

Date: January 14, 2025
To: Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners
From: Andy Sheffer, Deputy Superintendent, Planning and Capital Development Branch
Subject: **Proposed Location for Lincoln High School Athletic Field**

Requested Board Action: This briefing provides updates to the proposed project by Seattle Public Schools (SPS) to develop a new full size rectangular synthetic field to serve Lincoln High School and the broader public. The briefing will also summarize SPS's proposed upgrades to the existing track around Lower Woodland Field No. 7 with associated field event facilities.

Project or Policy Description and Background: Lincoln High School lacks a proximate, regulation-size athletic field to support physical education, school athletics and after-school programming. Currently students travel to distant facilities resulting in reduced instructional and extracurricular time. There is limited access for students to extracurricular activities without transportation options. Seattle Public Schools physical education and extracurricular activities provide entry to recreational activities like Seattle Parks and Recreation programs fulfilling our joint mission to serve the youth of Seattle. The Joint Athletic Agreement between SPS and SPR expounds on this mission and our partnership.

The site selection process included specific evaluation criteria including:

- proximity to Lincoln High School (within half-mile walking distance)
- compatibility with / no displacement of existing park uses
- full-size field to accommodate JV game play for multiple sports
- restrooms and storage requirements
- environmental constraints
- access/safety/ADA
- long-term operations and maintenance impacts
- minimizing tree impact or loss
- minimizing parking / traffic impacts

A wide array of site options were proposed and reviewed through robust public engagement and the proposed location emerged as the most balanced and feasible option.

Equity Analysis: With [Board Policy Number 0030](#), Ensuring Educational and Racial Equity serves as the foundational framework for BTA V. All planning for the projects within the BTA V Levy were assessed through that lens.

Proposal:

1. **Build a NEW Full-Size Field at Woodland Park Field #2**

- a. SPS has prepared a concept layout that turns the existing soccer field at field #2 90 degrees and allows for a second field to be placed largely within the existing fields footprint.
- b. With this proposed layout, SPS can retain most of the existing elements surrounding the field including; BMX Jumps, Cross Country running trail, Soap Box Derby Hill, All existing parking

- c. The proposal will, unfortunately, impact approximately 7 – 9 existing tier 2 trees and we understand the impact that would create on the space.
- d. SPS is committed to working with the broader project team including Tree Solutions, SPR, the Cities Urban Forestry & Sustainability Depts and local tree advocacy groups to ensure the replanting plan not only addresses tree loss but improves the canopy immediately adjacent to the site. This plan includes replacement and addition of trees to increase canopy and overall square footage.
- e. Storage is being evaluated, and layouts are being developed for review. SPS has multiple options and is working with SPR Scheduling and Maintenance Offices to identify the right spaces and opportunities for consolidating existing storage needs.

2. **Upgrading Existing Track / Add Field Events at Lower Woodland #7**

- a. SPS has not received any negative comments concerning upgrading the existing track at Lower Woodland Field #7 to support Lincoln HS's track program.
- b. Currently Lincoln is bussing 200+ students to Ingraham High School for track practice. Providing track facilities at Lower Woodland #7 can shorten their commute and extend their practice time while reducing SPS transit costs.
- c. Field Events and Storage are vital to making this solution work for the track program.
- d. Storage is being evaluated, and layouts are being developed for review.
- e. SPS is proposing to add a removable field events space in the triangle area immediately adjacent to the field. Vertical elements of the field events would only be in place for the track season and would go into storage during the off-season.

The presentation to BPRC on January 22 will include diagrams supporting all the information in this briefing. The addition of another rectangular field to our current system will greatly enhance Seattle Parks capacity to serve the public.

Board of Parks and Recreation Commission Board Action

- Presentation and BPRC Questions (1/22).
- Public Hearing and recommendation.

Additional Information: Andy Sheffer, Deputy Superintendent of Planning and Capital Development, Seattle Parks and Recreation

Andy.sheffer@seattle.gov | 206-423-1917