

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-06 00:00:00	<p>Could the field be made of grass instead of turf?</p> <p>Could the Solid Ground and/or Lincoln Parking lot be made into a field over an underground parking lot to increase green space in the area in general and not disrupt activities already at Wallingford Playground ?</p> <p>Of the 3 current options I agree that the Wallingford Playground vicinity makes the most sense for its proximity to the school.</p> <p>Could Lincoln High discontinue its football program (and save young brains from concussions) and make a smaller field to serve other sports like soccer and Ultimate ?</p>
2024-09-06 00:00:00	<p>Please reconsider using this beloved park for Lincoln High School’s proposed athletic field. My husband and I have seen our kids grow up using the park and we still use it almost daily now.</p> <p>Seattle needs to step up—taking our urban environment seriously: preserving and creating green space, protecting old trees, and safeguarding equal access to community resources that contribute so much to everyone’s quality of life.</p>
2024-09-06 00:00:00	<p>I favor having a field constructed at Wallingford so long as it doesn’t require moving the current wading pool and play structures. Use by both Lincoln and Hamilton is supported.</p> <p>I seem to recall, but perhaps not correctly, that originally the SPS in the 1990s indicated that if Lincoln was opened it would not use the Wallingford park. I favored opening Lincoln then and support the school being open in Wallingford. It would be good to clarify however what the original commitment was. If this is a change I am still in support.</p>
2024-09-06 00:00:00	<p>I'm writing to express my concern over the plans to dramatically change the beloved neighborhood gem that is the Wallingford Playfield. As an 8-year resident of the neighborhood, I've personally enjoyed the park almost daily as a place to rest, meet my neighbors, and sink my feet into the grass. It currently serves a wide variety of people for a wide variety of uses from children's soccer to family picnics and Shakespeare in the Park. Turning the park into a turfed athletic field would take this space away from all the people who live here for the benefit of only a few, and this feels profoundly unfair.</p> <p>Furthermore the destruction of the grass and trees only add to the growing heat problems our city faces in the summers and limits our access to the green and growing environments that help us maintain physical and mental well-being. Wallingford is growing as much needed housing is being developed, and our new neighbors will also need a place to play and relax, not an off-limits plastic field with glaring floodlights.</p> <p>I want to express my position and the heartfelt wish that these plans won't go through.</p>
2024-09-06 00:00:00	<p>I'm very concerned about the plans to convert Wallingford Playfield into an artificial turf playing field. The park is a wonderful place for neighbors and community members to gather and a landmark of the area. We are in the Lincoln High School district and my son is likely to play sports on the field, but I still oppose this plan because it comes at the expense of this wonderful playground and park. Please do not move forward with this plan.</p>
2024-09-06 21:40:01	<p>I love the proposed plan to use Wallingford Playfield for a new school field. Totally makes sense, being close to both schools and the current field being so terrible. Great plan! I am also glad to hear that the LWoodland track will be improved. I don't think Meridian or Queen Anne Bowl are suitable.</p>
2024-09-07 00:00:00	<p>Hello, I cannot make the community meeting on the 19th, but I am in huge support of the turf field project adjacent to Lincoln high school to prevent barriers of travel and provide a community resource.</p> <p>Please let me know if there’s anything else I can do to help show support for the project.</p>
2024-09-07 12:36:40	<p>Hello, I cannot make the community meeting on the 19th, but I am in huge support of the turf field project adjacent to Lincoln high school to prevent barriers of travel and provide a community resource.</p>

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	Please let me know if there's anything else I can do to help show support for the project.
2024-09-07 21:47:40	We need a field for Lincoln and Hamilton students and athletics. Please also build bleachers to facilitate school spirit at athletic events. We need a track that is walking distance from school.
2024-09-09 00:00:00	Hello, It's unclear from the FAQs whether the playground is one of the "current elements" that would remain after a rebuild for the Lincoln practice field. Can you please confirm? Thank you,
2024-09-09 00:00:00	Hello, I saw the community notice that Wallingford playground is being considered to be converted from a grass playfield, park and playground with many trees, into a turf field for Hamilton and Lincoln. This appears in conflict with city and community goals to create fewer turf fields, due to known risks. Can you please confirm the following: 1. What will happen to the new and existing playground for smaller children? This was recently redesigned and rebuilt, at considerable cost to the parks department. 2. What materials will be used to build the turf? There are known environmental and health risks due to runoff of microplastics from turf fields, which could result in later lawsuits due to water pollution and other health effects. Additionally turf fields are tied to elevated risks of asthma due to the exposure to plastics - how will the schools and parks department mediate those risks, and will there be disclosures to children and families of those environmental risks when using the field? 3. How will the city mediate the "heat island" effect of turf? When grass/plants are better at solving this problem? Developing more fields into turf appears to be counter to current parks department goals from 2023 of: "Provide more athletic fields without synthetic turf" and "Plant more trees, native plants in parks to combat climate change". Thank you,
2024-09-09 15:01:28	Just wanted to voice my support for building Lincoln's practice field at Wallingford Park. I live in the neighborhood and have kids at Hamilton and Lincoln. The current grass field at Wallingford park is a mess of holes, dirt (turning to mud in October), with elevated mounds of grass in between. Many kids have rolled their ankles due to the uneven surface - my child included. It's also used by some in the neighborhood as an off-leash dog park, even in the winter months when the grass area is supposed to be off-limits, despite multiple signs posted all around the park. Turning Wallingford playfield into a turf practice field would increase safety and make the playfield so much more usable for the kids and also the community in general - especially in the winter months - I'm 100% in favor.
2024-09-09 16:13:55	hi, I'd like to review the design proposal for the wallingford field project. can you please email jt to me?

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2024-09-09 20:57:59	<p>Hello, I saw the community notice that Wallingford playground is being considered to be converted from a grass playfield, park and playground into a turf field for Hamilton and Lincoln. Can you please confirm the following: 1. What will happen to the new and existing playground for smaller children? This was recently redesigned and rebuilt, at considerable cost to the parks department. What will happen to the tennis courts? 2. What materials will be used to build the turf? There are known environmental and health risks due to runoff of microplastics from turf fields, which could result in later lawsuits due to water pollution. Additionally they are tied to elevated risks of asthma due to the exposure to the plastics/tire dust - how will the schools and parks department mediate those risks, and will there be disclosures to children and families of those environmental risks when using the field? 3. How will the city mediate the "heat island" effect of turf? When grass/plants are better at solving this problem? Thank you,</p>
2024-09-10 17:04:37	<p>Hello - I'm questioning how Meridian Playground (It's correct name, it is not a playfield) could be considered as a possible athletic field location for Lincoln High School. It is not a playfield. It has no scheduled fields and was designed to be free of scheduled athletic fields at its inception in the 1980s. The only location that can be scheduled at Meridian Playground is the covered picnic shelter. The entire site - including the Good Shepherd Center, two Tilth Alliance gardens, Good Shepherd P-Patch, and Meridian Playground - is a historic landmark.</p> <p>I ask that you take it off your list of possible sites for the Lincoln High School Athletic field.</p>
2024-09-10 17:06:49	<p>If a turf athletic field is installed at Wallingford Park, can SPS/Parks Department add parking restrictions such as 4-hour parking on the park-side of the residential streets around the park (N 43rd, Wallingford Ave. N, Woodlawn Ave. N) to allow for more vehicles to park there when the field is in use? Currently many vehicles park along the park for hours or days within getting ticketed (they move their vehicles every 72 hours to comply with the abandoned vehicle law), and if they remained by the park when the Lincoln practice field is complete, that would significantly restrict the number of spots park-users would be able to use, and squeeze limited neighborhood parking even further.</p>
2024-09-11 00:00:00	<p>Additional concerns with this decision: will it remove other features of the park - such as the playground, wading pool, picnic areas, tennis courts, and other green space? It's currently a very multigenerational and multi-use park, where people of all ages use throughout the day, all days of the week. If this becomes one giant football field, it will be removing a resource that is currently accessed by many different people in the neighborhood. Lincoln is arguably one of the most privileged high schools in the city, and taking away a multi-use park for a football team (also likely some gender/Title IX issues here) seems like the wrong decision for the neighborhood.</p> <p>When will the site plans be available for neighbors to understand and evaluate the impact on our multigenerational neighborhood?</p>
2024-09-13 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige, Can you answer my question in this email too? Will the playground area remain?</p> <p>Thanks,</p>

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2024-09-13 00:45:04	<p>Hello, I'm a cross country coach at a Metro high school and recently heard about the plan for the new fields for Lincoln which seems like it includes surfacing the dirt track at Lower Woodland. I just wanted to make sure that the impact on the Lower Woodland XC course is taken into account with your planning. I'm all for surfacing the track - as both a track coach and someone who likes to be able to access public tracks for individual fitness, Seattle doesn't have enough of them so this is great for the running community. The only complication is that the historic Metro League XC course uses the track as part of the course. The dirt track definitely gives it a more "cross country feel" and surfacing it would change the course no matter how it is done. However, I think it's possible to surface the track in a way that ensures runners could safely get onto and off of the new surface without a curb or lip they would have to go over that could pose a hazard or a fence that would block access to the track from the course. If you were to consult some XC coaches or other Metro league XC voices, I'm sure the feedback for the plan could make the XC course safe and still usable for meets with minimal changes to the design of the track. I just wanted to make sure planners were aware of the issue and its impact on the course. Metro has been using this course consistently with minimal changes since the 1970s and there is some rich history to it with the rare ability to compare great runners across different eras since the course has remained mostly the same. There are relatively few other parks that host courses that can accommodate the numbers of runners that Metro's schools bring to meets and Lower Woodland is the host of the Metro Championships every year as well as the District Championships every other year. There are several thousand high school runners each year who will be very grateful for accommodation given to this historic course! Happy to help in any way I can, thanks for your consideration of our great sport.</p>
2024-09-13 14:04:07	<p>Discussions of "turfing" the Wallingford playfield are lacking in detail.</p> <p>I am concerned about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* ground water absorption of the playfield, which is currently grass and dirt</li> <li>* canopy maintenance and protection -- we just lost a tree and I want to see it replaced, and no trees removed</li> <li>* running track around the playfield sustained -- and not cement -- at least as soft as gravel trails</li> <li>* space and sharing for neighborhood to use the playfield too, for frisbee and other sports</li> </ul> <p>It's unclear to me, from the detail-sparse sketch making the rounds, whether I should be for or against this.</p>
2024-09-13 14:11:46	<p>Two Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Since it looks like Greenlake Elem will be closed and they have a large playground - would it be possible to make it a field for Lincoln HS?</li> <li>2. Can you just make a grass field at Wallingford Playground or does it have to be turf?</li> </ol>

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2024-09-13 14:13:44	Wondering about moving the playground to the raised area adjacent to the tennis courts on the southeast corner of the park. This is an underused area and would be a nice use of that space. While disappointing to some, removing the wading pool from this smallish space makes sense as it has very limited year round use. Expanding hours for Greenlake wading pool over the summer may be done to improve wading pool access. I have lived one block west of Wallingford park for 17 years and feel that preserving the playground AND maximizing use of the high ground space makes most sense to give our kids and community a real field!
2024-09-13 15:11:32	I would like to share my enthusiastic support for the turf field at Wallingford Park. In addition to the benefits for Lincoln High School athletics, having another turf field option would greatly benefit the youth sports programs in our community. I've coached little league baseball though North Central Little League since 2019 and having another field that could be utilized for practices and games would be incredibly valuable. Thank you for considering this feedback as you work through the evaluation process.
2024-09-13 18:40:18	I have two concerns. One is with synthetic turf. As we are realizing that we have microplastics in our air, water and bodies please think about whether using synthetic turf for a new playfield really is wise.  The other concern has to do with using Wallingford, both at present and in the future. In spite of the signs indicating that it is NOT a dog park and dogs are NOT supposed to run loose, dog owners routinely let their pets off leash in the Wallingford Playfield and do not always come prepared with a bag to pick up. This is a health risk for anyone playing on or falling down on the grass or turf.
2024-09-13 19:12:06	Concerned about errant footballs, soccer balls in the playground.
2024-09-13 22:10:30	There are a number of known and emerging health and environmental impacts associated with artificial turf. Examples includes PFAS, heavy metals, and 6-ppdq. How is the project to install an artificial turf practice field for Lincoln HS safeguarding against harm to students, community members, and the environment from the planned field?
2024-09-14 00:00:00	Adding Wallingford Childcare center who also uses this as their outdoor space/playground. There are several early childhood education centers that use this park as their required outdoor space. Have they been notified and consulted with?
2024-09-14 16:23:56	What is the process for selecting the park for the turf field and is there any way to influence this decision? Our concern is the Wallingford park is the smallest park of the parks that are being considered and is a rare natural grassy area that many community members enjoy throughout the year. It's already flexible enough to be used for organized soccer games during the sports season, and many organized sports events for younger children occur there because the park can be divided up into many small pitches when they want to play, but it is still beautiful and natural when not in use as a sports field. It currently accommodates many people's needs, but converting it to a full size turf field will use up most of the space in the park and we'll have barely any natural grass left, so it will no longer be useful to many members of the community. As a taxpayer who always votes to provide more funding to public schools, I am disheartened that the money is being spent to destroy our rare natural parks and remove amenities from the community.

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2024-09-15 12:30:22	<p>Maybe I'm missing a lot here. I've taken a look the materials, and I'm still really unclear as to what is being proposed here . This feels very sudden, and very vague.</p> <p>Are the trees staying? Will the one that recently came down be replaced? I care a lot about canopy, for all the reasons I won't list.</p> <p>Will the raised area remain? I use that. Neighborhood groups use that. Are the planners taking into account the neighborhood?</p> <p>What other features will be removed? Will neighbors still have access?</p> <p>Who decides who uses the field when?</p> <p>The lights thing -- what hours? I often go to the playfield to watch the sky in the evening and at night. Are my days of seeing the sunset and stars at the playfield over? That doesn't seem fair. I LIVE here.</p> <p>For the turf itself, I'm not delighted by dog-dug holes and mud when I'm playing frisbee. But I'm less delighted by more plastic in my world and underfoot. How does this affect ground water? Absorption? Has an environmental impact study been done?</p> <p>To me, this whole plan is poorly explained and seems poorly evaluated. I have very little confidence that the neighborhood uses of the park are being taken into account.</p> <p>I can't make your in-person meeting Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024. It's hard for me to have clear opinions without a clear plan. Is there a way to get more details about your plan before it happens? Or is it a done deal?</p>
2024-09-15 13:00:16	<p>Would the playground and wading pool remain if a turf field is built at Wallingford park?</p>
2024-09-15 18:42:42	<p>Hello - I'm writing about a concern that converting the Wallingford playground and playfield into a boys football field will limit neighborhood use and violate title IX. How will the district justify this expenditure and creation of a field for a boys varsity football team, and ensure that girls get equal playing time on a new field/resource like this?</p>

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2024-09-15 19:31:47	<p>As a community member (and former student athlete) with a young family, I understand the pressure for sports field space. However, I am concerned about the loss of multi-use space, as the current field is used for everything from kickball to picnics to games of catch. As turf fields involve expensive upkeep, I have personally witnessed how turning grass fields into artificial turf (usually fenced and under a reservation system) reduces the ability for community use. While I would support efforts to build up or otherwise improve drainage of the current field, I do not support the plan for an artificial field as stands. To conclude, I would echo questions from another community member from the Fremont&amp;Wallingford Facebook group:</p> <p>Are the trees staying? Will the one that recently came down be replaced?</p> <p>Will the raised area remain?</p> <p>What other features will be removed? Will neighbors still have access? Who decides who uses the field when?</p> <p>Are the planners taking into account the neighborhood?</p> <p>The lights thing -- what hours? I often go to the playfield to watch the sky in the evening and at night.</p> <p>For the turf itself, I'm not delighted by dog-dug holes and mud when I'm playing frisbee. But I'm less delighted by more plastic in my world and underfoot. How does this affect ground water? Absorption?</p>
2024-09-15 21:15:21	<p>I'd like to voice my opposition to the proposed athletic field for Lincoln high school at Wallingford playfield. The proposed plan will turn a community green space enjoyed by all to specialized asset for organized sports teams. While I understand it would be nice for the high schoolers to have a football field, the reality is that organized sports are organized, and it's relatively easy for those teams to congregate at a different facility. The community is not committed enough to drive ourselves 20 minutes to enjoy a picnic, casually kick a soccer ball, or throw a frisbee. The new field will be dominated by organized teams, including late into the evening, introducing traffic and parking problems. Significant trees will likely need to be removed, and the other trees will be planted somewhere else, which is essentially selling out our neighborhood for someone else's. Please don't turn our park into a sports rental facility. Please leave it as an asset for the entire community to enjoy. I'm especially concerned that no mention was made of the play structure, which is in constant use almost the entire year. This project is clearly not in the interest of the community, and is designed to serve special interest groups. Please preserve our park.</p>
2024-09-16 00:00:00	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I saw that you're leading the planning for a Lincoln High School turf athletic field. I have a student at Lincoln and am a member of the Wallingford community, and am interested in joining the planning committee (if you're looking for input from members of the public). I was on the design committee for Lincoln High School (it was renovated a few years ago), so I'm familiar with the school and the area. Please let me know what I can do to become involved.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>

