at risk" children off the street by enabling their participation through increased availability of the park.

Kristin Glenchur, Athletic Director at Berkeley High School accounts her experiences "bidding for the use of San Pablo Park, Grove Park, and Lower Martin Luther King fields for high school baseball, softball, and lacrosse programs." (See Attachment 2).

By creating a field large enough to provide a regulation baseball diamond, BUSD will free up recreational space at San Pablo Park for neighborhood use. BUSD has also agreed to provide for the existing Farmer's Market with an even larger space than they currently utilize.

In terms of its own mission, the Commission also particularly appreciates the conversion of asphalt roadways into recreational facilities in an environmentally appropriate and community-based process.

BACKGROUND

A survey done by the Association of Sport Field Users (ASFU) in 1992 found that organizations are turning away participants due to the limited number of fields available. BUSD is a major user of City fields, both in time and space. BUSD also supplies field access, but the use of the fields at San Pablo Park by Longfellow Middle School and Berkeley High School precludes use by City Recreation Programs, Little League and other Youth Baseball Programs.

In 1996, staff conducted a user need survey. The survey determined the need for eleven additional multi-purpose sports fields to accommodate the number of users. The analysis also projected that four more fields would be required by 2000 to accommodate the increased number of users. Also in 1996, City Council made several recommendations to help alleviate demands for playing fields, including working with BUSD to explore the possibility of using Derby Street as a possible playing field location.

In 2003, Council authorized the City Manager to write a letter to BUSD requesting they evaluate funding sources for development of playing fields.

The policies of the Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan call for creating new open space and recreational resources throughout Berkeley, maximizing joint City/BUSD use of and planning for recreational facilities, identifying and prioritizing open space expansion opportunities in neighborhoods that are underserved, and increasing the supply of playing fields for youth sports.

Please refer to Attachment 3 for background details.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The General Plan has defined expanding open space and recreational resources as an objective. A multipurpose athletic field on Derby Street would serve to alleviate the increased demand for playing fields and create an additional recreation opportunity for youth in South and West Berkeley by freeing San Pablo Park for neighborhood use.

CONTACT PERSON

Virginia Aiello, Secretary, Parks & Recreation Commission, 981-5158

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution
- 2: Letter from Kristin Glenchur, Athletic Director, Berkeley High School
3. Additional Sports Fields: City Council Summary & Council Reports, January 14, 2003

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

DERBY STREET ATHLETIC FIELD

WHEREAS, the General Plan has defined open space and recreational resources as an objective and a multipurpose athletic field and baseball diamond and Derby Street is one of the few locations within Berkeley that can serve this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) has requested that the City of Berkeley work with them to close Derby Street between Milvia and Martin Luther King, in order to accommodate a multi-purpose athletic field, including a regulation baseball diamond and designated space for the Farmer's Market; and

WHEREAS, the use of San Pablo Park by BUSD athletic teams precludes the use of these City facilities for neighborhood youth and City Recreation Programs; and

WHEREAS, the conversion of automobile-based infrastructure into recreational facilities in an environmentally appropriate and community based process is a model for forward-looking urban development in keeping with the mission of the Parks & Recreation Commission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Berkeley endorses the Berkeley Unified School District's request to work together to close Derby Street between Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Milvia Street in order to create a multipurpose athletic field, including a regulation baseball diamond.

October 24, 2005

Dear Members of the Berkeley City Council,

On behalf of Berkeley Athletics I want to thank you for your diligent consideration to close Derby Street and allow the Berkeley Unified School District to build a full size baseball field as well as a large practice turf area.

Every year I attend an Association of Sports Field Users (ASFU) meeting at which I sit with approximately forty other City of Berkeley field users and "bid" for use of San Pablo Park, Grove Park, and Lower Martin Luther King fields for our baseball, softball, and lacrosse programs. It is a bit disconcerting that the only public high school in Berkeley must compete for athletic play space with local little leagues, but it is our reality. As you know, the entire city, in addition to neighboring cities, is clamoring for additional minutes on our city's limited athletic space. Simply moving our baseball program from San Pablo Park will accommodate quite a number of additional youth and adult programs.

No planning for the building of any BUSD field should go on without the consideration of the South of Bancroft plans on the Berkeley High Campus. Building a regulation baseball field was not possible given the space limitations and programmatic needs at Berkeley High, so the athletic department advocated for a regulation softball diamond at BHS with space for fall and winter turf practices and space to accommodate a large physical education class. This plan was accepted in committee and community groups with the hope that baseball and other sports could be accommodated at East Campus. A regulation softball and a regulation baseball field are the two competition spaces that Berkeley Athletics desperately needs.

To answer whether combining a baseball diamond with practice turf space is realistic and safe, one need only visit the existing small BHS softball field on a day the field hockey team is competing on the turf. There you will see forty football athletes practicing in that small area. Certainly a larger practice area at East Campus would be a welcome improvement. I've consistently noted to both the consultants and at community meetings that a larger field will provide much needed practice and play space for male and female athletes through three seasons: football or girls field hockey in the fall, boys or girls soccer in the winter, and baseball in the spring. Most, if not all, turf competitions would be played on the Berkeley High campus.

Our discussion with the neighbors has been vital to this planning process. We've dispelled rumors about the number and gender of athletes who will use the space at one time, the lighting, and the fencing issues. I know that no matter what we do or do not do, there will be people who are dissatisfied. What you should remember in your deliberation is that this field is important to all of the residents of Berkeley, regardless of which neighborhood they live in. I urge you to take a poll of your own constituents, so that you can hear from their perspectives just how this field impacts your own Council District. I will continue to communicate as needed to clear up any misconceptions and answer any questions you or the community might have.

Creating the field space necessary to accommodate Berkeley's students in the near future and for generations to come is possible if we close Derby St. and maximize use of the only green space in our neighborhood.

Thanks for the good work that you all do.

Kristin Glenchur,
Athletic Director, Berkeley High

request that staff work with all parties to see if they will agree to mediation.

Action Calendar - Old Business

25. Proclamation: Farm Animals as Sentient Beings (PDF, 447 KB) *(held over from 12/17/2002 by Councilmember Wozniak-revised by Councilmember Spring)*

From: Councilmember Spring

Recommendation: Approve a proclamation for more humane treatment of animals raised in agribusiness as approved by the Citizens Humane Commission and direct the City Clerk to forward the proclamation to Farm Animal Sanctuary.

