

More Flat fields needed in Reno, item D5 on 8/28 council agenda

Alexa Olsen <alexajolsen@gmail.com>

Mon 8/26/2024 12:48 PM

To:Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Hello

I am voicing this comment as a concerned citizen of Reno with two young daughters.

Thank you for your support of this project so far. My daughters both play GBSYL youth soccer and we see the effects of the leagues getting more players and less fields to use. The fields are packed so tight for practices, there are 5 teams on Plumas Street Park on Thursdays and when my daughters' team accidentally kicks a ball over a line, the other teams are frustrated with their small space and kick it back at us, not so nicely. It would be nice to have enough room so the kids can actually run a full field and not worry about random balls flying at them from other teams. Reno is getting bigger in a hurry and we need sports and other healthy outdoor activities to be a priority. Moana Springs pool is a nice addition but not everyone swims. Far more people will use the outdoor fields. They need funding.

Everyone who has children in outdoor sports knows we are short on fields. The standard is one field per 5000 residents, at that we would need at least 60 fields and currently we barely have 25 fields. We need to also consider the future so the number of fields that needs to be built is approximately 50. Pembroke will bring us at least 10 more and configure the smaller side games could be up to 18 fields. That along with the proposed project at Mill Street could bring us to a total of approximately 30 new fields.

Soccer fields lost 30% of Moana, O'Brien MS fields are smaller, Vaughn MS is off line, they lost Governors Bowl and nothing has been built since 2012. There is no venue with more than 2 full sized fields. Reno is missing out on hosting tournaments on a larger scale, missing out on tax revenue from out of state teams.

It's flat fields we need, not just soccer fields because it's not just soccer that'll be using these fields - it's lacrosse, flag football and more flat field users.

Thank you for your consideration in increasing funding for this project.

8/26/24, 2:33 PM

Mail - Public Comment - CC - Outlook

Alexa Olsen

Sent from my iPhone

Regarding Flat field

Elizabeth Hassler <lizmariehassler@icloud.com>

Mon 8/26/2024 11:41 AM

To:Hillary Schieve <SchieveH@reno.gov>;Devon Reese <reessed@reno.gov>;Jenny Brekhuis <BrekhuisJ@reno.gov>;Naomi Duerr <DuerrN@reno.gov>;MartinezM@reno.gov <MartinezM@reno.gov>;Kathleen Taylor <TaylorK@reno.gov>;Meghan Ebert <EbertM@reno.gov>;Jackie Bryant <BryantJ@reno.gov>;Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Dear Reno city officials,

I am writing to you to ask for your support in the building of more flat fields in the Reno area. As you know our community has grown exponentially and we are in dire need of more spaces to recreate and play. We have a massive shortage of usable flat fields. As a nurse practitioner I firmly believe that outdoor recreation is one of the single most beneficial ways to improve the health and wellness of our community.

Thank you for reading this and please continue to advocate for these spaces. I cannot be at the meeting in person but I know that you will do the right thing and support the development of more flat fields in Reno.

Sincerely,

Liz Hassler APRN

Sent from my iPhone

Please fund flat fields

Julie Mortara <juliemortara@gmail.com>

Mon 8/26/2024 3:56 PM

To:Devon Reese <reeseed@reno.gov>;Jenny Brekhuis <BrekhuisJ@reno.gov>;Naomi Duerr <DuerrN@reno.gov>;MartinezM@reno.gov <MartinezM@reno.gov>;Kathleen Taylor <TaylorK@reno.gov>;Meghan Ebert <EbertM@reno.gov>;Jackie Bryant <BryantJ@reno.gov>; Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov >

Dear Reno City Council Members:

I am writing to request funding for flat fields for soccer, lacrosse, flag football, and other sports that could use more fields. I am a Reno native, and I can claim first hand that the growth of this town is exponential! Our children don't have anywhere to play soccer. Reno soccer leagues are having a hard time finding places for the children in our community to play games and have practices.

I request funding for these flat fields so we can continue to let our kids learn sports, build community, build confidence, and have the opportunity and a safe place to play. I appreciate your time considering this, and I hope our community, that is growing like a weed, can have a place in which to thrive. "Futbol is life!" Danny Rojas.

Sincerely,

Julie Mortara

Teacher and Parent

775-815-3260

Flat field funding

Miles Stewart <miles.stewart@icloud.com>

Mon 8/26/2024 11:34 AM

To:Hillary Schieve <SchieveH@reno.gov>;Devon Reese <reessed@reno.gov>;Jenny Brekhuis <BrekhuisJ@reno.gov>;Naomi Duerr <DuerrN@reno.gov>;MartinezM@reno.gov <MartinezM@reno.gov>;Kathleen Taylor <TaylorK@reno.gov>;Meghan Ebert <EbertM@reno.gov>;Jackie Bryant <BryantJ@reno.gov>;Public Comment - CC <PublicComment@reno.gov>

Hello,

Please do whatever you can to fund the construction of new flat fields in Reno. Reno has grown tremendously over the last 20 years but we haven't been keeping up with recreational infrastructure. Reno is severely below average when you consider the number of fields for our population compared to other cities. The Pembroke project would be a good first step to address this need. Maybe it's time for Reno to start charging "recreational impact fees" to developers to create a funding stream for these types of projects? If we don't do something, people will stop moving here and/or start moving away from here because the quality of life is going down. Please support funding for flat fields.