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<p>2024-09-16 00:00:00</p>	<p>The following are community concerns with the proposal to convert the Wallingford park/playground into a turf football field (also being considered for Meridian):</p> <p>Equity and public access to a multi-use space - The current features of the park (playground, tennis courts, picnic areas, trees, open grass areas, landscaped areas with multiple levels of terrain, wading pool and walking paths), make this park quite diverse in terms of the types of people who are able to enjoy the park for multiple purposes, and people of all ages are able to enjoy it and exercise in whatever way they do, not simply through organized sports (which are not accessible or preferred by all users). Additionally, multiple local daycares and early childcare centers use this on a daily basis as their greenspace. Removing these features to put in a turf field for a varsity boys football team will limit the use of this park, at the expense of a multigenerational community.</p> <p>Historical promises to community - From community discussion, it sounds like homes were removed from this space to make the public park, and at the time the community was promised that this would remain a green space for all to continue to use. Converting this to a turf field for a varsity boys football team will limit public access, multi-purpose use, and break this promise.</p> <p>Environmental - There is a ton of research and concern about the health and environmental effects of turf. I won't link to those here, but this is well-researched at this point with numerous professional teams raising concerns and returning to grass for both environmental and health/safety concerns regarding microplastics, and other chemicals. The FAQ also states that this will only be for varsity football and varsity soccer, and all other sports teams will need to still commute elsewhere - the tradeoff of one team not having to commute, does not negate the positive environmental and health benefits of the existing greenspace for the community.</p> <p>Contradicts Parks Department community goals to reduce number of turf fields - This was identified as a goal in 2023. The parks department should not be adding more turf fields, given the community, health and environmental concerns.</p> <p>Title IX concerns - The FAQ states this new field will be used for a boys varsity football team, and other sports and teams will still need to commute to other fields. If the motivation here is to build a field for boys, how will the district and parks department ensure equal access to this new resource and playing time for girls?</p> <p>Poor planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lincoln had a football field, which is currently a simple flat parking lot and could easily be converted back to a field. If the motivation here is environmental, and reduction of driving, why not replace the small flat cement parking lot with the field?</li> <li>- The FAQ says this is only for varsity football and soccer, while other sports teams will still have to commute. How can the community trust that they'll still have access to the park when it already sounds like there are scheduling and access issues for other sports? Additionally, we should not be prioritizing only organized sports (which are not accessible to all) at the expense of people of all ages who currently enjoy the park for many different types of exercise and enjoyment, including students at these schools who enjoy the greenspace in other ways.</li> <li>- The FAQ states that this is solving a problem for Hamilton and Lincoln who don't have a place to exercise in rain and snow. How does an outdoor turf field solve that (and don't they have indoor gyms)?</li> </ul> <p>Thank you for finding a better solution for the community, Ava Cc'ing the schools/orgs who also utilize this resource.</p>



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2024-09-16 01:10:01	<p>How much of the field will be for youth sports only?</p> <p>How early and how late in the day will games/practices be scheduled?</p>
2024-09-16 12:12:06	<p>I am vehemently opposed to using the Meridian Playfield as a high school practice field. It is ridiculous to take away a community resource for a "practice" facility for a HIGH SCHOOL!!! I realize that Lincoln is the outlier (in that it is the only school without a practice field). However, that does not mean it makes sense to continue in this irresponsible fashion of treating high school athletics as though they are professional sports complexes. Using community resources for practice for high school sports is inappropriate at best. In addition, the proposal is for synthetic turf. With more and more infill housing, there is less and less green space for the community. This proposal would take one of the few remaining green spaces available and transform it into a sterile and synthetic space. This is not suitable for the health and well being of the community as a whole. Please re consider this "need" (for a very small percentage of the community) and find a more appropriate solution.</p> <p>I do appreciate the time, effort, and energy that have gone into this effort and I appreciate you taking the time to consult with the community.</p>
2024-09-16 12:49:11	<p>Don't destroy a natural area by putting in a synthetic play field. Seattle's beauty and livability has been destroyed more than enough already. Contrary to some people's belief, sports are NOT the center of everyone's lives. Stop destroying this city with plans that destroy habitat.</p>
2024-09-16 13:12:33	<p>Thank you for converting space for turf fields in Seattle!!! There is a massive field shortage in Seattle for youth sports. This is an equity and access issue because it is preventing many kids from playing soccer and all other field sports because their parents can't drive them after school across town to a field.</p> <p>However, SPS should not use toxic turf materials. There are newer options available that are not made from offgassing old tires that are unsafe for kids. Studies have shown that young goalies playing on turf fields have experienced respiratory issues and even lung cancer at a much higher rate than other kids. Even if it costs more upfront to use these new materials, please factor in the health and environmental costs these toxic turf materials create.</p>
2024-09-16 13:29:28	<p>Please do not take the Wallingford play field away from neighborhood families. The importance of having natural grass and trees for children to enjoy and play on cannot be overstated. This park is used and loved by so many and is an important part of our community. Laying down synthetic turf will destroy this natural environment that is getting harder and harder to find this ever increasing city.</p>
2024-09-16 13:36:33	<p>I urge you to leave the Park/Playfield as it is for everyone to enjoy and not turn it into artificial turf and a restricted area for Lincoln High School. My children and I enjoyed the park together when they were young, and our Home School group often used the park for informal gatherings for our families. I still enjoy walking or driving past the park and seeing people enjoy it for a variety of reasons and in a variety of ways. It is such a community treasure. I hope you will find a way to keep it for community use! Thank you.</p>
2024-09-16 15:16:49	<p>Hi - I am a concerned neighbor writing about my concerns about turning Wallingford Playfield into the new Lincoln HS field. This is an area with already VERY limited parking (which is constantly taken by students). The park borders a SAFE street which means that cars should not be driving on it - adding a playfield will certainly change this. Taking away this park would be terrible for the neighbors and families who currently enjoy it. Please consider alternative locations in locations better suited for such a large undertaking.</p>
2024-09-16 15:41:25	<p>My wife and I have lived in the Wallingford area for several years and chose our home based on the accessibility to resources for our child. While we recognize the complexity of building a field for the highschool, doing so at the expense of resources for other children is simply unacceptable. With the greenlake fields less than 0.3 miles away (and safe walking access), I am immensely perplexed by the proposal to destroy the playfield. Further, you stated rationale for the project is "Lincoln High School is the only high school in the district without an athletic field, which limits opportunities for Lincoln's students". Yet now, you propose to severely limit the opportunities for OTHER children. Again, I empathize that this is a hard decision, but with existing play fields, a large free area by the lake, and other resources nearby, I do not believe it is acceptable to take this resource away from our younger children.</p>

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2024-09-16 15:58:48	<p>As I'm sure you're aware, Wallingford Playfield is a local park in a location with no other park space. I encourage you to not try and convert the space into a sports field</p> <p>What I hope you consider is improving the connection from Lincoln High School to Lower Woodland Park. Note that Stone Ave N could be turned into a greenway between Lincoln High School and Woodland Park, with safe crossings at Green Lake Way N and N 50th st. There are already safe crossings over Stone Way N for accessing Stone Ave N, and developing Stone Ave N into a greenway would be valued by the community.</p>
2024-09-16 15:59:12	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I live in Wallingford and I support the construction of the turf playfield UNDER ONE CONDITION:</p> <p>Do not take away the two tennis courts at this location. I know that's the plan but plans change. Tennis is the world's healthiest sport and second most popular sport in the world. Tennis has suffered losses with pickleball "stealing" resources that took decades of advocacy to build. Tennis offers men and women of all ages equal opportunity, a lifelong activity and community. Please do not take away the two courts at Wallingford Playfield.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
2024-09-16 17:16:07	Please do not take away this park!!!!
2024-09-16 17:49:18	What location options are being actively considered?
2024-09-16 18:41:23	Please save Wallingford park-- particularly the trees! It is currently one of the only places where our toddler son is able to go play and making it a synthetic field would be a shame. Wallingford homes have small lots and families are reliant on community green spaces for outdoor recreation. It's also particularly bad timing given the proposed changes to Meridian park which would leave our neighborhood without suitable play areas for young children while construction is underway. Larger, older trees cannot be substituted for with saplings.
2024-09-16 19:34:01	<p>What is the scope of the proposed facility?</p> <p>Will there be a baseball field to play HS games to alleviate more play on the already overused Woodland Park ball field?</p>
2024-09-17 00:39:55	<p>As a lifelong resident of Seattle and having lived in North Greenlake for over 20 years, Wallingford Park has been a part of the fabric of the neighborhood. Replacing the plants and grass with artificial turf is not the move! Turf is plastic, it eventually degrades and leaches chemicals into the environment. Please reconsider this change!</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2024-09-17 02:43:19	Please keep Wallingford Park grass!! I went to Lincoln High School from 1978 to 1981 and the sports fields were always the fields at Lower Woodland. Let Lincoln use Lower Woodlands Sports fields!!
2024-09-17 06:03:17	I am very concerned and saddened to hear that Wallingford Park is being considered as the new home for a synthetic turf. This park's playground and wading pool is my kids favorite and our go to place to play. Losing the is playground would be such a huge loss especially given that most other play structures in our area up North are not as toddler and big kid friendly which is helpful for our family. Last weekend there was easily forty some kids and two birthday parties happening outdoors. I cannot imagine losing this space.