Contact: Dona Spring, Councilmember District 4, 981-7140

Action: Moved to Consent Calendar by Wozniak. Adopted Resolution No. 61,913-N.S. (PDF, 106 KB)

Presentations

26. "Street Smarts," a proposed Regional Pedestrian Safety Awareness Campaign (15 minutes) *(held over from 12/17/200 by Councilmember Spring)*

Contact: Dona Spring, Councilmember District 4, 981-7140

Action: Presentation made. Councilmember Spring requested that the City Manager investigate partnering with the City of San Jose and others to seek grant funding and to look into the cost of obtaining brochures with the City's name.

27. Additional Sports Fields (15 minutes) (PDF, 1.8 MB)

a. From: Parks and Recreation Commission

Recommendation: Authorize the City Manager to write a letter to the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) requesting that BUSD apply Measure AA funds to develop sports fields to meet the needs of student athletes and to revisit the possible use of Derby Street for playing fields.

Contact: Deborah Chernin, Secretary, 981-6715

b. From: City Manager

Recommendation: Authorize the City Manager to write a letter to the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) requesting they evaluate BUSD Measure AA funds or any other possible funding sources for development of playing fields.

Contact: Lisa Caronna, Parks Recreation and Waterfront, 981-6700

Action: Presentation made. Moved, seconded, carried (Hawley/Olds; Abstain – Worthington, Bates) to approve the City Manager's recommendation.

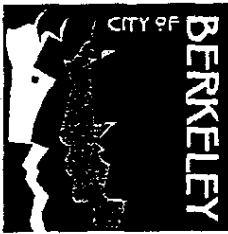
Action Calendar-New Business

28. Negative Declaration on Proposed Construction of the Molecular Foundry by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (PDF, 263 KB)

From: Councilmember Spring

Recommendation: Direct the City Manager send a letter to the Director and Environmental Planning Coordinator, Jeff Philber, of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) asking that the public comment period on the negative declaration for the proposed construction of the Molecular Foundry be extended an additional 45 days due to the holiday break; and that the Council and staff submit comments on the adequacy of the environmental review.

Contact: Dona Spring, Councilmember District 4, 981-7140



Office of the City Manager

ACTION CALENDAR
January 14, 2003

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council
From: Weldon R. ~~Walker~~, City Manager
Subject: Need for Additional Sports Fields

RECOMMENDATION

That Council authorize the City Manager to write a letter to the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) requesting they evaluate applying eligible BUSD Measure AA funds or any other possible funding sources for development of playing fields.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Fiscal impact will be determined upon BUSD evaluation of Measure AA or other possible funding sources.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

At its October 28, 2002 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed a survey presented by the Association of Sport Field Users (ASFU) and requested that it be forwarded to Council for review (Information Item and Presentation accompanying this report). The survey done by ASFU found that organizations are turning away participants due to the limited number of fields available and identified the need for twelve new fields.

The Commission also recommended that Council request Berkeley Unified School District apply Measure AA funds for the development of sports fields and revisit the possibility of using the East Campus/Derby Street site for playing fields.

Regarding the East Campus site, on December 2000 the City Council accepted a report from the City Manager that transmitted the EIR document to BUSD as the lead agency and owner of the property for their certification and further implementation. (Attachment D.)

BACKGROUND

Berkeley has five lighted athletic fields for day and night use, and eleven playing fields for daytime use only.

In 1995, the City began a process to determine the use and need for playing fields. Per Council direction, a series of workshops were held to determine availability of fields in Berkeley. In addition to availability, Council directed the City Manager to explore and develop a long-term plan with options to create additional playing fields.

In 1996, staff conducted a user need survey. The survey determined the need for eleven additional multi-purpose sports fields, which include two lighted fields, to accommodate the number of users. This was due primarily to the increase of women and girls' participation in outdoor sports and the significant increase in youth participation. (See Attachments A & B)

The analysis also projected that, by 2000, four more fields, one lighted, would be required to accommodate the increased number of users. Projections also included that the lack of space would result in 718 youth and 280 adults being denied the opportunity to participate in an athletic program in the City.

The increasing participation of girls in organized sports and mushrooming youth participation in soccer, softball, field hockey, and lacrosse has resulted in an increased demand for youth playing fields. Responding in part to these conditions, the City Council approved development of two new lighted playing fields at the Harrison Street site in West Berkeley. Nevertheless, there is still need for additional playing fields.

On April 30, 1996, City Council made several recommendations to help alleviate demands for playing fields (Attachment C) including working with BUSD to explore the possibility of using East Campus/Derby Street as a possible playing field location. Several public meetings occurred at that time. Two alternatives were identified as the most feasible.

The policies of the Open Space and Recreation Element of the General Plan, adopted in April 2002, are intended to achieve the following objective; "to expand open space and recreational resources to meet the evolving space and recreational needs of all segments of this community through land acquisitions and improvements." The following policies and actions were delineated in the General Plan regarding open space (OS) and land use (LU):

Policy LU-13, Action B

Maximize joint City/Unified School District use of and planning for facilities, such as recreation, libraries, and cultural centers. (The Land Use element was adopted on December 18, 2001.

Policy OS-6 Open Space and Recreational Resources

Create new open space and recreational resources throughout Berkeley.

Policy OS-6, Action A

Identify and prioritize open space expansion opportunities in neighborhoods that are underserved or not easily accessible to existing park and recreational facilities.

Policy OS-6, Action C

Develop joint-use agreements with other agencies such as the University of California, the Berkeley Unified School District, the Bay Area Rapid Transit District, and regional open space agencies to increase public access to public lands.

Policy OS-6, Action D

Increase the supply of playing fields for youth sports.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The General Plan has defined expanding open space and recreational resources as an objective. Additional playing fields need to be created within Berkeley to alleviate the increased demand for outdoor playing space.