Thank you,

Miles Stewart

Pembroke agenda item D-Wednesday August 28

Richard Jay <richardjlayreno@yahoo.com>

Sat 8/24/2024 9:03 AM

To:Richard Jay <richardjlayreno@yahoo.com>

Good afternoon, Mayor, and Council-members

For the record my name is Richard Jay and over the years I have worn many hats, today I wear the hat of reality.

I have been coming here advocating for more flat fields longer than any of you have been in office and I continue to advocate for more flat fields.

History

I became involved in youth soccer in 1999 when my son's team needed a coach. Having played for the original Reno High School soccer team in 1977/78 I jumped in. I became involved in leadership for GBYSL and early then realized we're short flat fields. I remember one year we practiced on the front lawn of Mt Rose Elementary School, small but usable for the players.

Over the years I became involved and helped with the renovation at Echo Loder Elementary School, Jessie Back Elementary School fields, and Damonte Ranch Middle School fields (those fields are considered unusable given the first design and soil conditions).

In 2012 Jessica Sferrazza approached GBYSL to help build the Moana Springs soccer fields. Initially the city said they did not have the money to raze the old baseball field, and we could use the old outfield area. We initially walked away and 3 days later the funds were found to not only raze the baseball field but the swimming pool building.

The master plan at that time was 2 full sized soccer fields, swim stadium and new baseball fields. We raised \$250,000 and 120 days later the fields were completed. The fields opened in spring 2013. All maintenance from day 1 has been paid for by GBYSL.

To this date no other single use flat fields have been built (Cyan Park is multi use with limited flat field space, Mayors Park is too far for south Reno residents and limited in size) and there are no plans for new flat field facilities.

Meanwhile our shortage of fields continues to grow and currently we are 175% of capacity. To catch up we need roughly 50 fields for youth/adult players, soccer, lacrosse, football, flag football, and rugby. The formula is 1 field for every 5000 residents. At 275,000 residents we need 55 fields, we barely have 20 full sized fields.

We are missing out on tax revenue generating tournaments. Reno has no venue with more than 2 full sized fields (definition of full sized is 80x120 yards). A tournament of 250 teams with 60% coming into our area will generate \$150,000 to \$200,000 in tax revenues. The closest venue is Carson City who enjoys the tax revenue of multiple flat field tournaments every year. Carson City has Edmonds Complex with 8 fields, they host numerous tournaments and generating revenue that should be here.

4 years ago, a group of investors investigated building at Pembroke, after a year of frustration they abandoned the project for multiple reasons.

We begun talks with Parks Director Jamie Schroder about Pembroke and we started the process. We held numerous meetings and always invited the Reno Engineering Department for input. No reason was given for not attending the meetings. We developed an excel spreadsheet for usage at the park. GBYSL and Reno Youth Sports Association partnered with this endeavor.

In addition to the hours of use we started the MOU verbiage.

On December 29, 2021, City Manager Doug Thornley issued a memo stating that GBYSL would lose roughly 30% of the 180,000 square feet of the fields for the enlarged swimming pool. GBYSL publicly welcomed the swim facility as it was badly needed in our community. We felt Pembroke would more than offset the loss of

playing fields. Roughly 750 players were displaced with no new location to practice. Our U8 teams have been moved to South Valleys Sport Complex and that has created a new set of problems. At that time the estimate to build the fields was \$8-10 million.

The city graciously allocated \$2 million in ARPA funds to spearhead the project.

The Engineering Department decided to get involved and 10 months later produced the Preliminary Pembroke Drive Flood Pool Analysis.

2023 was a lot of meetings to determine how to build fields and it was then determined in 2024 we needed to conduct a Request of Qualifications-Flat Fields Developer. This was a very lengthy process and seemed to focus on private/public owned companies rather than non-profit entities. GBYSL has been working with CFA, Inc with the initial designs. Much of the work was donated pro-bono and the fees are roughly \$180,000.

In July 2024 Core Construction came up with a preliminary cost of \$23 million to construct the complex. It was initially planned for 5 phases, 2 fields per phase

- 10 flat fields, 1.2 million square feet, natural grass.
- Disc golf area, 18 holes/baskets
- Bike repair station for local bicyclists
- 685 spot parking area
- Area for food trucks
- Fully fenced
- NO permanent buildings, portable office and restrooms will be used

Naturally, this surprised us, and we have been analyzing our ability to raise this amount of money.

As a fiduciary I have to say even with grants available we can raise roughly \$4-6 million over the next 10 years. However, with continued construction inflation this project could exceed \$32 million.

WHAT ARE WE ASKING FOR

Simple, give the support to build new flat fields that you gave to Moana Springs Swimming Facility.

When I say WE this includes youth players, parents, RSCVA (room tax revenue), adult players and many more.

We need the city to fund the project. This will help with flat field shortage but not solve it. We need to support the Mill Street field project that was conceived 20 years ago with Senator John Ensign.

We are at a fork in the road, one leads to new fields for our community, the other road means we will continue to be short and accept the fact we can't host any tournaments generating taxable revenue.

Las Vegas has numerous flat fields venues in flood plains, 8 venues with 10+ fields and with this number they can host tournaments lasting 2 weekends with over 1,500 teams traveling internationally. Mayors Cup and College Showcase Tournament are 2 of the largest tournaments in the country.

College showcase tournaments give NCAA coaches the opportunity to watch potential players in one venue, reduced travel time and funds spent on recruiting. These tournaments run under a Stay-N-Play format, teams are required to stay at selected host hotels.

YOU ARE OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE, PLEASE LISTEN TO OUR PLEAS, WE NEED MORE FIELDS!!!!

Richard L. Jay