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-17 10:10:39	<p>Please do not remove valuable natural green space and replace it with plastic grass.</p> <p>Human health and urban environments is highly dependent upon access to the numerous benefits that trees and greener provide. Synthetic grass sheds micro plastics into the environment and increases heat, while Seattle is now in the top five nationally for urban heat islands.</p> <p>Please rethink this plan.</p>
2024-09-17 11:45:19	<p>Wallingford park should not even be considered for this humans and wildlife of ALL ages use that park. I am HORRIFIED that anyone would consider replacing it with a sports field. Especially a synthetic one. Unacceptable. Please just don't, or the public outcry will cause stress for everyone involved. Don't destroy a good park. The park is already a flexible space enjoyed by many different groups throughout the year: It accommodates organized sports of all types for all ages, many kinds of community events, and it is a rare natural grassy area with beautiful trees that everyone can enjoy. Due to the size of the proposed synthetic field, the majority of the park would need to be destroyed to accommodate it. Luckily there are other options on the table. It would be preferable for the committee to choose one of the other locations which are larger so that both the sports field and the current community uses can be accommodated.</p> <p>- Wallingford is the smallest park of the 3 being considered so it will be the most impacted: The other options are larger and can accommodate more natural grassy/tree areas along with the new sport field: We should choose a larger park so we can support both the high school and the rest of the local community.</p>
2024-09-17 12:26:57	<p>My kids attend HIMS and will be attending Lincoln in 2 years' time. As a Wallingford resident for over 14 years, and as a family who have benefitted from Wallingford Playfield, I want to provide support for the building of an athletic field to replace the horrible "grass". I fear for the kids and the injuries they have sustained from uneven ground and holes all over the pitch. HOWEVER, I would NOT support this project if it involves removing the playground, wading pool and tennis courts. That is a resource this neighborhood REQUIRES so I hope your plans include protection for that area as well as the tennis courts.</p>
2024-09-17 12:35:42	<p>Learning that the Wallingford Playfield Park is to be destroyed and replaced by a synthetic sport field for Lincoln High School, came as a surprise considering artificial turf has been shown to be toxic, "an environmental transformation product of the rubber antioxidant N-(1,3-dimethylbutyl)-N'-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine (6PPD) has been shown to cause acute low dose toxicity in juvenile coho salmon exposed through road runoff ( McIntyre et al. 2021; Tian et al. 2021; Tian et al. 2022)" this is the same chemical found in artificial turf. This will mean that the park will actually contribute to the loss of juvenile salmon as the toxic runoff will eventually make its way to the water. Removing the grass will alter the ecosystem of the park, reducing insect populations and in turn, impacting birds as their food source will be reduced. Also noted is the removal of many large trees. Removing canopy in the city has extreme impacts and must be reconsidered.</p>
2024-09-17 14:03:21	<p>I think it is a wonderful idea to put in a turf field at Wallingford Park. This city needs more reservable turf fields for all of the sports teams. This will also make the field usable all year round for everyone and it is only fair that the kids at Lincoln have their own field. Great plan, thank you!</p>
2024-09-17 15:50:10	<p>We need more all weather fields and tracks that are safe for all to use. I support this proposal</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-17 17:05:24	<p>The grassy Wallingford Playfield is a vital part of our entire Wallingford community. It was created and built by volunteers to be available for ALL of Wallingford. I just walked across it in the middle of a Monday and saw multiple groups of people using the space: kids kicking around a ball, two adults practicing some sort of acrobatic circus act, a teacher or nanny with a group of small children laughing and playing around in the grass, 2 dog-walkers, someone jogging around the edge.</p> <p>Hamilton and Lincoln regularly use the playfield for PE classes and band practice—activities which the community accommodates without complaint as part of the SHARED use of the field.</p> <p>It would be devastating to the inclusive, family feeling of our neighborhood to turn this field into a synthetic turf athletic field for the Seattle Public School system. SPS is NOT the Wallingford community. While many of our children attend SPS schools, the neighborhood is a much wider entity and the park needs to serve EVERYONE. The park is a natural community hub which many people here use regularly. The live grass, plants, and trees are an important part of what makes urban living in Wallingford special.</p> <p>At a time when many Seattle schools are going to be closed, it is unconscionable to consider using taxpayer money to destroy a local natural treasure in order to expand Lincoln High School. If there is no existing SPS facility which can accommodate the Lincoln athletic program, the School District can use its own property by developing a practice field on the north parking of Lincoln High School.</p>
2024-09-17 17:26:33	<p>I fully support the Wallingford park field location for the new turf field to be used by Lincoln and Hamilton. This will provide two school communities with much needed usable athletic space. This will also provide the neighborhood with a high quality surface that can be used for community or recreational sport needs. Lastly, having a field so close to Lincoln will likely cut down on the number of students driving and parking in the neighborhood as many of them are driving to school so they can then drive to their practice at a location further away. I believe all these factors will improve neighborhood conditions and add to the community overall.</p>
2024-09-17 18:02:01	<p>Please focus on the Wallingford location. Proximity to the school is important.</p>
2024-09-17 18:20:16	<p>I'm unable to attend the input meeting this week on the Lincoln high school field proposal at Wallingford park, but wanted to write in to voice my support for the project. As parents of two Lincoln high school students who were previously at Hamilton, I've seen first hand the challenge of inadequate field space. Constructing a field at Wallingford park, while not fully sufficient to addressing the field shortage, would go a long way toward helping this issue. Moreover, the proximity to the schools would help minimize the transit time that the kids currently incur to go to other venues. Finally, while I appreciate that such a decision has implications for how the park is currently used, my experience is that it's extremely difficult to keep grass alive (and therefore mud out) in the current park given all of the pressure, so a turf option may actually make it easier for the park to be used more widely even when athletics are not in session.</p>
2024-09-17 19:10:37	<p>I support the turfing of playfields at Wallingford Park, and for shared use of the space by the community and Lincoln H.S., as the City has failed to figure out a way to make the fields otherwise useable as playfields (rocky mud or dusty all year).</p> <p>I do disagree, if it is assumed, that Lincoln should get priority on the fields on weekends or during the summer. To the contrary, Lincoln should only be primary user during the hours immediately before and after the school day. And I also disagree with suggestion to so much preference for football and soccer. Ultimate Frisbee in particular should also be given preference given the strength of that program in this city and for this school.</p> <p>I also think it important that the creation of turfed playfields should be limited to the current playfield area and not result in removal of trees or other established vegetation.</p> <p>Finally, as part of park upgrades, I believe at least one of the tennis courts should be lined for potential pickleball use.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-17 20:09:46	<p>Wallingford Park is the perfect location to best benefit the student body of Lincoln High School and the surrounding community. I support it as the best location and superior to Meridian Playfield and Queen Anne Bowl. QA Bowl is simply too far away from the school and not a realistic option.</p> <p>However, I see only mention of practice fields for football and soccer in the description that we received from Principal Corey Eichner. My request is to also plan to add a softball diamond so that the Lincoln softball team can also have a turf field to practice on. As was pointed out in a recent Seattle Times article about the inequity between baseball and softball's access to turf fields (and which features a photo of the Lincoln HS softball team), a softball field should be included in the design and implementation. In fact, a perfect plan would to include two, and peg the second field for 90' baseball as well as 60' softball--similar to the designs of Loyal Heights Playfield and Eagle Staff Middle School.</p> <p>Thank you for considering. Not including softball in this awesome plan is short-sighted and inefficient.</p> <p>Best,</p>
2024-09-17 20:40:18	<p>I am against constructing the new playfield at Queen Anne Bowl, as it is too far from Lincoln High School.</p>
2024-09-18 00:28:35	<p>Pls leave Wallingford park the way it is. We need green spaces for people to enjoy!! I grew up in Wallingford &amp; love the park the way it is.</p> <p>People need a reprieve from Close living conditions! Picnics, etc.</p>
2024-09-18 01:08:34	<p>What do you need (if anything) from Lincoln High School parents in terms of support and approval to get this project done for sure and on time at the Wallingford Playfield (or another agreed location) ? (Petition, signature, donations, money, anything else ? ) ...</p> <p>A proper state- of-the-art sports field has been needed for quite a while for Lincoln high school and its student's growth and development. Wallingford playfield as a location makes perfect sense and is the most logical choice due to its proximity to the HS, making it practical, secured, safer and more efficient. It will also benefit middle school like Hamilton. And it will absolutely benefit the surrounding communities who will rip the benefits of such an improved playfield in that area.</p>
2024-09-18 02:01:04	<p>I'm writing to voice my strong objections to proposals to use Wallingford Playfield or Meridian Playfield as locations for the new Lincoln High School Practice Field. Both Wallingford and Meridian Playfields are well used green spaces that serve a wide swath of the community. Converting these multi-function spaces into practice fields when there are already an overabundance of sports facilities at nearby Woodland Park is a gross misuse of public space. Wallingford has few open, green spaces remaining. Converting one to a practice field to solve what is essentially two year facilities issue caused by the Memorial Stadium closure is a gross overstep. If closing Wallingford Playfield to give Lincoln High School a permanent practice facility was always a part of the school's development plan, then it should have been disclosed and discussed when the decision was made to re-open the school in the first place. I live in Wallingford. I see how these playfields are hubs for all kinds of community activity and how they are open to people from every walk of life. They're the places you meet friends for a picnic. They host farmer's markets and birthday parties, afternoon playdates for toddlers and tai chi classes for retirees. They are an integral, essential part of the fabric of Wallingford and as soon as you turn them into formal facilities, they and the community will lose that character. They'll stop being community hubs and they'll just be sports fields and when they're not in use by the high school teams that will inevitably and increasingly monopolize all of the most desirable hours, they'll mostly sit empty. The Red Mill on Phinney has an aerial photograph of Seattle from the late 1930s. After burgers and shakes, I love looking at that map with my children. They can always find our home because they know where it is in relation to Wallingford Playfield. It's kind of amazing that given how much has changed in this city, the playfield is still around and still identifiable for a couple kids looking at black and white photograph that's nearly 100 years old. The Wallingford Playfield actually turns 100 this year. What a shame it would be to celebrate its 100th anniversary by commencing its demise as a truly public space. Please don't solve a 2 year scheduling problem by destroying a century old, treasured public space.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-18 10:04:24	Please do not put artificial turf on Wallingford Park. It is bad for the environment, expensive, and removes another bit of nature from our City. Lincoln athletes can use one of the many fields at Lower Woodland which is an easy walk away! Especially, with a warming climate, turf adds significantly to heat island effect.
2024-09-18 10:40:36	Protect Wallingford Playfield! This small neighborhood park that is used and enjoyed by the entire community 365 days a year is NOT the place for a large sports field. Destroying the mature trees and natural grassy field to install a synthetic playing surface would eliminate a cherished green space that supports mental, physical and ecological health. There are better alternatives; take Wallingford Playfield off the list.
2024-09-18 12:20:30	<p>I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing as a concerned resident of Wallingford regarding the proposal to tear down our neighborhood park and replace it with a synthetic turf sport field for the high school. While I understand the need for updated sports facilities, I believe that removing this beloved park would have a significant and detrimental impact on our community for several reasons:</p> <p>Community Space: The park provides a versatile, peaceful space for families, children, and neighbors to enjoy outdoor activities in a natural setting. It fosters social interaction, relaxation, and a sense of belonging, which would be lost with the installation of a single-purpose field.</p> <p>Environmental Impact: The park is home to various trees and plants that contribute to our local ecosystem. Replacing it with synthetic turf not only removes green space but could also increase heat retention, water runoff, and pollution from the artificial materials used in turf.</p> <p>Accessibility: The park serves everyone in the community, from young children to seniors, for various activities like walking, playing, and gathering. A football field would primarily serve the high school and its students, limiting its usage to a select group.</p> <p>Preserving Green Spaces: In an urban environment, green spaces are vital for mental and physical health. The park allows residents to connect with nature, offering a break from the concrete and urban infrastructure surrounding us. These spaces are essential for maintaining the character and health of our neighborhood.</p> <p>I strongly believe that we can find a solution that meets the school's needs without sacrificing such an integral part of our community. Perhaps there are alternative locations for the football field or ways to update existing school facilities without losing this cherished park.</p> <p>I hope you will take these concerns into consideration and work with the community to find a compromise that benefits everyone.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>I don't think it's up for debate whether a home field for Lincoln is needed or not. It definitely is. However, I want to provide some perspective as a parent of two current LHS students who are also athletes.</p> <p>One of our kids plays Ultimate Frisbee, a SPS recognized "club sport" which is played in Fall, Winter, and Spring. The kids practice at Lower Woodland, but those fields are booked so completely that teams frequently practice at Magnuson Park, Green Lake (yes, right where the geese fertilize the grass profusely), Loyal Heights, and others around town. There are even practices that begin as late as 8:30 PM - on weekdays - just to be able to get a field!</p> <p>And remember, it's not just the students who are impacted. Most kids will spend about half of their high school years unable to drive (or to drive others). This necessitates parents driving to and from these far-flung fields at all hours. Yes, this is also true of parents who want their children's educational experience to include music, for example, but I have yet to meet a student that is required to drive to music lessons 5-6 times a week.</p> <p>Our other Lincoln student plays football, which is a Fall and Spring commitment for everyone involved. I'll leave Memorial Stadium out of my comments because it will not be a factor for the next few years. But for the last few seasons, Lincoln footballers have practiced mostly at Ingraham High School. While this sounds quite suitable, the football field's primary purpose is for Ingraham, so Lincoln cannot practice there until Ingraham is finished. And if Ingraham's practice runs 20 minutes over, Lincoln just has to wait. Yes, Ingraham is privileged to have a "regional sports facility" on campus; however, the huge multi-sport fields next to the football stadium are almost always crammed with neighborhood youth sports teams. Thus, these year-around fields are as overbooked as the ones at Lower Woodland. Ingraham is not the answer.</p> <p>I will wrap this up by saying that an all-weather field in close proximity to Lincoln (and don't forget Hamilton International) is good across the board: It keeps kids closer to their school. It benefits multiple sports and genders. It keeps some of our least experienced drivers off the streets a bit more. It lessens the transportation burden for parents. And the immediate community will still have a place to come, walk, throw a frisbee, kick a soccer ball, practice tai chi, or whatever they normally do. The people of Seattle have voted - and now it's time to follow through for Lincoln High School.</p>
2024-09-18 13:38:45	Thank you for your time.
2024-09-18 19:29:12	Please do not replace the park with a turf playfield for the high school. It is a small park enjoyed by many community members and installing a playfield as well as taking down many trees will ruin this community center.
2024-09-18 22:21:27	I'm a home owner in the Wallingford neighborhood and fully support the addition of an artificial turf field at Wallingford Playfield. It will be a great addition to the neighborhood.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Can you explain weekends and holidays? Who has rights, etc.?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	I see relocating the restrooms as a huge expense – re: sewer. plumbing – there's also laws about how much sewage capacity can accommodate this area. Have you examined this topic?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	SPS is currently closing schools, so apparently there is SPS property available. Why not use a current SPS property?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Can we hold time for a Lincoln coach(es) and PE teacher(s) to speak at the next meeting? And/or student/parent? – (Lincoln's head track cross-country coach)
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Speaking to additional pollution from busing students, if this is an SPS field that community groups can use, there will be thousands more cars driving in here per week for all the club sports. How is that better for the neighborhood?

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Why not build a parking ramp and put a playfield on top? Also JUA. Time ends at 5:40 for parks and fields.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	IS THERE ANY WAY TO STOP THIS?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Was parking lot north of Lincoln considered? Could be elevated with parking below. Provide slides online? Add aerial view of other locations (options) marked.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	In all scenarios would the track update be at Lower Woodland?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Context: I live one block away from the field and school with a one-year-old who I hope attends Lincoln High School. I appreciate the challenge current students face. 1. Have you considered the Lincoln High School and adjacent parking lots? It would add green space and have the school lean forward and reducing traffic impact. 2. If selected, could we make these streets more pedestrian-friendly by reducing traffic? It's already dangerous to be walking during school in/out hours.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	What financial resources are planned to replace the field at the end of its life in about 8 years?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Is the school district willing to negotiate with the community for an agreement that establishes the number of hours open to local folks for unscheduled play?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	What about the agreement made when the homes that were removed to build the park that the park would be for community use, not school use?  Q: What about the walking path that circles to playfield? This is used by the community and the elder residents University House.  Putting in this field will dramatically change in the neighborhood/community feel of Wallingford and not in a good way! There is already a dearth of green space – please don't remove more!
2024-09-19 00:00:00	How will you accommodate the very frequent free play that happens almost every afternoon and evening at the park?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Are bleachers or fencing being considered?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	What traffic & parking mitigations will be implemented under this plan?  Will the Parks Department give an estimate of how much this field would be scheduled?  Is this something Hamilton has actually asked for?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Why can't Lower Woodland be both the field and track? Looks like there's space?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Middle school ultimate teams have access to practice or play games?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	If this changes to a sports field, where are spectators supposed to sit? Many games yield high spectatorship. Is there room for bleachers or do you think parents and students will not attend Friday night lights? If no bleachers, is it worth it?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	WHAT IS THE REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE PARKING AT LINCOLN? WHY DO YOU HAVE TO HAVE A PARKING LOT?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Field space is booked from 4 PM to 10 PM on all other turf fields in the city. There is no way this will not occur on this site, too. In many cases, 4 teams are booked on same field and only receive ¼ field space. How do you propose keeping field open for casual community use?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Just curious...where did Lincoln High School hold its football/soccer events before it was remodeled?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	The FAQ says this is for varsity football and varsity soccer. How will Title IX requirements be met if this is for boys? Will girls' soccer get extra time?



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>What about the agreement with the homeowners that had their properties condemned to enlarge the park way back when? They had a commitment from SPR to keep the park lower-key and neighborhood-focused.</p> <p>What about the agreements with SPS when Hamilton was remodel (adding the gym) and Lincoln rebuilt the field would not be taken over with intensive use?</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>What is the duration of proposed construction? Has a turf field been evaluated for increasing heat of the area? I support converting the parking lot to a field. Please don't add a field to the playfield!</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If the playfield is used for Hamilton and Lincoln during the day and practices after school, and then rec team scheduled by SPR, when can the community use it?!</li> <li>2. Why are you concerned about displacing the community around Big Howe but not around Wallingford?</li> <li>3. What about the commitments made to our community by SPS in the past (not taking over our parks)?</li> </ol>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lights - hours</li> <li>- Middle school PE use?</li> <li>- SPS versus Seattle Parks. Set schedule or kicked off at six?</li> <li>- Practice versus play?</li> <li>- Keep quarter mile track</li> <li>- Keep swimming pool</li> <li>- Keep playground</li> </ul> <p>Fenced/locked in evenings? Weekend soccer to continue? (Maybe give history of why no field – 80s closing lost spaces to Blanchet!)</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>You said you would "like" to keep the play area, why isn't this a will?</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Wallingford Playfield play structure was a four month project, delayed eight months. BF Day upper playground took 1.2 years to finish. What accountability can we expect for this project to be on time? Four months seems unrealistic!</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Can you provide a map or maps of the proposed fields and proposed changes to existing fields?</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Why not build a wooden, flat roof structure over the parking lot? This would give you more space than the playfield. Where would the baseball diamond be?</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>When will the field be available for Lincoln? Can you add parking below the field at Wallingford Park?</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Will there be a shotput and discus ring? Will we be able to have tennis courts? Will there be a training track with 1-4 lanes?</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>How many lanes are intended for the new track?</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Loss of Wallingford Playfield disproportionately affects Hamilton International Middle School. SPS revived LHS without the plan for a field and is now taking the largest field resource from Hamilton. What guarantees will be made to Hamilton athletics for this tremendous sacrifice?</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Have parents at Hamilton voice concerns - or been invited to share concerns - about the health hazards of synthetic turf? What is the life of a turf field - how long before it must be replaced?</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>CAN THIS BE MOVED TO LINCOLN PARKING LOT?</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Will this be a site for soccer and football games? Even West Seattle uses an outside stadium for games.</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Consider Gas Works as an option. Lights are a serious concern. Is a full field actually needed? Build half a field!</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Will there be training rings for discus and shotput?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	What about the parking lot? It was proposed as a site for a playfield on top of a parking garage when Lincoln was rebuilt. Ot her (outside?) funding was supposedly proposed, but SPS did not pursue this. Why not now?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	How about more feedback from athletes/students about the tons of great reasons for this field at Wallingford playfield?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Our kids need this field! No fences!                      The field use should not be restricted!!                      A ton of people play frisbee here and we haven't heard any mentioning of frisbee teams.                      Where is the playground?</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>This was not a good use of my time, 25 minutes of repetitive pre-amble with no information that wasn't in the FAQ.                      Please show pictures of proposal!!                      I can't know if it's a concern for me if you don't show the plan.                      Doesn't matter what you didn't choose, that's for those communities!                      (sorry for my terrible spelling &amp; handwriting)                      6:30 finally, useful info!                      I don't think the quotation mark "meditative" picnic area is used much (for legal activitie). Consider some sort of use study compared to playgrounds.                      But, the trees are nice.                      Want to know more about community access during construction                      like kicking out the illegal awfully dog park!                      Why have us write q's b4 the presentation was given? It might have been answered!</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Why are the people expected to give up green space for a dual use instead of adding more green space? Parking lots, roadways, take priority, but are dangerous noisy and ugly. You (the city) knew about the lack of the field when you opted to renovate Lincoln's building. Wallingford Playfield is our park, not in athletic field. Woodland is already booked to capacity – so will Wallingford Playfield if it is built. So this will only eliminate a park to accommodate high school students that should have been included in that plan. The city must have a plan that adds more greenspace, not de lete it or reappropriate it. This is transforming the park from the field for all to a field only for athletes programs and mostly young and old adults, leading small kids, dogs, and seniors out.</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>2019 - when Lincoln was being remodeled, the Wallingford community proposed a public/private partnership to build a field north of Lincoln High School. Private funding was secured to do this project, and SPS turned down the offer. And now they want to take over one of our small neighborhood parks! SPS made their decision in 2018/2019 and they need to keep their commitments to practice outside the neighborhood, or to build a field above the north parking lot. Do NOT take away our neighborhood park! It is very well used park and a neighborhood that is slated to get more and more dense. (Thanks to HALA – Housing Affordability and Livability Agenda)</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	A FULL SIZED FIELD SEEMS TOO LARGE FOR THE SPACE - CAN A SMALLER FIELD BE CONSIDERED?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>I know many people (neighbors) who wanted to be here tonight.                      Why did we get so little notice? When does decision get made?</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Parks Department: Your mission is to "provide safe and accessible spaces for residents and visitors to work, recreate, rejuvenate, and enhance quality of life and wellness for children, teenagers, adults, and seniors." How is limiting public use* in favor of an elite group (organized sports teams) in furtherance of the stated mission?                      * Field will be subject to citywide reservations</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-19 00:00:00	1. If a location is selected that already has a synthetic turf field, can the available money be used – immediately - for field lighting? 2. Is this a listed project in the JAFDP (Joint Athletic Fields Development Program)?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	If you use Wallingford Playfield, will you leave the trees and shrubs? We need natural, public spaces as the neighborhood increases in density.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Re: capacity How much time (in hours) do you expect the field to be open to the public for use? (vs. school use) (per week)
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Will the playground and wading pool be kept in the new design?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	What about existing trees? Are you taking them down or not?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Who runs the show (scheduling, prioritizing) Re: Parks and Recreation will defer to schools' schedule, true?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Environmental impact (carbon) assessment? Natural grass v. synthetic turf cost comparison
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Why not keep real grass? What is long term impact of astroturf on the environment?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	How available will field be for non team activities? How much reserved for school? How much for other sports? How much just open time?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Will field be open for picnics, kid's parties, dog usage?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Where are rough plans? It's impossible to support / oppose when we have no idea if playground, open field, and other spaces will still be available.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	How will the resurfacing of the track affect cross-country at Lower Woodland? Timeline, etc.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Will you keep the playground?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Wallingford Park is currently the neighborhood off leash dog park. Illegal, but somewhat understandably as there is no other area suitable within walking distance. Are there any proposed solutions to provide off leash space elsewhere?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	How will it be guaranteed that don't take all the Field time and allow neighbors time on Field?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	What is your rationale for changing the track around Field #7 to all-weather? If your selected option is a field at Wallingford Park then put a track around the field there. Leave Field #7 track alone. It's 1 mile from Lincoln.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	What will be done to provide field event space for the athletics on the track and field team? Will they have pole vault and throwing events?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Can other people use the fields?</li> <li>- What about natural space? / Communal space?</li> <li>- Toxic materials?</li> <li>- School has large parking lot that can be converted.</li> <li>- How large will it be?</li> </ul>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Are you aware of the October '22 study in Environmental Pollution which states that artificial turfs "leak PAHs, PFAS, etc., which are known carcinogens, neurotoxicants mutagens, and endocrine disruptors." Are you aware that artificial turf has a life of 8 to 15 years, and it cannot be recycled but goes in a landfill?