CONTACT PERSON

Madalyn Law, Recreation Program Administrator (510) 981-5146

Approved:



Lisa Caronna, Director

Attachments

- A. Charts: Berkeley Youth Sports Participation
- B. Charts: Participation vs. Turned Away
- C. April 30, 1996 Council Report re: Measures to Alleviate Demands for Playing Fields
- D. Dec. 19, 2000 Council Report re: East Campus Final EIR

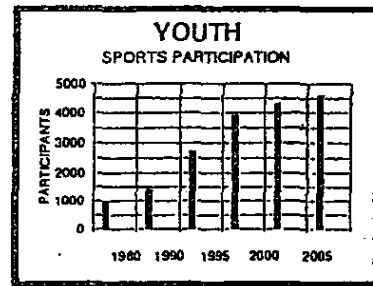
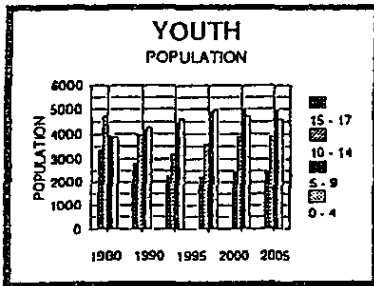
Attachment A
CHARTS: BERKELEY YOUTH SPORTS PARTICIPATION

YOUTH POPULATION

AGE	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
0 - 4	3878	4,268	4658	4969	4725	4601
5 - 9	3926	4,206	4485	4904	5024	4938
10 - 14	4731	3,954	3181	3578	3901	3913
15 - 17	3357	2,811	2265	2253	2422	2520
TOTAL	15892	15,239	14589	15704	16072	15972

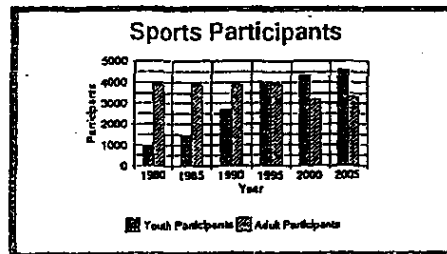
YOUTH SPORTS PARTICIPATION

AGE	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
Youth	1000	1420	2730	3900	4350	4630



1980-2005 Population to Participation Comparison
Youth 5-18 Participation
Adult 18 & Over Participation

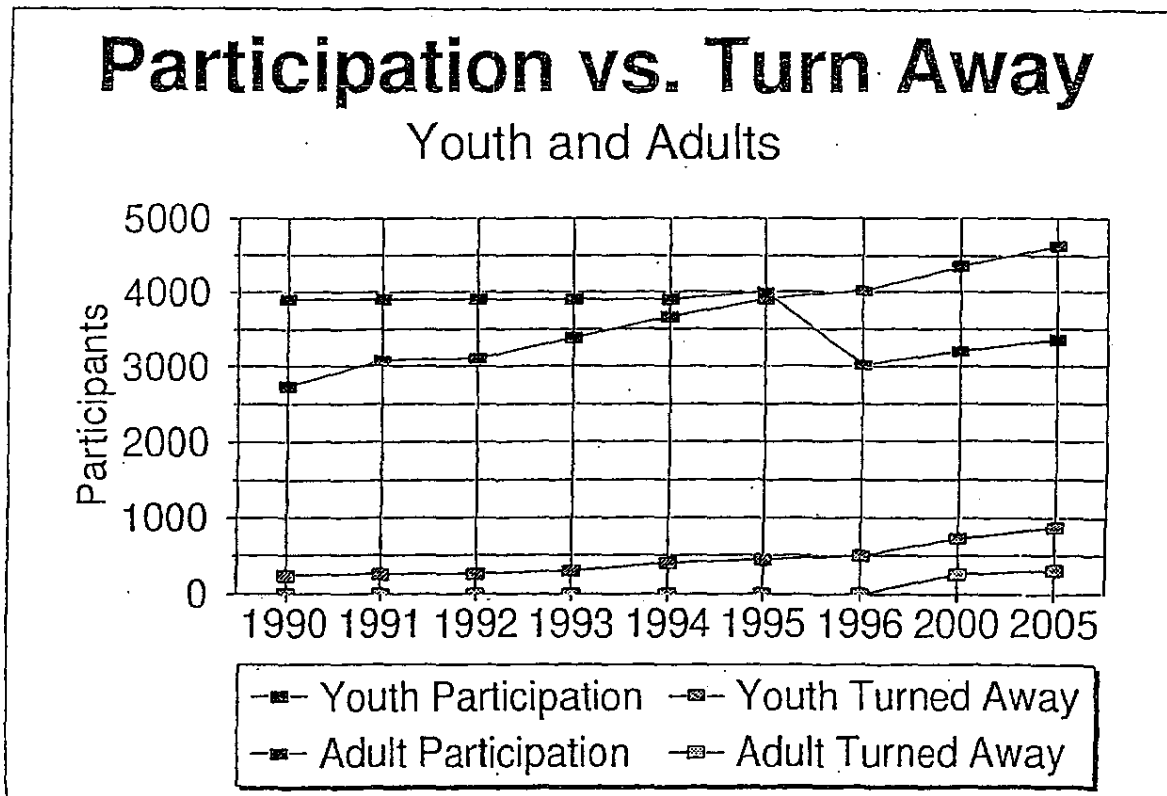
Year	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005
Youth Participants	1,000	1,420	2,730	3,900	4,350	4,630
Adult Participants	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,200	3,350
Total Participants	4,900	5,320	6,630	7,800	7,550	7,980



Attachment B
CHARTS: PARTICIPATION VS. TURNED AWAY

Participation vs. Turned Away

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	2000	2005
Youth Participation	2730	3080	3105	3390	3665	3900	4011	4350	4630
Youth Turned Away	235	255	255	295	395	445	495	718	865
Adult Participation	3900	3900	3900	3900	3900	3990	3018	3200	3350
Adult Turned Away	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	250	300



Attachment C

APRIL 30, 1996 COUNCIL REPORT RE: MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE DEMANDS
FOR PLAYING FIELDS

City of Berkeley




City Manager's Office
Martin Luther King Jr.
Civic Center Building
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, California 94704

TEL: (510) 644 6580
FAX: (510) 644 6035

E-MAIL: manager@ci.berkeley.ca.us

COUNCIL ACTION
April 30, 1996

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From:  Weldon Rucker, Acting City Manager

Subject: MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE DEMANDS FOR PLAYING FIELDS

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Direct the City Manager to work with the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) to ensure that they follow through with timely completion of the following improvement and development projects:
 - a. Install lights at the Berkeley High School (BHS) stadium. Staff assistance shall include ensuring that BUSD complies with the California Environmental Quality Review Act (CEQA).
 - b. Upgrade and activate the existing West Campus field along University Avenue for sports activities. This involves the rehabilitation and return of the dirt area and playing field to a useable condition. Staff assistance shall include ensuring that BUSD complies with the CEQA. (Preliminary site plans and cost estimates are attached to this report.)
 - c. Develop open space at East Campus for high school baseball and soccer. This would involve closing off Derby Street between Martin Luther King and Milvia. Staff assistance shall include ensuring that BUSD complies with CEQA and assisting with neighborhood outreach and planning. (Preliminary site plans and cost estimates are attached to this report.)
2. Authorize the City Manager to remove from use the San Pablo ball fields and grass areas during Fall and Winter months to allow sufficient time for reclamation and maintenance purposes. It is anticipated that these necessary renovation and maintenance activities would be initiated in October to allow concentrated work prior to the rainy season.

MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE DEMANDS

FOR COUNCIL ACTION
April 30, 1996

3. Authorize the City Manager to explore a joint venture agreement with the University of California (UC) to acquire and develop the U.C. property north of Harrison Street between 3rd and 5th Streets and between 6th and 8th Streets for additional playing fields, and explore an agreement on a third U.C. property at Marin Ave. and San Pablo Ave. in the City of Albany.
4. Authorize the City Manager to work with the East Bay Regional Parks District, UC and BUSD to explore the development of existing Waterfront property for a City sports complex.
5. Direct the City Manager to convene an advisory group to study these long term alternatives for creating additional playing fields and maximizing the use of existing playing fields. The advisory group, to include key stakeholders and interested parties, will identify all existing demands, potential uses and available resources for consideration.
6. In order to examine the fiscal implications of these various options, direct the City Manager to prepare a financial plan which addresses all the costs related to acquiring, improving, using, and maintaining these and possibly other development properties and report back to the Council at the meeting of June 4, 1996 in order to be considered as part of the City's proposed Bond Measure in November of 1996.

BACKGROUND:

On November 21, 1995, the City Council received a presentation by Prof. Fred Collignon on the need for providing additional playing fields in Berkeley. Following a discussion of this issue, the Council directed the City Manager to explore options for providing additional athletic fields for use by Berkeley residents, as well as reviewing the current use of existing fields.

The City of Berkeley's Recreation Program currently supervises six playing fields; James Kenney Park, San Pablo Park fields #1 and #2, Grove Park, LaLoma, Cordonices and Ohlone. Grove Park, James Kenney and San Pablo Park fields #1 and #2 have lights and are used primarily for adult sports in the evenings. The other three fields, Ohlone, Cordonices, and LaLoma are used for youth sports. During the summer months, June through August, Monday through Saturday, between 9:00 a.m and 4:00 p.m, all six parks are used to accommodate the summer youth baseball program. Additionally, during the summer, the City uses West Campus and Willard School fields for youth sports programs.

Because the Berkeley Unified School District does not currently have any athletic fields suitable for competitive high school level baseball and softball programs, existing field space is shared between the City of Berkeley Recreation sports program and Berkeley High during the High School's baseball and softball season from February through May each year. Berkeley High School uses Grove Park for its girl's softball program, and San Pablo Park fields #1 and #2 for its boy's baseball program.

In addition to baseball, Berkeley High competes in a number of outdoor sports activities including football, soccer, rugby, lacrosse and track and field. While the School District does provide some campus based field space for these activities, the demand far exceeds the available space, thus creating further demands on the City's limited resources. This situation is further compounded by demands from community based sports clubs that operate independent of the City and the School District, but whose children either reside in Berkeley or attend Berkeley schools.

MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE DEMANDS

FOR COUNCIL ACTION
April 30, 1996

Staff Assistance to BUSD

Short Term Actions:

Installation of Lights at BHS Stadium

BUSD has declared its intent in the near future to install lights at the Berkeley High School Stadium. It is recommended that staff assist BUSD in this effort by assuring CEQA compliance, helping with community engagement and acceptance. Related to this effort, U.C. has offered to lend assistance in exchange for access for intramural sports activities. Access to this new resource by City's Recreation Program should be considered as well.

West Campus Field Upgrade

Staff has identified the existing West Campus field at the corner of University Avenue and Curtis Street as a suitable site for immediate action. BUSD has stated its desire to upgrade the field to make it suitable again for baseball, softball, and soccer. Improvement work would include converting a dirt area in the outfield now used as a parking lot and general rehabilitation work on the field. As with the installation of lights at Berkeley High School, City Staff can assist in environmental review, neighborhood outreach, and field upgrade. A preliminary site plan and cost estimates are included in this report as Attachment 1.

Intermediate Action:

East Campus Field

BUSD has expressed interest in reconfiguring or removing the temporary buildings at this site to create a joint baseball/soccer field. This development would provide significant relief to the overly taxed fields at San Pablo Park, and create dedicated field space for high school level competition. The use of this site would require the closure of Derby Street from Milvia Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Staff could provide support efforts to the BUSD similar to the West Campus site. A preliminary site plan and cost estimates are included in this report as Attachment 2.

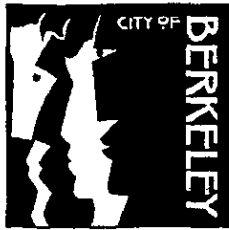
San Pablo Park Fields Closure in October

As noted above, current year-round usage of San Pablo Park playing fields has resulted in over usage and deterioration. Field users complain of poor conditions and a growing number of injuries suffered due to poor condition of the turf. A respite from its current use pattern would allow sufficient time for reclamation and maintenance purposes in the Fall and Winter months. It is expected that these activities would be initiated in October to allow opportunity for uninterrupted repairs and renovations prior to the rainy season.

LONG TERM DEVELOPMENTS:

Waterfront Meadow Parcel

The waterfront "meadow" parcel is one of the few parcels in the City which can accommodate a sports complex consisting of more than one baseball and soccer field and associated amenities such as seating, restrooms, and parking.



Parks and Recreation Commission
Steven Weissman - Chairperson
Gail Keleman - Vice Chairperson
Deborah Chernin, Commission Secretary

ACTION CALENDAR
January 14, 2003

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: Steven Weissman, Chair, Parks & Recreation Commission
By: Commission Secretary Chernin

Subject: Measure AA Funds for Additional Sports Fields

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the City Manager to write a letter to the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) requesting that BUSD apply Measure AA funds to develop sports fields to meet the needs of student athletes and to revisit the possible use of Derby Street for playing fields.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Fiscal impact will be determined upon BUSD evaluation of Measure AA or other possible funding sources.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

At the October 2002 meeting of the Association of Sport Field Users (ASFU), Doug Fielding took an informal survey of user field needs. The survey is not comprehensive and reflects only those groups present at the meeting. However, the results are in keeping with the work done a few years ago by the City's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The survey indicates that two fields are needed to avoid turning away teams.¹ Ten fields are needed for existing teams to follow typical practice schedules.² Therefore, a total of twelve fields are required to meet both of these needs.