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is converting the parking lot still an option?</li> <li>2. Where would rec soccer play? How many neighborhood kids would be displaced?</li> <li>3. How would Wallingford feel be big enough for football?</li> <li>4. Where would games be?</li> <li>5. Why not Queen and bowl, already turf?</li> </ol>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	WHAT IS THE PROPOSED LAYOUT OF THE FIELD?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	How tall would the field lighting be and how many towers?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	What was the criteria you used to evaluate appropriate locations for practice fields?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	What about lighting — if there is field lighting what would be hours?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Where are lockers?</p> <p>Where is football equipment stored?</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Will the football/soccer field be fenced for loose balls? How are field goals managed?
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What - EXACTLY - did the levy language say about this project?</li> <li>2. How much money is available to execute this project?</li> <li>3. Must the field accommodate a full-size regulation field?</li> <li>4. When do you expect to be available for field lighting?</li> </ol>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Please consider that as housing density increases, our community parks become even more important as our communal backyard. Can we figure out a way to include practice space and keep all the wonderful uses this park already accommodates?</p> <p>(Just to comment on a sentiment in the room – I love that we have 2 schools in walking distance – this is a benefit, not a negative impact! The kids helped enliven the park, too.)</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	WE SUPPORT THE FIELD
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>You’re doing a good job with a tough question. Thanks for listening to us.</p> <p>Mud is a drainage problem, not a grass problem. Grass can hold up if done well.</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Currently our Lincoln High football team and other teams are busing every day to practice space. I love this idea because it would eliminate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Over one hour of committing, leaving more time for studying</li> <li>- Bussing pollution and cost</li> <li>- My Hamilton student would love to attend PE and not spend rest of the day muddy. Please address that this is for 3000 students annually. This will help kids for many years.</li> </ul>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Regarding why can’t you continue to use memorial?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Can’t Lincoln go back to Memorial after the summer of ‘27 and keep the current situation until then?</li> <li>2) How available to families will the new field be?</li> </ol>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Please publish cost analysis for grass vs. turf field.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>We need our own field so we can hold camps (for fundraising for sports teams) &amp; not have to pay for space.</p> <p>YAY! Go field!</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Please keep playground and wading pool together. The younger families use them at same time.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	PROVIDE % OF GRASS VS TURF

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-19 00:00:00	It's my understanding that high school sports are prioritized over middle school sports use so it sounds like middle school sports that use the field would have to find other space practice after school, meaning busing even younger students I feel that Wallingford feels like it's taking practice from the middle school and giving it to the high school.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	In the apparent places/siting for a field at Meridian there is a two-lane street buffer between the field and nearest houses (and buildings on two others). A home field at Wallingford would be much closer to more housing being an impact for more residents here.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	PLEASE INCLUDE QUEEN ANNE COMMUNITY COUNCIL IN NOTIFICATION
2024-09-19 00:00:00	
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Please consider the loss of the hillside running along the east & northeast field boundary – it's well-loved for rolling down & sledding for a little kids during winter.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	The current interplay of the playground, wading pool, "woods" ringing on the northeast corner, picnic tables, and mound between the playground & wading pool is lovely. It's an example of a truly well designed park with multiple, overlapping uses. Moving the playground would be a major loss to this synergy.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Please consider a smaller practice field. We regularly use the field for flying kites; pick up, informal (little kids) soccer & softball; and general running around; which wouldn't be easily accommodated with formalized field, but may still be possible if some field area remains for community use.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Please consider drainage solutions (e.g. engineered soil) to make a grass practice field viable. Very concerned with the loss of microorganisms, bugs, roots – everything that comes with plants. Also heat impacts of turf. (And of course runoff.)
2024-09-19 00:00:00	We are living in a climate crisis. Why are we covering a green space in plastic carpeting that has forever chemicals in it? The industry is now admitting the kid cannot remove PFAs from synthetic turf before 2027. Synthetic turf heats up 30 to 60 degrees hotter than ambient air temperature, regardless of the eco fill
2024-09-19 00:00:00	As a parent of both middle and high school students, this is an amazing upgrade! Thank you!
2024-09-19 00:00:00	This site is small and surrounded by homes on all 4 sides. These neighbors will be impacted by noise until 10 pm, lights, and crowded parking. Other sites have less impact to homes. Please consider planting mature trees around the perimeter and keeping the old trees and meditation area.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	We have two young kids and are at the field and the playground 3 to 4 days a week. Our priorities would be to maintaining a playground (multiple school groups use this daily) and access to at least an area at all times. Would strongly oppose fences. Appreciate keeping the trees. Lots of neighbors with dogs use this, too. We mostly run and play frisbee on the field. Thank you.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	As a neighbor and a Lincoln High School parent, I'm in FULL SUPPORT of using Wallingford playfield for SBS students. LOVE IT!
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Thank you for addressing tree canopy management and reducing health issues with cork turf type. As a parent of Hamilton and Lincoln students who plays sports this option offers students less commute time and safety of a nearby field to access. Middle school kids bus to a Ballard playfield for ultimate practice, high school student bus to Ingram and not home until 9 pm, attend 6:30 am practices to access lower Woodland. Also, Wallingford Playfield is unusable for a large part of the year due to poor drainage. This proposal makes it usable year-round for schools and communities.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	HOW ENJOYABLE IS IT TO PICNIC ON TURF FIELDS? REALLY CURIOUS ABOUT THE HISTORIC CONTEXT HERE FOR EXAMPLE: LINCOLN CHOSE TO PAVE OVER THEIR OLD PLAYFIELD TO HAVE A PARKING LOT – PROMISED THE COMMUNITY THEY WOULDN'T TAKE OVER LOCAL PARK OR HOMES THAT WERE MOVED TO CREATE THIS COMMUNITY SPACE.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Meridian Park is a much larger park that could accommodate a field and still have green space for community use (still use for market, etc.) Wallingford will have no green space (or way less than Meridian could retain) for community use. Hamilton building is also historic (as is the park). Meridian Orchard is non-functioning. it's value as historic feels very NIMBY and sounds like it has more powerful advocates.

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-19 00:00:00	This topic was decided years ago with multiple meetings with SPS, Parks and Rec, and citizens in the area. It was acknowledged the park is the only park in the area, and would remain a community park – not dedicated to athletics. The lights would pollute the area and the neighborhood.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Having served on the board of friends at the athletic fields for over 20 years, you can say I'm a strong advocate for more and better playfields in Seattle, especially converting lit grass fields to synthetic. However, Wallingford Playfield has quite a history of commitments to keeping it a lower key, community playfield. From the homeowners on Woodlawn Avenue that had their houses condemned to enlarge the park to the Lincoln High School rebuild. Neighbors fought for and both SPR and SPS agreed to not "take" Wallingford Playfield for more intensive use. I believe the city needs to live up to historical agreements and do what the neighborhood wants.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	My kids are currently at Lincoln High School and a recent graduate of Lincoln High School. I have seen firsthand that the students spend extensive amount of time traveling/bus just for practice. Wallingford Park is an ideal location position perfectly between Hamilton and Lincoln.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	I am very excited about this, thank you for thoughtfully involving the community. I think it's great idea.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	This would have a devastating impact on community use, enjoyment, mental health. PLEASE do not put in another turf field. PLEASE focus efforts upgrading Existing TURF FIELDS *Queen Anne bowl * Lower Woodland #7
2024-09-19 00:00:00	The proposed solution – creating field space at Wallingford Playfield and expanding the track at Woodland Park is a great solution and I'm in full support.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Wallingford resident who strongly supports the new field at Wallingford Playfield. Lincoln High is the largest school in the city, and this is strongly needed at the most logical location.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	In strong support of altering the field and track for SPS use. Thanks for giving the kids a local place to practice.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Yes! Yes! Our high school and middle school kids deserve a field/on campus! More fields are a plus for everyone!
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Students need a field. Close to the school is safest.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	I would like to see the field put at Wallingford Playground. It could serve the community and high school / middle schools. This would be highly used on weekends by younger kids.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	The Lincoln athletics need a space. They cannot continue to be bussed to all different spaces at 6:30 at night. The environmental impact of buses every night all over the city is untenable. Thank you.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	I FULLY SUPPORT THE CREATION OF A FULL SIZE TRACK & FOOTBALL FIELD AT WALLINGFORD PLAYFIELD. IT'S CRITICAL WE DO THIS FOR CURRENT & FUTURE LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY. THX
2024-09-19 00:00:00	I support creating a synthetic at Wallingford Park to serve Lincoln High School and Hamilton international Middle School, and the community. Question: the term "practice" field is often used. Is this different than a regular playfield? Thx!
2024-09-19 00:00:00	I'm in strong support of turfing Wallingford Park. The Wallingford neighborhood with Hamilton Middle School and Lincoln High School would greatly benefit from a year-round sports field. The current park is under utilized and often shut down for months while the grass is regrown after fall soccer. The students are traveling to practice fields outside of Wallingford, causing last time and loss of energy. Let's turf Wallingford Park and let our students and community have a practice field that's usable year round and close by the schools. This is a great addition to the overall community.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Let's do it! I love this idea and either design at Wallingford playfield with lights!
2024-09-19 00:00:00	We are in favor of converting Wallingford Park to turf. Benefits P.E. classes for both Hamilton Middle School and Lincoln High School after school or before school sports. Benefits for community weekend parks & rec sports.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Wallingford Park is almost always in use already. Often FULL. Meridian is usually open and sometimes empty. (Clearly better choice.)

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Concerned about light pollution & noise for neighbors.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>When the money went into Lincoln site to bring it up to code, it was well known and understood that there would be no on-site/near site athletic field. The parking lot was proposed &amp; rejected as an alternative at that time.</p> <p>Currently the field is in constant use by the neighborhood &amp; beyond for outdoor recreation, daycare, activities, playtime, parties, public sports, frisbee for Hamilton, students, hang outs, family, gatherings, fitness, regiments, and on and on... if this becomes a sports field for only those on teams, all of the community loses out/loses access.</p> <p>That is not even touching the environmental impact of the trees that will be removed &amp; the light pollution that will be increased for the surrounding houses. (Students are here for 4 years, residents are here for a lifetime). DO NOT GREENLIGHT THIS PROJECT.</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Homes were condemned to build a community park – it should remain a community park. Thanks.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Loss of habitat for birds and bats
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Please protect playground, picnic area, tennis courts.</p> <p>Don't restrict drop in use of field by community</p> <p>Maintain current use as well as the practice uses</p> <p>The field is a mess so something should be done :)</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	I support keeping the field in natural state. We need more space for kids to use in unstructured play. This is an area where they tore down homes to originally make the park under eminent domain.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Wallingford Playfield, used by a diversity of people; from children to nursery schools to teenagers to young adults to elders like me. In a time with increasing density we need more parks like this, NOT FEWER. Changing this playfield from multiuse to single use does not make sense. In addition, to remove natural turf removes a natural space. Need natural spaces! Need space for structured play. Currently, game structures are put up temporarily (such as volleyball nets) and taken down when finished. Excellent to keep the space free for multi-use.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>Comment -</p> <p>This was decided by SPS and city years ago! The city and SPS promised to keep it a community playfield.</p>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	As a family of 5 (9 year-old twins and a 6 year old), sports fields are a big priority. Wallingford Park needs help. A lot of kids using it now deal with horrible field conditions, dog poop, and they deserve a field that shows how much we care about physical activity and the mental/social benefits of after school sports.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	It is not acceptable to take one public amenity away in order to provide a public amenity that serves fewer people. SPS in the city need to do the hard work and source a vacant space to add a field. Lincoln does not automatically get to have an adjacent field simply because SPS decided to reopen the school. It would be nice, but it is not required. Queen Anne Bowl makes more sense as an already existing space until another can be sourced and it already has a turf field. Additionally, it is only 10 minutes away. Pitting communities against one another in manner is terrible. With the influx of new people expected because of the comprehensive Seattle plan, we must have more green space AND more fields. Not take away the ones that exist now.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<p>In reallocating public space and spending public funds, it is critical to ensure broad access to the new field, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Equal access for girls sports</li> <li>- Equal access for sports other than football and soccer, e.g. ultimate.</li> <li>- Access prioritized outside school use for local community users, e.g..Woodland Soccer.</li> </ul>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the disadvantages of using Wallingford Field? I.e. why NOT?</li> <li>2. Meridian and Queen and bowl have terrible parking.</li> <li>3. Having poor sports fields options drives families away (e.g. private school)Wallingford would be a good addition.</li> </ol>
2024-09-19 00:00:00	PLEASE INCLUDE SOFTBALL (AND MAYBE BASEBALL) FIELDS SIMILAR TO DESIGNS AT LOYAL HEIGHTS AND EAGLE STAFF WHERE SOCCER & FOOTBALL FIELDS COEXIST WITH SOFTBALL & BASEBALL. MAJOR INEQUITY CURRENTLY WITH ACCESS TO TURF SOFTBALL FIELDS!

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-19 00:00:00	We are opposing the turf field plan and wonder why the school can't use the original field next to Lincoln.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	I am a football coach for Lincoln. We spend hours in traffic and don't get home until after 9 PM. It is a logistical nightmare. We need a field.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	We support the field
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Thanks for considering. I need a field.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Lincoln needs to have field. We support the fields.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Lincoln athletics needs a field near the school!! Transportation to and from fields is time-consuming and harms my grades and schoolwork.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	We want the field
2024-09-19 00:00:00	We need a field
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Thanks for considering, we need a field. We are sick of getting home at 10 PM every night and busing to all over the city for five months. - A football player
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Thanks for considering. We need a field, we are sick of getting home at 9 PM. - football
2024-09-19 00:00:00	Thanks for the consideration. This would be a huge help and would give us more time to study and spend less time on a bus!
2024-09-19 00:00:00	WE WANT THE FIELD
2024-09-19 00:00:00	We need the field
2024-09-19 00:00:00	We support the field. Lincoln need needs one and should've always had one.
2024-09-19 00:00:00	We want the field
2024-09-19 00:32:06	Please do not replace with a turf field for Lincoln HS
2024-09-19 00:32:36	Please do not replace with a turf field for Lincoln HS
2024-09-19 00:33:01	Please do not replace with a turf field for Lincoln HS
2024-09-19 10:27:07	Hi,  I haven't seen any mention of what will happen to the playground and wading pool areas. Can you confirm what is expected to happen to them  Best,
2024-09-19 12:37:34	Devastated to hear this park is slated to be replaced by synthetic field. Please no! The dogs and kids that get to enjoy it now won't get to. Save Playfield Park!
2024-09-19 13:06:21	I have posed my questions and comments in the attached file.
2024-09-19 16:18:15	Upon hearing this plan I am concerned for all the health of the children as turf fields are very toxic and given all the children who regularly play at this feild and play ground it would ultimately be hazardous to the health of the community. Let alone there is not enough parking at/or around the park to accommodate for hosting large high school sized sports games. Please do not tare apart this gem of a park for such plans.



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-19 20:38:26	<p>Lincoln High School deserves a field and track at the scale and to the level of finish and amenity as Ballard, Ingraham, Garfield, Nathan Hale, Roosevelt...</p> <p>Wallingford Playfield is the best location. The entire block should be used and the tennis courts should be removed to make t his possible.</p> <p>Please give Lincoln students the facility they require for full High School Experience that matches these other SPS high schools.</p> <p>The benefits to Hamilton Middle School should only be seen as additional to what is truly required for Lincoln to be the scho ol the students and the neighborhood deserve. The opportunity is here. Let's make it happen, immediately.</p>
2024-09-19 20:57:31	<p>I wanted to endorse the development of Wallingford Playfield as an athletics field for Lincoln High School and Hamilton International Middle School. I am very fond of this park and access it nearly every day. I appreciate it as a community space that touches every aspect of the community. I appreciate the big beautiful trees, I appreciate the water feature that children are able to use to stay cool on our hottest days, I appreciate the tennis courts and the playground, and I appreciate that since it is between two schools there are many students that use it. I hope to be a parent someday and I hope that my child will be able to benefit from this rich multiuse park as well. I think that Wallingford Playfield is a more appropriate choice than Meridian Park, and I appreciate that building a new field will remove the need for many children to drive to far-away fields. I hope that the new field will retain most of its beauty and charm and remain accessible to all. I'm excited for the opportunity to attend some middle and high school games.</p> <p>I hope that light pollution will be a top priority in the design process. I've seen bats and owls while walking through this park at night, and I hope that in edition to being targeted lights that there will be dark hours where they are left off. I also have reservations about the use of turf. I have an understanding that turf fields increase injury risk compared to grass fields, and I'm not sure about the environmental impact of the plastic turf (e.g. polluting run-off) and I would like more information to be provided to the community</p>
2024-09-19 21:37:58	<p>Will there be ultimate frisbee lines on the Lincoln high school practice field?</p>
2024-09-19 21:44:44	<p>At first, I was opposed to making the grassy area at Wallingford Park a practice field for Lincoln HS because it would elimin ate public park space and because i think the parking lot at Lincoln HS should have been underground with a field on top. Assuming that the latter is still not an option (even though a growing, space-crunched city really should be using smart urban solutions like sports field on top of underground parking), I am all for Wallingford Park having a sports field. As is, the grassy area is mostly used for soccer and frisbee practices (and little league soccer games) and for people to let their dogs run off leash. Little league soccer could still happen if Wallingford Park is a sports field; it might even be an improvement given the mud that is usually there instead of grass, at least during the rainy season: Regarding the dogs: they should not be off leash here in the first place. Maybe adding an off-leash area near-by at Gasworks park would be helpful.</p> <p>Long story short: I am in support of a practice field at Wallingford Park (assuming the playground stays)</p>
2024-09-19 21:46:59	<p>This community park is VITAL to community mental health.</p>
2024-09-19 21:47:17	<p>I have a daughter at Lincoln HS and another at B.F. Day elementary school. Both play field sports soccer and ultimate and have to travel great distances for practice and games. It is appalling to me that Lincoln and Hamilton with a combined student population of close to 3,000 students don't have a sports field adjacent. The current condition of the Wallingford park field is quite poor due to overuse. I support the rehabilitation of the existing field to a synthetic turf field that can be used year round. I would like to also mention that because of poor management from Seattle Parks, (primarily by allowing the field to be used as an off leash area) the field adjacent to B.F. Day Elementary School is not approved for use by Seattle Youth Soccer. The other options I have heard for a Lincoln practice field, Queen Anne Bowl is 30 minutes by bus. When Lincoln and Hamilton students travel by public bus they quickly fill up the bus meaning that at best that half the team has to wait another 15 minutes for the next bus and even then there may not be enough room. Meridian Park is closer but is still a 20 minute walk.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-19 21:56:07	<p>We don't need more space for spoiled elite athletes. Why do you think our country is so messed up? Maybe because kids have ve ry little nature and community time?</p> <p>But please we can't do enough for a select group of MALE athletes.</p> <p>Wake up NOW</p>
2024-09-19 22:16:53	<p>Thank you for your presentation on the options for a playfield for Lincoln HS and Hamilton MS. While audio was difficult to hear, the slide presentation on the options was informative.</p> <p>I would like to express my support for the field. While it impacts community use of the space, there are many other options f or people in the neighborhood, from Meridian to Gasworks to Green Lake...the list goes on. And using artificial turf by no means excludes others from the space.</p> <p>I think SPS and Seattle Parks should also consider the public health implications for the field. Today the field is primarily used (illegally) as a de facto dog park for dog owners who are unwilling to travel to Woodland Park. The field is covered in dog feces. Most, but not all, pet owners are resp onsi ble and clean up after their dogs. However, scooping your dog's poop up in a green bag is not a particularly effective means of sanitation in a place where children run and play; where soccer balls and frisbees regularly hit the ground. Too many parents have seen their children be come violently ill after playing on the field to attribute to other causes.</p> <p>Other considerations aside, a natural grass field is completely impractical for the space. There's simply too much foot and dog traffic. I recall se veral years ago when Seattle Parks closed the field, fenced it off, and valiantly tried to renew the grass. Within days the fences were broken and dogs were running and digging.</p> <p>I think your plan for the field is well-thought out and makes sense. My kids are currently at Lincoln and may never use the field, but Lincoln and Hamilton students deserve a healthy place for sports.</p>
2024-09-19 22:17:42	<p>I'm strongly in support of the proposed siting of Lincoln High School Field at Wallingford Playfield. It's the best site to s erve Lincoln and Hamilton, two community schools, whose students don't have access to Field space currently.</p>
2024-09-19 22:29:55	<p>Overall, I would like to express my extreme dislike for the idea of a football field at Wallingford Playfield.</p> <p>This neighborhood already supports a high school and middle school. Please do not overburden this neighborhood with an eyesore that obviously benefits students over neighbors.</p> <p>Instead, please consider Gas Works, the north parking lot, or stop the proposal. The amount of grass being discussed as being removed is horrendous.</p> <p>A turf football field with uprights is an absolute eyesore. Why is a full field needed?</p> <p>In sum, I strongly dislike the proposal and wish the organizing committee would change course in lieu of the overwhelming com munity feedback.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-19 22:51:13	<p>Hi, I attended this meeting virtually. My comment is that it's very important to have a nearby practice field for both Lincoln and Hamilton students. I've raised kids in this neighborhood--we've enjoyed Wallingford Park (the playground, the wading pool, the Woodland Soccer Club games in the ankle-buster mud, the Hamilton PE classes, etc.) and my kids have gone to Hamilton and Lincoln. We know the pain of bussing to track practice at Ingraham--it adds over an hour to their day and it makes a very late night since they only get to practice after Ingraham is done with their own track practice. And it's expensive for the district and makes no sense from an environmental impact lens. As a community member and home owner in Wallingford, I know that the neighborhood will evolve as the city grows and it's my privilege to live here. I have a responsibility to support the kids in our community, even if my own kids will have aged out of the major use scenarios by the time this comes to be. The kids who attend Hamilton and Lincoln (and use the fields for WSC) are part of our community just as much as the local residents around the park. Anything short of a permanent solution is short sighted. Given the options presented, I support the use of Wallingford Park and Lower Woodland. (By all means, take a look at the Lincoln parking lot and Gasworks if you haven't already). But big picture, my priority is keep the fields close to the kids (no bussing) and be as cost-effective, multi-use friendly, nature-friendly as possible while serving the big picture (these schools and our community in general needs more play fields!)</p>
2024-09-19 23:05:17	<p>I attended the meeting this evening regarding the proposed location of Lincoln High School's practice field. I attended virtually but was unable to comment. We have lived in the Greenlake/Wallingford area for 25 years. We have used the Wallingford playfield for picnics, soccer games, unstructured playground time, dog walking, and much more. I have had 3 kids go through Hamilton and Lincoln. I support the Wallingford playfield location as the preferred location for the Lincoln practice field. Wallingford playfield has always been underutilized because it gets wet and boggy for 9 months of the year. A turf field would allow much more year-round use for all ages. Yes, parking will be affected but we live in a city where parking is always going to be limited. As a neighbor in the area, I am willing to forego some inconveniences to have a quality field in that location. In addition, the lack of field space creates an undue burden on the high school athletes who are spending hours on buses or practicing late at night due to field access problems.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2024-09-19 23:34:35	<p>The Wallingford playfield playground and wading pool is so important and central for families with young kids. This is critical for quality of life and community for families in the neighborhood. Please prioritize keeping the playground.</p>
2024-09-19 23:38:07	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I strongly oppose the plan to turn Wallingford Field into a single use playfield for sports.</p> <p>I have two children in SPS, coming up through Hamilton and Lincoln. I support these schools, and the need for youth athletics and playfields. Please find another location— this is not the right one.</p> <p>This is a multi use city park that meets the needs of many people in the community, from seniors on down to small children. People are out there all the time using this park from picnicking to families playing frisbee to preschool soccer. It's not fair to exclude all their needs for single use sports and specifically for high school football.</p> <p>The park is small, compact, and in a neighborhood without much open play space. The neighborhood is only growing in density. We absolutely need this park for as many uses as possible.</p> <p>I want to also comment about process. I have never seen a proposal like this presented so late in the process. Why wasn't the community consulted earlier? Why wasn't the school community consulted earlier to give feedback on what uses or sports we most want and need to support? Honestly I feel that something failed here and I have lost a lot of trust.</p> <p>I think there's got to be another solution for sports teams like high school football that have resources like a bus to get somewhere. Or to make use of</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>the existing Lincoln footprint.</p> <p>Please think more creatively, more fairly and considerately of the many people who use this park, and with a goal towards good government and building support through a real public process.</p>
2024-09-19 23:43:12	<p>I saw two options today to add a turf field for Lincoln high school at Wallingford Playfield and disagree with both! I think both options take up way too much park real estate and make the practice field the center of attention at this beloved park. I would propose SPS and SPR consider only the western half of the park for a playfield and leave the eastern half as-is. And please don't let it take over more than half of the existing park! It's only a practice field after all.</p>
2024-09-19 23:55:51	<p>Hi, Im messaging to voice my opposition to the planned construction of a turf field at Wallingford Park. i think this plan unnecessarily focuses on the benefits for a small subset of students and disregards the needs and desires of most of the community members. While the project mentions that the turf field will be available to the public on a reservation basis, the overarching plan seems to really be for the football team. Considering the budget shortfalls facing the school system, it seems frivolous to be spending all this money to tear up a field for the benefit of a small group of people. Who knows how long we will even be allowing kids to play football? Would it make more sense to shutdown the high school football program? Has that been floated as an option? That would be more fiscally responsible, environmentally prudent, and arguably better for the well-being of children. If a field MUST be built, has it been considered to build a half-length field? since this will not be used for games, could the team not practice on half-sized 50 yard field?</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-09-19 23:58:22</p>	<p>It is absolutely essential that, if Wallingford playfield is selected for the location of this field, that the playground is kept and, ideally is kept near the wading pool to keep amenities that are used by the same group (the under 8yo crowd) co-located.</p> <p>As a mom of 2, the Wallingford playfield playground is a HUGE part of my social life. I can take my kids there and they can run and jump and play. Anyone who has had a kid play on the playground knows that the hills &amp; rocks &amp; trees around the playground to the north are just as much a draw as the play equipment itself and I value being able to give my kids the independence of playing in the "woods" even though they live in the city. We meet our friends there, both my friends and theirs. In the summer, we laze around the wading pool. In the spring/fall/winter, they climb over the equipment and I maintain my mental sanity as a parent by watching from the side lines as I get to talk to my friends, share wins, and talk about challenges. Sometimes, my kids disagree on who wants to play in the wading pool and who wants to play on the equipment and I appreciate that, with their current co-location, they can each do their separate activity where I can easily keep an eye on both of them.</p> <p>I don't object to the field. There's a huge portion of the area that is under utilized currently. And I hear the concern that the high school students are under served currently. But the playground + wading pool area is not underutilized currently and is a valued special place for another large portion of Seattle Youth. As evidenced by the wading pool being separated from the playground and the playground being stuck/squished like a wart on the side of a massive football field, I don't think the young children are being considered in the currently designs as their amenities &amp; therefore their social experience is stated as "maintained" but actually is degraded.</p> <p>TL;DR - the high schoolers benefit from this change but many other groups of people absolutely rely on this park. How are their needs being not just accommodated but as thoughtfully designed for.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-20 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige.</p> <p>I'm the person who introduced themselves at the end of the event yesterday who was part of the Wallingford Community Council.</p> <p>I help run the communications for Wallingford Community Council to the constituents.</p> <p>I would love to stay connected and feel free to treat me as a conduit.</p> <p>We use the following email address, if you don't already have it or haven't used it already: <a href="mailto:communications@wallingfordcc.org">communications@wallingfordcc.org</a></p> <p>Feel free to add us to any CC list or BCC list that you would like to use. Or reach out directly.</p> <p>Actions / Follow up (From the top of my head!)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Let me know when or if the page is updated on your site Related to FAQs that came out of the meeting.</li> <li>- We will make sure to update the community and get turnout for the event.</li> <li>- We will ask the constituents to use your form for common and suggestions.</li> </ul> <p>Thank you!</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
2024-09-20 00:00:00	<p>There is a plan to turn Wallingford Playfield into a turf field that will be prioritized for boys varsity football at Lincoln. This will clearly limit access for Ultimate and Hamilton students who are younger, cannot drive and currently have the benefit of walking to practice at their school. Apparently the benefit is that Lincoln varsity football players won't have to bus/drive to practice, however given there are over 100 Hamilton ultimate players who will then have to commute elsewhere (and are too young to drive), I'm wondering if we can work with Lincoln/Hamilton to make sure this makes logistical sense given there are way more ultimate players and the commuting impact will be higher if varsity football is prioritized. The FAQ says other sports aside from varsity football and varsity soccer will have to commute to other fields.</p> <p>I'm also concerned about the title IX implications of prioritizing the field for boys varsity football, at the expense of girls (what would be the plan here in terms of ensuring girls have equal playing time on the new athletic facilities, especially when playing time is being taken away from co-ed ultimate teams that include girls?).</p> <p>Thanks, Ava</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-20 00:00:00	<p>Hello,            Thank you so much for the information session last night regarding Lincoln's practice field and the Wallingford Playfield. I understand there is a feedback tool (this project is not listed there), but I had a question. Someone mentioned that Lincoln had a field where the parking lot is today. Is the reason they don't have a field because the city has laws to mandate the number of parking stalls? What is that law?</p> <p>It just seems insane that 50% of our park is being commandeered so that unused pieces of metal can sit in the sun, for free. Our neighborhood is becoming more dense, but the green space per person is being significantly reduced. This is the opposite direction.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
2024-09-20 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige &amp; Richard,</p> <p>It was nice to meet you both in person last night. Clearly there's a lot of community opposition to the proposal given that Wallingford Park would no longer be accessible to the current park-using public if a turf field is installed. As you explained it, Lincoln and Hamilton would use the field during school hours for PE, from 3:40-7:00 school athletic teams would use it, and from 7:00-10:00 pm it would be used by citywide sports teams who reserve it. So that means it would be open to the community before 8:40 am and after 10:00 pm. Whether that's the intended outcome or not, converting Wallingford Park to a turf field will change it from an open green space enjoyed by all to an athletic field open almost exclusively to school athletics and citywide sports teams.</p> <p>In addition to exploring the alternative of adding a field in the location of the Lincoln north parking lot, would you consider further investigating Queen Anne Bowl as a possible Lincoln practice field? In your presentation, the drawbacks you cited for that location are "requires bussing" and "upgrades needed to meet program needs." Wallingford Playfield would also require upgrades, in addition to the drawback of "displacement of character and current use" (cited as a drawback for other options on your slide). Installing a turf field at Wallingford Park would require removal of 90% of the grass (green space), as well as large trees, and major infrastructure changes (possibly moving bathroom, playground, etc.). Queen Anne Bowl is already a turf field, and adjacent to a large green space/park (David Rodgers Park), so it would not be removing existing green community space. I'm aware that Queen Anne Bowl would require bussing, but it's a 9 minute drive (1.3 miles) from Lincoln High School, which is even closer than Memorial Stadium (3.1 miles).</p> <p>In short, I hope you'll consider alternatives that wouldn't so severely limit community access.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
2024-09-20 00:08:03	<p>Thank you for all your research into this project. Our family is very excited about this field at Wallingford playfield!</p>
2024-09-20 00:08:28	<p>Please go with the design that leaves the playground + wading pool on the north end of the park and adds the field to the south end. Putting the playground between the field and the school doesn't make any sense when the intention of the field is to be used by the students. As a parent, I don't want streams of older kids tramping back and forth through the playground where my kiddos are playing and I'm sure the high school / middle school students would appreciate less distance to walk.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-20 00:16:57	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>There are so many reasons that I am concerned about this development, but to start with, it feels utterly irresponsible to turn a green area in a city that so many people are dependent upon in the neighborhood to a turf (PLASTIC) field.</p> <p>I do understand the need for play space for the school to have their sport needs met, however, there has to be a solution that does not have to take down trees and grassy areas to accomplish that goal.</p> <p>We are in a climate crisis globally. We are in a crowded city. We NEED these trees and this grass for so many reason - the health of the earth, a community gathering place for picnics, urban tree bathing, children’s parks, play, a pretty area to walk one’s dogs or push a stroller, an exercise area to get more steps in. Outdoor spaces are so vital to the health of a community and this planet, and replacing this particular park with a turf field would cause much pain.</p> <p>Can you please consider finding a parking lot or less active and tree vibrant space to make this field?</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
2024-09-20 00:17:32	<p>I previously communicated support, with some caveats. I was not able to make today's meeting unfortunately. But since making my earlier comments, I have learned some information that gives me pause about my previously communicated support.</p> <p>(1) I have learned that the plan for a turf field may be much larger than I understood it to be, extending beyond the current field area, and potentially into the area where the playground is. That does not seem necessary or appropriate. A practice field need not be so large.</p> <p>(2) I have heard that Miller Playfield on Capitol Hill has a real problem with dogs being walked on the turf. Even if leached and scooped up after, dog poo ends up getting caught in the synthetic surface making for an unsanitary condition for those using the field. How would that be addressed?</p>
2024-09-20 00:33:31	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I have been made aware of the plan to turn the Wallingford playfield, home to families, older folks, friends, people with dogs, Shakespeare in the park, kids practicing, into a plastic turf, light flooding, sports practice for Lincoln High school.</p> <p>I cannot believe this gross invasion and destruction of our lifestyles is being heartlessly done AND without clear consent and input.</p> <p>I have lived by the playfield since 2005. I pay my taxes, and accept all the changes that this neighborhood has made however this is an atrocious attack on our livelihood.</p> <p>I am ready to answer any questions you may have and you can reach me at (206) 409-8763.</p>
2024-09-20 00:34:34	<p>I'm deeply concerned about the plan to renovate Wallingford playfield into a practice field for Lincoln High School. This park is a vital multigenerational space that serves the entire community, not just one group. For many, it's a place to connect with nature, exercise, and socialize. I walk around the park multiple times a week so I am very familiar with how many people use it for this purpose. Replacing it with artificial turf would remove a large portion of the natural environment that makes this park so special. This proposal raises significant equity concerns by limiting access to a green, communal space that people of all ages and backgrounds rely on. The neighborhood deserves a park that benefits everyone, not just a select few.</p>