¹ According to the survey, there were slightly over 110 people turned away from programs. To meet this need at three days per week, assuming thirty people per field, another two fields are needed.

² Assuming three exercise periods per week are desirable (two practices and a game), overcrowding is causing a need for ten additional playing fields. For example, due to overcrowding, youth soccer cuts practices to one day per week and puts three teams on fields that should handle only one. Girl's softball runs two teams per field with one team getting the infield while the other gets the outfield. Little League does the same as soccer.

The actual need for fields is greater. Albany Little League indicates a need for three additional fields: two 60-foot diamonds and one 90-foot diamond. Berkeley High School and Longfellow Middle School both use San Pablo Park as their home field. This precludes the City's recreation programs from using these fields. The shortage of diamonds also precludes the expansion of Little League boundaries to include all of Berkeley.

The demand for field sport space and baseball/softball diamonds continues to increase. In addition to an increasing number of players of established sports, new sports, such as youth lacrosse and Cal Men's Ultimate Frisbee, are also requesting field space. The City of Berkeley has taken previous action to increase field access (4/30/96 measures to meet the need of playing fields) but the current and projected future demand for sport fields remains unmet. Fields are being used beyond normal capacity, practice times have been reduced, fields have been added at Harrison Street, and still players are turned away.

The survey highlights the following:

1. Field Sports

Two additional fields are needed to serve players that are currently turned away due to insufficient field space. Ten fields would be needed to provide typical practice times. Adding the two, twelve fields are needed to provide for both turned away players and typical practice times. (See Attachments 1 and 2.)

2. Youth Baseball

Albany-Berkeley Little League needs three additional diamonds (two 60-ft and one 90-foot diamond). This league serves approximately 400 youth from Albany and north Berkeley (typically 47% or 190 players are Berkeley residents.) During the 2002 season, more than 30 players were turned away due to insufficient field space. Information on south Berkeley needs, met by North Oakland Little League, has not been received.

3. City of Berkeley Adult Softball

Demand for City of Berkeley adult softball slots has varied over the years, but staff has noted that the number of teams has been increasing. In 2002, teams were turned away due to unavailable field space. One trend that is likely to continue is business' support for company softball teams to promote increased physical fitness of their employees. Staff anticipates this trend to continue.

4. Maintenance Implications

The current practice of doubling or tripling up of field sport teams for practice sessions provides access to more players but precludes practice areas from being rotated, increasing wear and tear on the field with attendant maintenance and player safety considerations. Given current demand and available field space, there is no "off season" to renovate fields.

BACKGROUND

In 1996, the Council directed the City Manager to work with the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) to ensure that they follow through with timely completion of several improvement and development projects, including developing the open space at East Campus for high school baseball and soccer, which would involve closing off Derby Street between Martin Luther King, Jr. Way and Milvia Street. Preliminary site plans and cost estimates were developed and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared by the City and forwarded to BUSD for certification. BUSD has taken no action on the environmental document or the plans.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The survey done by ASFU found that organizations are turning away participants due to the limited number of fields available. The survey determined that twelve additional fields are needed, however, the survey is not comprehensive. Additional baseball facilities are also needed.

BUSD is a major user group of City fields, both in time and space. BUSD also supplies field access, but the use of the fields at San Pablo Park by Longfellow Middle School and Berkeley High School precludes the use by Little League and City recreation programs. BUSD and the City should share responsibility for providing a reasonable number of fields.

CONTACT PERSONS

Margie Gurdziel, Commissioner, 526-1238

Yolanda Huang, Parks & Recreation Commissioner, 549-9121

Deborah Chernin, Parks & Recreation Secretary, 981-6715

Marc Seleznow, Deputy Director of Parks Recreation and Waterfront, 981-5149

Attachments

1. ASFU Field Users Survey (10/16/02)
2. General ASFU Guidelines
3. California P.E. Test Results Comparison
4. April 30, 1996 Council Report regarding Measures to Alleviate Demands for Playing Fields

Attachment 1
ASSOCIATION OF FIELD USERS (ASFU) SURVEY (10/16/02)

Fields Need Survey 10/16/2002					Players Turned Away Due to Field Shortage	Practice Time Either Cut or Teams Doubled Up # Players Due to Shortage
Organization	# Players				Field Shortage	Due to Shortage
	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer		
Berkeley Lacrosse Club	0	0	125	20	40	75
Albany Berkeley Girl's Softball	0	0	340	60	0	170
BHS Baseball	0	0	75	18	40	
Alameda Contra Costa Soccer	1500	0	700	100	0	700
East Bay Friendly Soccer	0	0	150	150	2	
Chavinda Soccer	100	100	100	100	yes but not known	100
East Bay Senior Soccer	200	200	200	200	20	
Messeri Soccer	30	30	30	30	10	
French American	30	0	0	0		
Longfellow	0	20	20	0		
Berkeley Bears	0	0	50			
Cal Men's Ultimate	20	20	20	0		20
Triple Rock Soccer	0	0	20	20		
Golden Gate Women's League	120	60	120	60		20
Cal Women's Rugby	40	40	40	10		35
Albany-Berkeley Little League	0	0	375	0		375
Berkeley Blues Rugby	25	25	25	0		
Valhala Ultimate	30	0	30	0		30
	2095	495	2420	768	112	1525
Fields Needed from Turned Away		2 fields				
Fields Needed to Have Usual Practice		10 fields				
Fields Needed to Meet Both		12 Fields				
Please note: This does not include any programs provided by the City of Berkeley						

Attachment 2
GENERAL ASFU GUIDELINES

1. Priority on Fields

Programs providing recreation for children
prior to 7:00 PM on all weekdays
all day on Saturday

Programs providing recreation for adults
from 7:00 PM until field closing on weekdays
all day on Sunday

2. Allocation of Field Space

Field space for September 1 through February 28th is allocated at a meeting, which is generally held in mid-April. Field space for March 1 through August 30th is allocated at a meeting, which is generally held in mid-October. At that meeting, representatives of user groups request field spaces by field, day of week and time slot. If there is no other user interested in that particular space then the user is given the requested space. If there is more than one user requesting the same space we try to work out a compromise at the meeting. If this compromise can't be worked out then the users have seven days after the meeting to see if they can reach a compromise. If they can't, members of the Board of Directors, none of whom can be with the user groups in question, will decide who gets the space.