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-20 00:36:08	<p>I live a block from Wallingford Park. We have lived in the neighborhood for over 20 years. I have three children now 19, 17, 14. All three attended (or are currently attending) Hamilton and Lincoln. I also coach boys soccer for Lincoln.</p> <p>I want to voice my support for building a synthetic field at Wallingford park, both as a near neighbor and as a long time Woodland Rec soccer coach and current high school soccer coach. For my 20 years, the current grass field has never been in great shape and is almost useless in the winter. More often than not, when we wanted to kick the ball around we would head to the lower woodland fields. I would love (and would have loved) having a field that could be used year-round.</p> <p>Thank You</p>
2024-09-20 00:38:49	<p>I was unable to attend the meeting tonight at LHS, but I strongly support the need for a sports field close to Lincoln High School. The amount of time it takes for our students to get busted to practices is a huge hindrance to their learning. They are constantly needing to leave school early and they get home super late because of the buses, please please please turn Wallingford play field into a sports field for Lincoln!</p>
2024-09-20 00:50:21	<p>I'm a Wallingford resident and I'm very supportive of adding a new turf football field at Wallingford Playfield. It's an essential upgrade for the students at Hamilton and Lincoln.</p> <p>Please make sure that there is some kind of playground in the final design like the one that is at Wallingford Playfield today. It's very well loved and used by the community.</p>
2024-09-20 01:14:10	<p>I didn't realize the plans would take over the entire park (Wallingford play field)! That feels crazy. Isn't there a way to cut the football field in half at least? I'm supportive of the idea but this feels pretty extreme, especially if involves destroying the playground. We've been in the neighborhood right next door to the park for 23 years and have enjoyed raising kids with the park as a huge destination. Admittedly, the football field would have been fun for many of those years (if we were allowed to actually use it). That said, I've seen the open field used for many purposes... will there be community restrictions if the football field is built? If so, that would be a major loss. If people are still allowed to play frisbee and play soccer games on it that's another story... (FYI my daughter goes to Lincoln)</p>
2024-09-20 02:24:58	<p>I am so excited for the field at Wallingford Park to be repurposed as an organized playfield. That location is perfect for the high school and middle school kids to safely and conveniently access, meaning more kids will be able to participate. I am confident the playfield, playground and wading pool can coexist and that the entire neighborhood will get the benefit of the improved facility. Thank you!!</p>
2024-09-20 02:30:58	<p>I fully support the proposal to build an athletic field at Wallingford Park. I believe it will help hundreds of students and remove barriers for kids with the fewest resources. It seems like a well balanced plan. Thank you.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-20 10:49:22	<p>Hello</p> <p>As a neighbor and a parent of a Lincoln grad I see both sides of the proposal for Turning Wallingford park into a sport field .</p> <p>But I struggle with loosing green space for the community as a whole.</p> <p>I feel like other sites needed to be assessed like lower woodland. There are 3 baseball field there. If they could convert the one on the far south where there is some extra green space they could fit in one more sports field. This area all ready has parking and bathrooms and is centrally located.</p> <p>I just never see this baseball field being used near 40 th.</p> <p>Using Wallingford playground would create more problems and would take away from the entire community.</p> <p>Thanks for considering.</p>
2024-09-20 11:57:08	<p>In addition to replacing the grass with turf for Lincoln HS, please consider improving some of the existing amenities that will coexist with Lincoln's field such as the bathroom and tennis courts (the playground is new-ish and great). The courts could really use some resurfacing to get the whole park into tip-top shape!</p>
2024-09-20 12:01:48	<p>Hello - I am opposed to a turf field at Wallingford Park that will only serve a small segment of the community. This is a heavily-used neighborhood park. Removing the green space to replace with synthetic material is bad for the environment and bad for everyone who is not in organized sports. While busing students from Lincoln creates pollution, so would the hundreds of additional vehicles that would come into Wallingford with their rec and club sports to use a turf field 7 days a week. Using the pollution argument is insincere and misleading. It is a fact that the turf itself - the green blades of plastic - have PFAs in them. The industry has stated they cannot remove those before 2027. Also, synthetic turf, regardless of the supposed eco fill, heats up 30-60 degrees hotter than ambient air temperature. That is enough to actually raise the temperature for the houses surrounding the park. Currently, Los Angeles is in the process of banning artificial turf. And there is not one turf recycling center in the United States. Artificial turf goes straight to the landfill. What does need to happen at this park is maintenance. The reason it becomes a mud pit is because it is not taken care of properly. It is a sand-based field which was expensive to install in the 90's and has not been properly maintained for a long time. When you send out the Powerpoint from last night's meeting at Lincoln, please include the names and e-mail addresses of the SPS people involved AND those involved at the city level. Thank you</p>
2024-09-20 12:22:42	<p>Have you considered these other possibilities for a Lincoln field?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dig a parking garage for the staff under the existing parking lot and put the field on top</li> <li>2. Use a section of the large grass lawn next the Green Lake Community Center</li> <li>3. The NW corner of Gas Works park, adjacent to North Lake Way and the Gas Works parking lot</li> <li>4. Green Lake Elementary property when that school is closed</li> </ol>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-20 12:35:56	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Next year I will have 2 daughters at Lincoln that participate in track and cross country. Lincoln is the largest school in the district and doesn't have athletic fields. I just wanted to send a big thank you for this project. In addition, using the extra space at Wallingford park for an athletic field and making improvements to the Lower Woodland track is a thoughtful and cost effective solution. Of course there will be neighbors and activists that oppose a change like this. I just wanted to send a note to let you know there are many more community members that support this project.</p> <p>Best,</p>
2024-09-20 12:41:10	<p>Hi, can you please post to your website the two designs that were shared at the public meeting last night, along with the proposed hours of operation for the field (school use vs community reservations). Thank you!</p>
2024-09-20 12:44:09	<p>I am writing in support of transitioning Wallingford playfield to be the practice field next to Lincoln. We don't have enough multiuse turf fields, and the weather in Seattle really warrants more.</p> <p>After Wallingford, please do Magnolia fields 1 and 2. They need turf!!</p> <p>And while you're at it, don't close Blaine!! It is a vital school and should not be closed. The savings will be minimal and will cause the district to lost more money than it saves.</p>
2024-09-20 12:56:01	<p>if this new field is to be a "practice field" why soes it have to use the entire par, including the children;s -lay area and pool. Seems to me there is plenty of room for practice areas, unless the SPS goes back on its word and schedules actual games.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-09-20 13:27:43</p>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I'm a parent of two young children that lives near Wallingford park. I recently dialed into the Zoom meeting for the presentation of the project to convert part of Wallingford park into a astroturf field for use by students (and community).</p> <p>Prior to the meeting I was in favor of this proposal believing that the park had plenty of space to accommodate a sports field in the existing grassy section. This area is frequently used by gym classes and local sports leagues and turns into a barren mud pit by the end of fall. I think converting it to turf would be a win for students and the community.</p> <p>That said after attending the presentation I realized I can't support the current proposal. I had envisioned part of the park being shared with the new sports field however as the images of the proposed field make clear the field will occupy a huge (~60%) of the park space and significantly change the park. My objections include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Both field orientations proposed seem like they would require major changes to the playground area. The playground is in a great location next to the wading pool and amongst hills and trees for the kids to play on. I would love to keep both together and where they are.</li> <li>- The field is so large it will remove significant terrain and tree features of the park. This seems like it will significantly alter the character of the park and combined with the size of the field make everything else secondary to the field.</li> </ul> <p>I recognize that the students want a field to play and practice on and abstractly this park seems like a reasonable spot for it. However the current proposal doesn't feel like sharing the park so much as the field taking over the park from all other users. A couple other proposals I would like to see considered are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Place the field in the north-south orientation on the far west side of the park. This would require removing many trees on the edge of the park and the stone steps/amphitheater adjacent to the school. It seems possible that we'd also need to raise the ground between the sidewalk and park on Woodlawn Ave N and install a new retaining wall to retain as much park space as possible</li> <li>- Make a small field in the existing space in the park without displacing much. I'm not sure if the size of field is reasonable or useful to the varsity teams but would at least be useful to the phys ed classes of each school which were mentioned in the meeting as needing field space .</li> <li>- If we are set on the existing proposals, eliminate the pathway encircling the park to allow the field to be pushed more to the side. Try to have larger contiguous sections of actual park - under the current proposals every remaining park spaces feels like a small border around a giant astro turf field.</li> </ul> <p>I have included pictures of a couple proposals.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	Thanks
2024-09-20 14:20:30	As a local resident who lives within walking distance of the very new playground and wading pool, both have been a godsend for our family and neighbors. I believe it would be a disastrous mistake for the proposed field project to remove the playground and wading pool, essentially making one of the best parks in Seattle for kids disappear.

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-20 14:22:30	<p>I support Wallingford Park as a community park. It should remain so.</p> <p>Conceived and created by the Wallingford community, it serves as the only green space and recreational area in this part of the city. It's use in our family has served over time as wading pool, kids' sports teams, dog walking, party place, and a patch of green relief.</p> <p>It should not become a sports field for the Seattle School District, serving a very limited number of people. Lincoln and Hamilton have found other places that provide the space they need for their sports teams and should continue to do so.</p> <p>There is NO ALTERNATIVE place for this public park. It is site specific. In addition, the neighborhood is absorbing a lot of housing and will continue to do so, per city planning. The increase in population density only increases the need for the public park - both for recreation and respite.</p> <p>The field area does need improved drainage and a more regular surface. It does not need to become an SPS facility in order for that issue to be addressed. It is the property of the City of Seattle (not SPS), and the city is responsible for remedying the situation.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-09-20 14:48:42</p>	<p>I wanted to provide feedback about your presentation last night at Lincoln HS.</p> <p>Your team framed the proposal to use WPF as a win:win for both Lincoln and the neighborhood. I found this framing to be misleading as there was no discussion or analysis of real tradeoffs between what exists today versus what is proposed.</p> <p>For example, you acknowledged how Lower Woodland fields are already overbooked. You acknowledge how many students and schools are clamoring to use it. How likely is it that Lincoln's new field, if built, will also be overbooked?</p> <p>I suspect that there will be tremendous social pressure for it to be fully booked for all hours the park is open. Your team ought to at least present an accurate estimate about what the reality will be for locals when, inevitably, the field is booked to capacity. This proposal will convert a neighborhood park from a casual, natural, unscheduled park to a scheduled athletics complex for predominantly the purposes of SPS and organized sports groups. People from all over the city will drive to Wallingford for athletics. So this isn't a win:win for our neighborhood; it's a specific tradeoff that must be considered with all intentions clearly laid out.</p> <p>Please be more clear with what the intentions are, and specifically for our park to be converted from a leisurely, open-use green space to a tightly managed sports complex.</p> <p>Also, someone mentioned that Lincoln had a field where the parking lot is today. It required numerous shouted questions to reveal the fact that Seattle has laws to mandate the number of parking stalls. What are these laws? Let's get those changed.</p> <p>It just seems obviously insane that &gt;50% of our park is being commandeered so that unused pieces of metal can sit in the sun, for free. Your presentation spent 10x more time considering trees and grass than considering what we all sacrifice for cars, when it is the parking lot that seems to trump all other considerations. Our neighborhood is becoming more dense, but the green space per person is being reduced (a sports field is not green space). This proposal is the exact opposite direction where the city needs to go.</p> <p>It is embarrassing that car-centric Austin, TX and San Antonio, TX both have more green space per person than Seattle. New York has twice as much. What would it take for the city to pass a bond to purchase more land for this field? What would it take to change the law on school parking stalls?</p> <p>I will thoroughly resist the reduction of green spaces in Seattle. Our people deserve better. We should not compromise. Our parks are one of the few remaining, struggling resources that make Seattle vibrant. Wallingford Playfield is an essential cultural cornerstone of the neighborhood. I pay ~\$20,000 in annual property taxes plus significant state capital gains taxes, while watching the city disintegrate into parking lots and our amenities be compromised away.</p> <p>I strongly encourage your team to please allocate resources toward other proposals and to emphasize better options.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-20 14:54:26	<p>Wallingford Playfield is a community park for the whole community to use. It is a green space for our neighborhood and should stay that way. It is a place for both Recreation and Rest! It is well-used by everyone in our community. There definitely should be some improvements made to the grass area regarding the drainage of the field and upkeep to make it a more usable field for all. But after seeing the drawing of the size of the turf field and the environmental impact it would have on our existing bird habit with the loss of so many large trees, as well as the loss of on the natural &amp; peaceful surrounding for our neighborhood, I do not think this is the best solution or use of that space.</p> <p>I do have a child attending Lincoln so definitely see the immediate need for more athletic fields closer to the school. I would like to suggest you look at the building, the athletic field on top of the existing Lincoln parking lot next to the school. If you need to make the space larger then you may need to purchase some additional property right off 45th Street. (6 commercial use homes/buildings &amp; 2 large multi-use buildings (1 of which currently houses our very small Wallingford community Library)</p> <p>Ironically, in the 1960's this is what happened to 1 whole city block (West between Densmore Ave N &amp; Woodlawn Ave. N) of 16 homes, 1 church in order to expand the Wallingford Playfield. The city had purchased &amp; demolished with the use of the Forward Trust Bond Issue funds. This fund supported the largest expansion of the park system in Seattle history. Wallingford Playfield is a well-used resource by the community as a wonderful green space in our city so removing the wading pool, new built playground, old trees for kids to play under, our community picnic area as well as our tennis courts should not be considered on any of the options.</p> <p>I think you may have a better chance getting community behind use of Wallingford playfield if you would consider using Hamilton outdoor amphitheater for N/S orientation for the new field as an option. Leaving the other areas as it is and maybe staying with a grass field vs turf.</p> <p>Other options:</p> <p>Look at Woodlawn Park field off of 50th and Green Lake way which currently has some green space and a Baseball field. There are 4 other baseball fields in that same area, so it makes sense to turn that 1 baseball field into a athletic field for football.</p> <p>Gaswork Parks on West side of parking lot.</p>
2024-09-20 15:06:56	<p>Hi, Regarding the proposal for a turf athletic field conversion at Wallingford Playfield, it would be beneficial to the community to see an educated sample schedule of approximately during what months and time frames the field would be reserved for Middle and High School students, and how much time would be leftover for other community sports and non-organized sports usage. The promotion of this park seems to tout that it will be a community benefit that everyone can use, but the details of the hierarchy of who will get to use the field and when seems to be left vague. Not expecting to know the exact schedule, but will there be a breakdown of approximately how many hours per week will be allocated to each school, how many for other rec organized sports leagues and maybe non-reservable hours saved for open enjoyment of the community? To garner community support for this project where many stand to be sacrificing a beloved neighborhood amenity, it would be helpful to know that equitable access for all will be in the forefront when considering usage of the field, rather than prioritizing a subset of the community. Thank you</p>
2024-09-20 15:17:34	<p>i was told the original athletic field for Lincoln High was located where the huge parking lot is now, the it was paved over. when Lincoln was planning to reopen, there was talk of bringing back the athletic field, and there was money to do it, SPS said an athletic field was not necessary and vetoed the plan. now, 5 years later, SPS decides there should be an athletic field and wants to take away our community resource. Why cant the new field be located where the old one was?</p>



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-20 15:19:02	<p>I have several concerns about the proposal to convert Wallingford Park to an athletic turf field. The leaders of the September 19 meeting did not explain how Wallingford Park would still be accessible to the current park-using community if a turf field is installed. Rather, they indicated the field would be minimally accessible to the public. They stated that Lincoln and Hamilton would use it during the school day for PE, school athletic teams would use it for practice/games from 3:40-7:00 pm, and from 7:00-10:00 pm it would be used by citywide sports teams who reserve it. So that means it would be open to the community before 8:40 am and after 10:00 pm. Whether that's the intended outcome or not, converting Wallingford Park to a turf field will change it from an open green space enjoyed by all to an athletic field open almost exclusively to school athletics and citywide sports teams.</p> <p>This limited access to a beloved, heavily used neighborhood park is concerning for the welfare of the children, families, and senior citizens who frequent the park, and is not consistent with Seattle Park's mission to "provide safe and accessible spaces for residents and visitors to work, recreate, rejuvenate and enhance quality of life and wellness for children, teenagers, adults and seniors." Would Seattle Public Schools consider a proposal that would not have such a detrimental impact on the surrounding community? Wallingford is a dense, upzoned neighborhood, and as the population grows, the demand for a neighborhood public space will grow even stronger. I hope that SPS will factor this in when considering their proposal.</p> <p>Finally, the meeting organizers stated that the reason that this plan is being pushed through so quickly is that the Lincoln High School football team needs space to practice while Memorial Stadium is being renovated for the next few years. It's concerning that the process is being fast-tracked to benefit the short term needs of the football team, to the long term detriment of the community and city of Seattle in losing access to a beloved neighborhood park. Please consider an alternative to Wallingford Park, or at least slowing the process to allow for more exploration of alternatives that would not have such a negative impact on the city.</p> <p>Thanks for your time.</p>
2024-09-20 15:22:32	<p>The project organizers stated that Lincoln and Hamilton would use the proposed athletic field during the school day for PE, school athletic teams would use it for practice/games from 3:40-7:00 pm, and from 7:00-10:00 pm it would be used by citywide sports teams who reserve it. So that means it would be open to the community before 8:40 am and after 10:00 pm. Whether that's the intended outcome or not, converting Wallingford Park to a turf field will change it from an open green space enjoyed by all to an athletic field open almost exclusively to school athletics and citywide sports teams.</p> <p>You're probably aware of this, but eliminating the current access and use of the park violates Seattle City Ordinance 118477 (<a href="http://clerk.seattle.gov/search/ordinances/118477">http://clerk.seattle.gov/search/ordinances/118477</a>), which provides that "All lands and facilities held now or in the future by The City of Seattle for park and recreation purposes, whether designated as park, park boulevard, or open space, shall be preserved for such use; and no such land or facility shall be sold, transferred, or changed from park use to another usage, unless the City shall first hold a public hearing regarding the necessity of such a transaction and then enact an ordinance finding that the transaction is necessary because there is no reasonable and practical alternative and the City shall at the same time or before receive in exchange land or a facility of equivalent or better size, value, location and usefulness in the vicinity, serving the same community and the same park purposes."</p> <p>If you propose to change the use of the park from an open space enjoyed by all to an athletic field open only to school athletics and citywide sports teams, you're required to hold a public hearing consistent with Ordinance 118477, and if Wallingford Playfield is found to be the only reasonable site, the City must provide an equivalent space in the same community.</p> <p>Please let me know if and how SPS intends to comply with this law.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-20 15:53:07	<p>Would SPS consider further investigating Queen Anne Bowl as a possible Lincoln practice field? In the September 19 presentation, the drawbacks cited for that location are "requires bussing" and "upgrades needed to meet program needs." Wallingford Playfield would also require upgrades, in addition to the drawback of "displacement of character and current use" (cited as a drawback for other options on your slide). Installing a turf field at Wallingford Park would require removal of 90% of the grass (green space), as well as large trees, and major infrastructure changes (possibly moving bathroom, playground, etc.). Queen Anne Bowl is already a turf field, and adjacent to a large green space/park (David Rodgers Park), so it would not require removing existing green community space. I'm aware that Queen Anne Bowl would require bussing, but it's a 9 minute drive (1.3 miles) from Lincoln High School, which is even closer than Memorial Stadium (3.1 miles).</p> <p>In short, I hope you'll consider alternatives that wouldn't so severely limit community access.</p>
2024-09-20 17:05:32	<p>I attended the meeting last night regarding taking over Wallingfor Park for a Lincoln sports field. A question I raised at the meeting, with enthusiasm from the other attendees, is why haven't you considered Gasworks for a field. There's plenty of space and the greenspace just north of the park next to the road would be perfect. You could extend into the parking lot because it's not heavily used and is huge and go further west. I think this is a great choice and you wouldn't have much neighborhood opposition. You could install lights and even bleachers. The other issue raised is why you can't put the field where it used to be next to the school, in the parking lot. You said it would be expensive to provide underground parking, but why would you even need to do that. There's 63 parking spots along Woodawn Ave. N. and many more in the hood next to the school and if you're talking about spending money to provide parking for students that makes no sense. They have many ways to get to the school without a car: walk, bike, bus. I would be very unhappy to spend my tax dollars to provide parking for students at Lincoln. Please reconsider using Wallingford Park, a neighborhood treasure. ===</p>
2024-09-20 19:01:49	<p>Creating a practice field at Wallingford playfield would benefit the students and community. The benefit to high school teams is quite obvious. The community would benefit from having more usable year round fields (like Loyal Heights, always full of people coming together for sports and events). Currently the fields are mud for most of the year, usable only for a handful of dogs who dig holes in the middle.</p>
2024-09-20 19:13:10	<p>Please develop the on-site parking lot area for the playfields. Install underground parking with on grade playfields above.</p>
2024-09-20 19:21:09	<p>Hello, I would like to express my support for the new practice field in Wallingford Playfield. This location makes the most sense for the Wallingford neighborhood, as well as the Hamilton and Lincoln communities. It is close to both schools and would help build community.</p> <p>This isn't just for the athletes. The Lincoln High School marching band has to have marching practice in the parking lot, or not at all. Wouldn't it be fantastic to have a location near the school to be able to practice marching?</p>
2024-09-20 20:13:23	<p>The neighborhood is not built for a field like this. We have very few green spaces in Wallingford to go to. Parking will be a nightmare. Turf is toxic to humans, the environment and animals. Also, I thought SPS was broke? You all are threatening to close my son's K-8 with DHH specialty. You all have your priorities backwards!</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-09-20 20:41:04</p>	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I live a block away from the Wallingford Playfield Park. I understand what it would mean for the students at Lincoln and Hamilton to turn this into an athletic field. However, I attended the meeting Thursday night and did not feel the team fully acknowledged what the community would be giving up if this plan proceeded at this location.</p> <p>I understand the community would be able to schedule access to the field. You call it a win-win, but I can't help but feel that I lose in this situation. I don't play team sports and would not want to schedule time on a synthetic turf field.</p> <p>I walk my dog every day through this park. I see multiple generations using the park as-is. Here are the things I see people do at the park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* take a mid-day break to walk around the field (with or without a dog)</li> <li>* read a book under the trees or in the sun</li> <li>* pass a frisbee</li> <li>* fly a kite</li> <li>* roll around in a Zorb</li> <li>* sit on a park bench and give friendly greetings to passersby</li> <li>* picnic</li> <li>* sit in the grass with their family and pets</li> <li>* play in and around the playground</li> <li>* play volleyball</li> <li>* have PE class</li> <li>* play soccer</li> </ul> <p>I understand some of these activities would be better with a synthetic turf field, but many of these activities would be completely displaced or limited to a tiny spot of grass. Many activities you want the turf for (PE, soccer games) currently happen on the field. Is it worth sacrificing the park to make those better and to add football practice worth it?</p> <p>I do sympathize with the school's dreams for this space, but you are asking us to sacrifice a lot for it. Please know this is what we would be giving up if you proceed at this location.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-20 23:22:55	<p>I have just now heard about the proposal to make the existing Wallingford Park into a dedicated school athletic field, and I strongly oppose this idea.</p> <p>I and my neighbors use this park frequently for impromptu sports, picnics, and walks, and we very much appreciate having an open and accessible area in the midst of increasingly dense housing. I live on a small lot, for instance, with no backyard, and this park serves as my backyard.</p> <p>There is no possible land anywhere in this area to replace such a park, so it is vital that we preserve the park that we do have--with large trees (the result of decades of growth), open to all.</p> <p>Please do not take our park away.</p>
2024-09-21 00:05:22	<p>Lincoln is sorely needing a sports practice field that can be leveraged for its numerous sports. Both my sons have attended Lincoln and it's been especially challenging participating in sports at Lincoln due to the lack of field space. The shuttling around the city for fields has wastes a lot of time and eats into time for studying and rest. The Wallingford location makes most sense to be reclaimed by the school.</p>
2024-09-21 00:25:37	<p>The Wallingford Playfield Park is a valuable community asset, and turning it into a space dedicated to organized sports is far from a win-win solution. What's particularly frustrating is the lack of transparency about the sacrifices being asked of community members who don't participate in organized sports but value the park's current multi-use model. There has also been a consistent failure to acknowledge past poor decisions by the school, such as giving up existing sports fields and breaking promises made to the neighborhood to keep this park open for public use—especially considering that people were bought out to create this space under the condition that it would remain an open park. Stop spinning the issue of kids having to bus as if it's a new concern—this was well understood when the high school was reestablished without a sports field. Using this as a justification now is disingenuous, particularly in Seattle, our city that prides itself on expanding green spaces and increasing the tree canopy. Preserving this park for nature, recreation, and community enjoyment should be a priority—not turning it into a limited-use facility.</p>
2024-09-21 11:04:44	<p>I am a neighbor of this park and your school. I am greatly disappointed to hear that you are considering destroying this park to essentially use exclusively for school sports and activities. This is a neighborhood park used by the neighborhood - families with children, people with dogs all utilize the park daily. It will be a great loss to the neighborhood by destroying this beautiful greenspace.</p> <p>This will bring too large an impact to our neighborhood with increased traffic and pollution (light, noise, trash, etc). Our neighborhood cannot support this change if it is approved.</p> <p>In a city that is constantly building (ugh!), we are losing many of our natural/greenspace areas. This is detrimental to the environment and to the health of individuals (physically, emotionally, mentally).</p> <p>I strongly urge you to reconsider options. Maybe the large parking lot behind Lincoln could be utilized. I realize this would impact where students can park - maybe either underground parking with a sports field on top OR students are not allowed to drive to school (unless they have a physical disability with a medical note attesting to it) and need to bus to school instead. Or, the large sports field at Greenlake that had been used by schools for decades - why can't students be bussed from school/back to utilize this current space without destroying another?</p> <p>Please reconsider the destruction of Wallingford Park and realize the ramifications it will have on the neighborhood.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>A very concerned neighbor</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-09-21 12:36:02</p>	<p>The options presented at the Sept 19th community meeting for using Wallingford Park for locating a new turf athletic field are both unacceptable.</p> <p>These proposals give highest priority to highschool sports program- specifically football- at the expense of many importance assets of the existing park.</p> <p>Those assests being neglected are:</p> <p>Vital green space</p> <p>Community mental health</p> <p>Importance of large and old trees</p> <p>Space for dog owners ( a large component of the extended neighborhood)</p> <p>Use of financial resources ( cost of re locating a play ground that was recently refurbished at large expense)</p> <p>Picnic space with tables</p> <p>Wading pool- vital with higher summer temperatures</p> <p>A smaller turf field, oriented N-S on the west side of the park could preserve these assets while providing the intended benefits to the sports programs at both Lincoln and Hamilton. A smaller field would be perfectly usable for practices and league games of multiple sports.</p> <p>The stated need for a full size field seems out of place given the other uses of the park. Even. World Cup soccer pitches are not all uniform size... some variation in field size should be a compromise that the athletic programs can make.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-21 12:55:55	<p>Dear Seattle Public Schools Capital Projects and Planning Team,</p> <p>I am writing as a parent of a Hamilton International Middle School student and a resident of the nearby community, to express my strong opposition and concerns regarding the proposed locations for the new athletic field for Lincoln High School. I strongly oppose the use of Wallingford Playfield or Meridian Park for this purpose. These parks are invaluable to the well-being and cohesion of the surrounding neighborhood, and their loss would cause significant harm to our community. Frankly, I found the suggestion of grabbing and repurposing nearby park space to be shocking.</p> <p>The Wallingford Playfield is a vital part of our community. For a decade, my children have enjoyed the park’s recently renovated playground, which is also heavily utilized by other families in the neighborhood as well as HIMS and Lincoln students. Removing or repurposing this space for the field would not only destroy a well-used and cherished public area but would also undermine the livability and accessibility of this neighborhood. Wallingford Playfield has served the local community for generations, providing a safe, green space where families and individuals, relax, play, and connect. These types of community spaces are increasingly rare in dense urban areas like ours, and their preservation should be prioritized.</p> <p>Additionally, I was surprised to hear that Meridian Park, another valued community space, is being considered as an option. Like Wallingford, Meridian Park offers a unique and irreplaceable historic setting for local residents and families. It is clear that the loss of either park would have long-lasting negative impacts on the community.</p> <p>Furthermore, while the proposal cites safety as one of the reasons for creating a new field, it is important to acknowledge the serious risks associated with the sport that would primarily be played there. Football is widely known to present significant health risks, particularly in terms of concussions and other injuries. While I appreciate the focus on student safety, it is difficult to reconcile the need for a safer for students as an argument for destroying our community park with the encouragement of a sport that poses such inherent dangers to participants.</p> <p>I believe it is possible to find a solution that supports the needs of Lincoln High School students without sacrificing essential community spaces. Alternative locations that do not disrupt established parks should be considered, and I urge you to seek creative solutions that balance the needs of students and community members.</p> <p>And on top of all of this, we hear so much about budget constraints on the schools, such as those drastically impacting the elementary school that my other child attends, and yet we have money to spend to destroy beloved community parks?</p> <p>To reiterate, I firmly object to the proposal of utilizing Wallingford Playfield or Meridian Park for this project. These parks play an essential role in fostering the health and unity of our neighborhood, and removing them would cause substantial harm to the community's fabric and quality of life.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration of these concerns.</p> <p>Sincerely</p>
2024-09-21 13:49:27	Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Please build the field!
2024-09-21 14:27:41	<p>Please do not put in turf at Wallingford Playfield. This is a neighborhood park with much more usage than Lincoln High School athletics.</p> <p>There is no alternative park in the immediate vicinity for this neighborhood.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-22 00:00:00	<p>Dear Mr. Best,</p> <p>The conversion of Wallingford Playfield Park into an athletic field for Lincoln High School is clearly addressed by Seattle City Ordinance 118477 (<a href="http://clerk.seattle.gov/search/ordinances/118477">http://clerk.seattle.gov/search/ordinances/118477</a>), which states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 1. All lands and facilities held now or in the future by The City of Seattle for park and recreation purposes, whether designated as park, park boulevard, or open space, shall be preserved for such use; and no such land or facility shall be sold, transferred, or changed from park use to another usage, unless the City shall first hold a public hearing regarding the necessity of such a transaction and then enact an ordinance finding that the transaction is necessary because there is no reasonable and practical alternative and the City shall at the same time or before receive in exchange land or a facility of equivalent or better size, value, location and usefulness in the vicinity, serving the same community and the same park purposes. Thus, if SPS does indeed want to move forward with their plan, they will not only need to have a new ordinance enacted, but also to provide other land of equivalent or better size, value, location, and usefulness for the Wallingford community. Please let me know when we can expect this new ordinance, and the designation of other land, including a timeline for its development into an equivalent city park, to be completed.</li> </ul> <p>After the new ordinance is in place, any person may seek a review in the Superior Court, as outlined in Section 2 of Seattle City Ordinance 118477:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 2. Within thirty days of the effective date of such an ordinance, any person may seek review in the Superior Court. The Superior Court shall set aside the proposed transaction if it is not necessary, or the proposed substitution is not equivalent or better than the park exchanged. The Superior Court shall make its decision on the evidence as an issue of fact.</li> </ul> <p>I would be happy to engage a lawyer to seek the review in Superior Court, and to sue SPS or the Parks Department as needed to keep this treasured local park available to the entire Wallingford community.</p> <p>Thank you for your help. I'd be grateful if you could forward this email to whomever you feel is appropriate.</p>
2024-09-22 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige,</p> <p>I attended the meeting about the athletic field on the 19th . I will continue writing representing myself, not Historic Wallingford, however, there were three Historic Board members in attendance at the meeting, and two former board members. One board member lives on Woodlawn directly across from the Wallingford Playfield--we are all members of this community. Thank you for correcting the name of Meridian Park and noting the historic significance of the site. If Meridian Park continues to be a focus for placement of this athletic field, Historic Seattle owns and manages the Good Shepherd Center and gardens surrounding the building. They have a significant interest in the park usage. I don't know if you have reached out to them, Eugenia Woo is in charge of Preservation. Her email address is XX. Also I have no contact for the Meridian School, but they should be notified as their school is there on the grounds.</p> <p>I am writing an informational blog post about the athletic field siting for our local blog, Wallyhood.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Can you tell me the name and contact of a specific person with the Seattle Parks and Recreation that is working with the SPS on this project? I believe they should be informed of opinions either pro or con, directly from the community in addition to SPS. I have emailed to the general parks contact, but that may not get answered.</li> <li>2. Can you confirm that the next meeting is scheduled for October 24th? Will this again be in the Lincoln Auditorium?</li> </ol> <p>I appreciate the community outreach shown for this project, the city has not been good at that in the past.</p> <p>Take care,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-22 11:31:12	As a parent of 3 who lives in Wallingford and whose children currently use the playground and will in the future use the turf . For the long term good of the community, I would much prefer that the playground remains at the Wallingford Playfield.
2024-09-22 17:24:15	<p>We, and everyone we know in the Wallingford neighborhood, are 100% against the proposal to turn our neighborhood park into an athletic field. Wallingford is a very dense neighborhood, and getting more so every day thanks to the city of seattle recently passing HALA. Also, we have a very tiny library and no community center, and really only Wallingford Park and Meridian Park. It is absolutely unconscionable to take this park away from the neighborhood, and turn it into an athletic field for Lincoln, Hamilton, and other athletic teams in the city. we have been promised, multiple times over the years, by SPS, that they would not try to encroach on our neighborhood park that is widely used by Wallingford neighbors and other Seattle residents . There are very frequent pick up games and activities in the park most afternoons and evenings, including volleyball, frisbee, soccer, football, tossing, and picnics. Even Bill Farmer from Friends of Athletic Fields is against this proposal!</p> <p>There is a long history around promises made by SPS to this neighborhood and then broken. Years ago at a community meeting, John Stanford himself promised the Wallingford community that we would cooperate with having Lincoln High School be a transitional school while other schools undergo construction, then as a thank you they would allow the neighborhood to have the building at Lincoln Community center. Well, years later that promise was broken and Lincoln High School was remodeled. When Lincoln High School was remodeled and community members knew that field would be needed for the sports at Lincoln. We were promised that they would not ever try to take over the Wallingford Park and they wanted to practice at Woodland and at Memorial Stadium. we propose that this was not a good idea and that a playfield should be built over or instead of the parking lot. In fact, several community partners stepped up to help fund this project for a practice field for Lincoln high. But SPS said turn down the funding proposal and said no, they wanted to stick with the Woodland/Memorial plan. And now, here is SPS five years later trying to turn our small neighborhood park into their athletic field. We are 100% against this proposal! This densely populated neighborhood needs more park space not less!</p>
2024-09-22 17:36:32	As a kid who goes to LHS i would be extremely excited for a field to be made
2024-09-23 00:00:00	<p>Hi Page,</p> <p>Is there a date set for the next community meeting in October regarding the athletic field for Lincoln High School?</p> <p>Thanks,</p>