The allocation of space among competing users is a balancing act where a number of factors come into play. As a guide users should understand that the following are taken into consideration with the programs at the top of the list having the highest priority.

Among Youth Programs by Type of Program

City of Berkeley Programs

Youth Programs Provided by City of Berkeley Public Schools and

Youth Programs Provided by Local Non-Profits

Youth Programs Provided by Private Schools

Youth Programs Provided by Other Private Organizations and

Youth Camps Provided by a Private Provider

Among Adult Programs by Type of Program

City of Berkeley Adult Programs

Adult Programs Provided by Local Non-Profits

Adult Programs Provided by Colleges and Universities

Adult Programs Provided by Private Individuals and Organizations

By Type of User

Programs That Serve a Group (sport or gender) not Currently Being Served or Underserved

Programs That Have Limited Field Space

Programs That Already Have a Lot of Field Space

By User Served

Primarily Berkeley Residents

Not Primarily Berkeley Residents

It should be understood that the goal of ASFU is to allocate field space in such a way that the fields serve the entire community. To achieve this goal there needs to be a diversity of the types of sports offered (soccer, rugby, softball, etc.) as well as program providers.

After field spaces are allocated at the general meeting, field space is available on a first come-first serve basis. People interested Fielding East/West or Gabe's East/West or use of the Blue Field House should contact Doug Fielding at 510-383-3133. People interested in any other City of Berkeley field should contact Harold Bennett at 510-981-5153. People interested in any Berkeley school field should contact the individual school.

Once field space is given to a user group ASFU has nothing to do with how field space is allocated within that user group.

3. Expectations of User Groups

- a. Monies for field use bills are to be received on the due date but in no event later than 15 days after the receipt of the bill. Failure to pay bills on time can result in loss of field space.
- b. For any City of Berkeley field including Gabe's East/West user groups need to send a Certificate of Insurance naming the City of Berkeley as an additional insured. These certificates should be sent to Harold Bennett, 2016 Center St, Berkeley, 94704.
- c. User groups are responsible for the behavior of all people associated with their organization including players, parents, friends, coaches and referees. Any fine or penalty resulting from inappropriate behavior by any of the above will be levied on the user group. For example, a first time fine of \$250 will be assessed on any user group that has any member playing on a closed field.
- d. User groups are responsible for not playing on closed field. A closed field is any field where the lights are not on, which has a "Field Closed" or similar sign, or has been listed as closed either through an e-mail announcement or through the city's field hotline 510-981-5161. The field hotline will announce field closures by 2:00 during the week and 8:00 am on weekend days. If rain occurs after this time and there is no field closure sign or the lights are on, user groups will not be charged with playing on a closed field. However, we expect that user groups use common sense and not play on fields when there is heavy rain, lightening or when there are puddles on the field (see below). If you aren't sure, don't use the field.
- e. User groups are responsible for using the fields in a responsible manner. In addition to not paying on closed fields users are expected to move practices around on fields so as to minimize wear to a particular area of the field. For example, soccer groups should be moving goals and running practices from touch line to touch line rather than end line to end line. Football groups should not constantly run their drills up and down the center of the field but rather use the sidelines or run drills across the field.

4. Maintenance

At the start of every ASFU meeting maintenance problems and concerns will be discussed. ASFU recognizes that without periodic maintenance shutdowns that the fields will fall into disrepair. ASFU supports the Berkeley Parks and Waterfront staff and other maintenance providers in shutting down fields on an as needed basis to perform maintenance tasks.

Attachment 3
2001 CALIFORNIA P.E. TEST RESULTS COMPARISON

TASK	Percent in HFZ (Health Fitness Zone)								
	5 th Grade			7 th Grade			9 th Grade		
	BUSD	Ala Cty	CA	BUSD	Ala Cty	CA	BUSD	Ala Cty	CA
Aerobic Capacity	59.1a	59.9	55.7	40.4ab	58.3	58.0	54.0	50.4	48.9
Body Comp	67.0a	68.9	65.4	63.5ab	69.9	66.0	72.8	67.4	67.7
Ab Strength	79.9a	83.2	78.2	80.3ab	82.8	80.8	90.0	79.5	79.2
Trunk Ext	88.7	86.9	84.0	79.6ab	84.9	85.9	81.2	84.4	81.0
Upper Body	67.0a	69.0	62.0	47.9ab	63.8	61.9	54.4ab	66.5	62.7
Flex	53.8ab	55.7	63.8	54.5ab	62.7	68.6	67.0b	59.9	67.6

a—below county results

b—below state results

Fitness Standards Achieved	Percent Meeting Standards								
	5 th Grade			7 th Grade			9 th Grade		
	BUSD	Ala Cty	CA	BUSD	Ala Cty	CA	BUSD	Ala Cty	CA
6 of 6	22.3	22.3	21.3	13.2	23.7	24.9	19.2	21.1	22.6
5 of 6	25.2	27.1	25.7	21.0	26.8	26.4	27.6	25.3	25.8
4 of 6	21.5	22.3	21.8	22.1	20.4	20.2	24.5	22.0	20.8
3 of 6	15.6	14.9	15.0	18.9	14.5	13.6	16.1	15.0	13.7
2 of 6	9.1	8.5	8.4	15.0	8.7	7.6	8.4	8.8	7.4
1 of 6	4.6	3.5	4.1	6.5	3.8	3.4	3.4	4.0	3.6
0 of 6	1.7	1.4	3.7	3.2	2.2	3.8	0.8	3.7	6.0

Attachment 4

APRIL 30, 1996 COUNCIL REPORT RE: MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE DEMANDS FOR PLAYING FIELDS

City of Berkeley



City Manager's Office
Martin Luther King Jr.
Civic Center Building
2180 Milvia Street
Berkeley, California 94704

TEL: (510) 644 6580
FAX: (510) 644 6035

E-MAIL: manager@ci.berkeley.ca.us

COUNCIL ACTION
April 30, 1996

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

From: *W. Rucker* Rucker, Acting City Manager

Subject: MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE DEMANDS FOR PLAYING FIELDS

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Direct the City Manager to work with the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) to ensure that they follow through with timely completion of the following improvement and development projects:
 - ✓ a. Install lights at the Berkeley High School (BHS) stadium. Staff assistance shall include ensuring that BUSD complies with the California Environmental Quality Review Act (CEQA).
 - b. Upgrade and activate the existing West Campus field along University Avenue for sports activities. This involves the rehabilitation and return of the dirt area and playing field to a useable condition. Staff assistance shall include ensuring that BUSD complies with the CEQA. (Preliminary site plans and cost estimates are attached to this report.)
 - ✓ c. *study done* Develop open space at East Campus for high school baseball and soccer. This would involve closing off Derby Street between Martin Luther King and Milvia. Staff assistance shall include ensuring that BUSD complies with CEQA and assisting with neighborhood outreach and planning. (Preliminary site plans and cost estimates are attached to this report.)
2. Authorize the City Manager to remove from use the San Pablo ball fields and grass areas during Fall and Winter months to allow sufficient time for reclamation and maintenance purposes. It is anticipated that these necessary renovation and maintenance activities would be initiated in October to allow concentrated work prior to the rainy season.

MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE DEMANDS FOR COUNCIL ACTION
April 30, 1996

- 3. Authorize the City Manager to explore a joint venture agreement with the University of California (UC) to acquire and develop the U.C. property north of Harrison Street between 3rd and 5th Streets and between 6th and 8th Streets for additional playing fields, and explore an agreement on a third U.C. property at Marin Ave. and San Pablo Ave. in the City of Albany. ✓
- 4. Authorize the City Manager to work with the East Bay Regional Parks District, UC and BUSD to explore the development of existing Waterfront property for a City sports complex. ✓
- 5. Direct the City Manager to convene an advisory group to study these long term alternatives for creating additional playing fields and maximizing the use of existing playing fields. The advisory group, to include key stakeholders and interested parties, will identify all existing demands, potential uses and available resources for consideration.
- 6. In order to examine the fiscal implications of these various options, direct the City Manager to prepare a financial plan which addresses all the costs related to acquiring, improving, using, and maintaining these and possibly other development properties and report back to the Council at the meeting of June 4, 1996 in order to be considered as part of the City's proposed Bond Measure in November of 1996.

*lights
willard*

BACKGROUND:

On November 21, 1995, the City Council received a presentation by Prof. Fred Collignon on the need for providing additional playing fields in Berkeley. Following a discussion of this issue, the Council directed the City Manager to explore options for providing additional athletic fields for use by Berkeley residents, as well as reviewing the current use of existing fields.

The City of Berkeley's Recreation Program currently supervises six playing fields; James Kenney Park, San Pablo Park fields #1 and #2, Grove Park, LaLoma, Cordonices and Ohlone. Grove Park, James Kenney and San Pablo Park fields #1 and #2 have lights and are used primarily for adult sports in the evenings. The other three fields, Ohlone, Cordonices, and LaLoma are used for youth sports. During the summer months, June through August, Monday through Saturday, between 9:00 a.m and 4:00 p.m, all six parks are used to accommodate the summer youth baseball program. Additionally, during the summer, the City uses West Campus and Willard School fields for youth sports programs.

Because the Berkeley Unified School District does not currently have any athletic fields suitable for competitive high school level baseball and softball programs, existing field space is shared between the City of Berkeley Recreation sports program and Berkeley High during the High School's baseball and softball season from February through May each year. Berkeley High School uses Grove Park for its girl's softball program, and San Pablo Park fields #1 and #2 for its boy's baseball program.

In addition to baseball, Berkeley High competes in a number of outdoor sports activities including football, soccer, rugby, lacrosse and track and field. While the School District does provide some campus based field space for these activities, the demand far exceeds the available space, thus creating further demands on the City's limited resources. This situation is further compounded by demands from community based sports clubs that operate independent of the City and the School District, but whose children either reside in Berkeley or attend Berkeley schools.

MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE DEMANDS

FOR COUNCIL ACTION

April 30, 1996

Staff Assistance to BUSD

Short Term Actions:

Installation of Lights at BHS Stadium

BUSD has declared its intent in the near future to install lights at the Berkeley High School Stadium. It is recommended that staff assist BUSD in this effort by assuring CEQA compliance, helping with community engagement and acceptance. Related to this effort, U.C. has offered to lead assistance in exchange for access for intramural sports activities. Access to this new resource by City's Recreation Program should be considered as well.

West Campus Field Upgrade

Staff has identified the existing West Campus field at the corner of University Avenue and Curtis Street as a suitable site for immediate action. BUSD has stated it's desire to upgrade the field to make it suitable again for baseball, softball, and soccer. Improvement work would include converting a dirt area in the outfield now used as a parking lot and general rehabilitation work on the field. As with the installation of lights at Berkeley High School, City Staff can assist in environmental review, neighborhood outreach, and field upgrade. A preliminary site plan and cost estimates are included in this report as Attachment 1.

Intermediate Action:

East Campus Field

BUSD has expressed interest in reconfiguring or removing the temporary buildings at this site to create a joint baseball/soccer field. This development would provide significant relief to the overly taxed fields at San Pablo Park, and create dedicated field space for high school level competition. The use of this site would require the closure of Derby Street from Milvia Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Staff could provide support efforts to the BUSD similar to the West Campus site. A preliminary site plan and cost estimates are included in this report as Attachment 2.

San Pablo Park Fields Closure in October

As noted above, current year-round usage of San Pablo Park playing fields has resulted in over usage and deterioration. Field users complain of poor conditions and a growing number of injuries suffered due to poor condition of the turf. A respite from its current use pattern would allow sufficient time for reclamation and maintenance purposes in the Fall and Winter months. It is expected that these activities would be initiated in October to allow opportunity for uninterrupted repairs and renovations prior to the rainy season.

LONG TERM DEVELOPMENTS:

Waterfront Meadow Parcel

The waterfront "meadow" parcel is one of the few parcels in the City which can accommodate a sports complex consisting of more than one baseball and soccer field and associated amenities such as seating, restrooms, and parking.

MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE DEMANDS

FOR COUNCIL ACTION

April 30, 1996

The East Bay Regional Parks District, acting as an agent for the State of California, is currently in negotiations with the property owner, Catellus, for the purchase of this parcel and the adjacent brickyard parcel. After securing the properties, the Parks District foresees a formal public planning process with substantial local input. At this time, Staff proposes exploring the development possibilities for active recreation uses with the Parks District prior to the formal planning process.

University of California Property Purchase or Lease Agreement

Staff has identified two separate large parcels owned by U.C. in the northwest area of Berkeley (north of Harrison Street and abutting Codomices Creek) which could accommodate athletic fields. The sites are located between 3rd & 5th Streets (containing approximately 280,000 SF or 6.4 acres) and between 6th & 8th Streets (containing approximately 313,000 SF, or 7.2 acres).

It is recommended that Council direct the City Manager to explore an agreement with U.C. to either purchase or lease the property. Considering the significant investment required to make either of these sites useable as athletic facilities, and the intended use of the fields as a public resource, it appears at this time that the best option for the City would be to purchase rather than lease the property. This could be accomplished either through a conventional sale or with a long term lease which includes an option for the City to purchase the site.

Neither the City nor UC have yet obtained appraisals of this property. Based on preliminary discussions with several persons with experience in the real estate profession, we suggest the land is worth approximately \$12 per square foot in its present condition, which assumes no toxic problems.

Site Between 3rd & 5th Streets:

Valuation: Using the above valuation, the land value for this 6.4 acre site amounts to about \$3,360,000. Assuming a ground lease transaction, it is customary to use an annual percentage return on land value to calculate the annual lease payment. Using an 8% return on \$3,360,000, the initial annual lease payment would be about \$270,000.

Improvements: The cost of improving this site to provide lighted athletic facilities (such as softball and soccer fields) is between \$2.50 - \$3.00 per sf, or a total of about \$700,000 to \$850,000.

Maintenance: Based on current experience, we estimate the annual cost of maintaining the athletic fields (in 1996 dollars) is about \$40,000 per acre. On this site, the cost would total about \$250,000 per annum.

Site Between 6th & 8th Streets:

Valuation: Using the same \$12 per sf value estimate, the value for this 7.2 acre property amounts to about \$3,762,000. With a ground lease at an 8% annual return, the initial annual lease payment would be about \$300,000.

Improvements: The cost of improving this property for lighted athletic facilities would be between \$780,000 to \$950,000, using the \$2.50 - \$3.00 per sf cost as noted above.

MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE DEMANDSFOR COUNCIL ACTION
April 30, 1996

Maintenance: Our estimate of maintaining the athletic fields on this site (in 1996 dollars) would total about \$280,000 per annum.

Advisory Group

It is recommended that the City Manager convene an advisory group with all key stakeholders and interested parties. The City Manager and the advisory group would convene a public review process for the use of existing athletic field space in the City of Berkeley. This review process will identify all existing demands, potential uses and available resources for consideration. Where possible, the advisory group will coordinate with future development efforts, identify potential impacts and make recommendations on policy issues to the City Manager. In making its recommendations, the advisory group will attempt to achieve broad agreement on the design and operation of both existing and future field space. It is recommended that this process be initiated after the summer programs are underway, and conclude in the spring of 1997.

In considering options for the reconfiguration and use of existing field space and the development of new fields, a number of policy issues and potential impacts must be reviewed and addressed. The following represents a partial listing:

Age Group Priorities: Should youth sports activities take precedence over adult sports? Historically, the City has tried to balance the demands from both groups through close supervision and management of field activity and scheduling. This balance may no longer be possible to maintain.

Residency: Should participation in City sponsored sports activities, and thus access to existing field space, be restricted to Berkeley residents only? At the present time City sports programs are open to the general public, however non-Berkeley residents are assessed a surcharge to participate.

Use Pattern: The current use pattern for athletic fields (particularly San Pablo Park) entails almost continuous wear through use by a variety of participant groups representing different age groups in both competitive organized sports leagues, and passive recreational activities. The results are that the fields are overly taxed, making it difficult to maintain them properly for their intended use, and creating possible liabilities for the City due to the potential for injuries related to the condition of the fields.

Fiscal Impact: As noted above, if the City were to decide to place a greater emphasis on youth sports, further restrict non-Berkeley resident participation and reduce the use of athletic fields in order to protect and maintain them properly, it is anticipated that a negative fiscal impact would result. Currently, adults sports fees are structured to help subsidize youth sports/recreation activities, non-Berkeley residents are charged more to participate in Berkeley sports programs, and the existing field space is heavily scheduled in order to meet demands and to generate revenue.

Field Development: The City is currently exploring the feasibility of acquiring and developing additional land for athletic fields. In addition to the City, a number of vested interests or partners have been identified including, BUSD and affiliates, U.C. Berkeley, community based sports clubs and the private sector business community. One idea is to refurbish or develop available school sites for this purpose. The City's role in these developments should be clearly defined.

MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE DEMANDS

FOR COUNCIL ACTION
April 30, 1996

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MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE DEMANDS

FOR COUNCIL ACTION
April 30, 1996

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Attachment D

DECEMBER 19, 2000 COUNCIL REPORT RE: EAST CAMPUS FINAL EIR

FOR INFORMATION
December 19, 2000

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council
From:  William Rucker, Acting City Manager
Subject: TRANSMITTAL OF FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT -
PROPOSED PLAYING FIELDS AT EAST CAMPUS

BACKGROUND:

In January of 1999, the City retained Brady/LSA, an environmental and land use planning firm, to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) that would evaluate the impacts of proposed playing fields at East Campus. This report was completed and widely circulated for public review from August 16th to October 8, 1999. The City received a number of written comments, as well as many verbal comments made at several Commission and community meetings.

CURRENT STATUS:

Copies of the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that includes the responses to these comments will be distributed under separate cover prior to the Council meeting on December 19th. This Report, in conjunction with the draft EIR, constitutes the complete environmental document for the proposed project, which is described as two options for constructing playing fields at East Campus: one with Derby Street closed and the other with Derby Street open. As the City Council directed in May of 2000, staff did not evaluate a third option describing a project with Derby Street closed and the Farmer's Market remaining on site. This EIR is also being distributed to the following Commissions: Parks and Recreation; Planning; and Youth. Copies are also available to the general public.


CONCLUSION:

Since the Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD) owns the property at East Campus and may have access to funds required to implement a playing fields project at the site, we recommend that the Board of Education assume the role of "lead agency". Therefore, the Final Environmental Impact Report is being forwarded to Superintendent Jack McLaughlin and the Board of Education for their consideration and possible future use.

CONTACT PERSON:

Lisa Caronna, Director of the Parks and Waterfront Department, 644-6376, ext. 222.

APPROVED:


Fred Medrano, Director
Health & Human Services Dept.


Lisa Caronna, Director
Parks and Waterfront Dept.

cc: City Attorney
Jack McLaughlin, Superintendent, BUSD
Main Library