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-23 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige,</p> <p>My name is _____ and I chair the Lincoln PTSA Athletic Committee. I was able to attend most of the session last week, thanks for all your hard work on this and for driving an aggressive timeline.</p> <p>I have a meeting tonight with the Parent Volunteers, many of them with children in sports that will be greatly impacted by improving our practice field and track situations.</p> <p>I plan on asking these Parents to reach out and give feedback to you and the committee. I just want to confirm you would like the feedback on this form?</p> <p>Also, have you already nailed down a date for the October meeting?</p> <p>Lastly, this is just a comment and I'll be sure to include it in my feedback. I didn't hear this come up at the meeting, but like I said, I had to leave. That field gets so muddy by most November's that it is not even usable in many spots. Turfing it will be so great for the neighborhood and Lincoln!</p> <p>Best,</p>
2024-09-23 00:00:00	Can you address title IX in the FAQ?
2024-09-23 00:00:00	I've heard additional information the proposed field will be used for Lincoln boys varsity football in the fall, and boys varsity soccer in the spring. Girls will be required to commute because their season conflicts with boys varsity football. In addition to now requiring hundreds of younger Hamilton co-ed (girls) ultimate teams to now commute across the city, this whole project appears to be prioritizing access to a new athletic resource for boys varsity teams, at the expense of girls teams. This is not what our tax dollars should be used for, and would violate title IX.
2024-09-23 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige.</p> <p>I missed this part of the meeting. Was 10/24 the next date or was this just an estimate?</p>
2024-09-23 00:45:27	Hello please use the Wallingford play field for an athletic field for Lincoln high school in Hamilton middle school. This option makes the most sense because students from two different SPS schools can safely walk there allowing more students to have safe access to activities after school and alleviating burden on parents and the communities From traffic congestion.
2024-09-23 00:59:24	<p>The largest high school in the city should have a field next to it for use of many sports. It will also benefit the community when SPS isn't using it. The grass right now is often not usable, and it has so many divets to hurt kids' ankles.</p> <p>Please turn Wallingford into a field for Lincoln. Thank you.</p>
2024-09-23 11:25:56	I attended the meeting last week about the Lincoln practice field proposed at Wallingford park. I have 3 kids at Lincoln, including a football player, and I'm very much in favor of this project. The Wallingford neighbors who are against this project do not understand that it's Wallingford families who are at a huge disadvantage because of the lack of a practice field. This isn't SPS taking an amenity away from the Wallingford community, this is adding a missing amenity to the Wallingford community that is already provided in Ballard and Roosevelt communities. At the next meeting, please show a weekly schedule comparing the Ballard and Roosevelt football and soccer practice schedule to the Lincoln practice schedule. I think this exhibit will show that bus commute costs 10-12 hours extra per week per family in Wallingford that Ballard and Roosevelt kids get to spend with their families, friends and studying. Please show a comparison of the three schools to help the community members understand that this is a community need.

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-23 18:45:27	<p>Lincoln High School must have a practice field for their sports programs. Busing to and from Ingraham High School or Memorial Stadium is such a waste of time for the students as it adds 1 to 1.5 hours of travel time each day they have practice to their schedules. The kids should be able to walk less than 2 minutes to practice, practice, and go home to finish their day/ homework.</p> <p>The neighbors around the field should accept that they live near TWO schools that are in need of a close place for the athletics program to practice.</p>
2024-09-23 19:20:36	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I am all for Lincoln AND Hamilton having access to a real field facility in the Wallingford playfield location. My input is that ultimate frisbee has HUGE programs at both schools and needs access to field space. Please put them into the mix of groups that will have access.</p>
2024-09-23 20:04:14	<p>The greater Wallingford population is growing exponentially because of greater housing density in the area. Wallingford Playfield is tiny, the ONLY public park in the neighborhood, and used a lot by families. Covering the park in toxic artificial turf will further turn the neighborhood into another urban desert, and not just environmentally. We will lose part of Wallingford as a community.</p>
2024-09-23 20:45:55	<p>Hello, I use the Wallingford play field often and I think building a field here will limit community access to the space. The cost seems prohibitive and the discourse seems disingenuous, with the FAQ not taking seriously the limited hours due to school use that the community will have of the park. There could be better uses of the space. I oppose this proposal.</p>
2024-09-23 20:46:04	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>We recently were informed of the consideration to transform our community Wallingford playfield into a high school field. To our dismay, we learned about this after the meeting and ultimately received today on September 23 our flyer to come learn about the Lincoln high school field project (see photo taken today). It's discouraging to get this type of notice after the fact - in addition, the flyer seems slightly misleading in that it doesn't address impact to community, which may have prompted turnout for discussion. As a parent in this community and a future parent of HMS/Lincoln high school students, I am strongly opposed to taking away our communities only green space for gathering considering the urbanization of this neighborhood. I understand my future soccer player has needs and that by choosing a different location may make it more challenging for us later but I think the greater community - which also benefits my children - can benefit greater by Wallingford playfield remaining a community focused stronghold of this neighborhood. It is an incredibly important reason why we chose this community! I hope the district can redirect efforts towards creatively bringing the field to Lincoln high school or other locations in the vicinity. And in the future, I would highly suggest giving more notice to be informed.</p> <p>I remain hopeful this location continues to be as meaningful as it is now,</p>
2024-09-23 20:48:32	<p>I oppose this proposition. You are limiting overall access to a public park, and not considering the full impacts this will have on the community aside from the students. This is a huge financial investment, and the optics are bad given that Seattle Public Schools are currently facing closure. Additionally, it seems like you are creating a large project when you only really need a two year fix while memorial stadium is under construction. You also very poorly addressed how this will impact the environment, turf fields are incredibly damaging. Not only do they require the use of plastics, introducing additional microplastics in to the environment, they also cause stormwater runoff that can be damaging to salmon. They also reduce biodiversity. You also don't even mention how many trees will be removed for this project. The trees on this site are an incredible asset and should be retained.</p>
2024-09-23 21:21:18	<p>As a homeowner near the Wallingford playfield and a parent of students at Lincoln and Hamilton, I wholeheartedly support integrating sports fields into Wallingford park.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-23 22:23:27	<p>I'm writing to object profoundly to transforming Wallingford or Meridian playfields into a Lincoln High School practice field.</p> <p>On simple utilitarian grounds, I don't think you can justify the loss of use of either park for the neighborhood of Wallingford. Many people from all walks of life use both parks. Only a relatively small number of students at Lincoln will use the practice fields. Moreover, all Lincoln students would currently lose their access to the pleasant green spaces whatever other advantages they might or might not get from the practice fields.</p> <p>Moreover, Woodland Park has plenty of practice fields nearby, so I don't think you can make a serious utilitarian argument that the Wallingford neighborhood will gain any not already present advantage by turning either Wallingford or Meridian playfield into practice fields. Woodland is also an instructive example because those fields are basically not used at all except when used for athletics during limited times of day. A similar fate would await Wallingford or Meridian playfields if this project moves forward.</p> <p>The project description sketchily mentions that a racial justice survey was done to determine this. No other detail was offered. I feel compelled to note that unhoused people of all races use Wallingford &amp; Meridian playfields in respectful &amp; restful ways. Transforming these playfields into practice fields will end that, which also seems a matter of social concern &amp; racial justice.</p> <p>Both Wallingford and Meridian playfields are widely-used green areas that we all need. You might argue that the objections I've raised here to protect those playfields from being transformed into practice fields would apply to all parks, &amp; I would tend to agree. It would depend on what the other candidates for transformation are, but in general the city needs parks more than it needs practice fields, so I probably wouldn't support transforming any park in this way.</p> <p>On a personal note, which obviously is one small note compared to the interest of the whole neighborhood, as a resident of Wallingford since 2013, both playfields are very important places to me that I visit weekly, they were vital for keeping me sane during the months of lockdown, &amp; they're very important places for my friends with kids &amp; pets in Wallingford.</p> <p>On a broader note, I also want to say that I have voted for every levy on the ballot in Seattle since I moved here in 2011. I support higher taxes for more public amenities. However, I feel a bit betrayed that this levy I supported &amp; encouraged my union siblings &amp; fellow workers to support is going to actually degrade public amenities that my neighbors &amp; I use. If this goes forward, I'm going to have to reconsider my support &amp; lobby my union to reconsider its support for open-ended levies like this if we lack assurance on what we are actually voting to fund. Furthermore, although I'm sure these are different funding streams, it seems strange to be spending all this money on practice fields as the city is having a fierce debate about closing schools.</p> <p>Please don't permanently remove either the Wallingford or Meridian playfields from broader neighborhood use.</p> <p>Cheers,</p>
2024-09-23 23:29:55	<p>The repercussions of not having a field should have been thought about more carefully prior to LHS being built. Please look into alternatives, and please stop proposing this nonsense. There will be such backlash from the community. If it comes to it, there are hundreds of playfield lovers who would actively protest this, and we will rally if we have to. That is not a threat, but this is the reality that LHS will have to face if they keep proposing to take away a vital part of our community. If they want a field that badly, they need to sacrifice their parking lot or just be grateful that there are so many fields at Woodlawn, which is not inconvenient at all. Yes, it is not across the street from LHS. If a student or parent has such a huge problem with the field not being at the school, they can apply to choose a different school and enroll their kids in RHS. Stop being greedy, SPS. Your money could be doing so much more, but instead you propose to damage a community.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-09-24 00:00:00</p>	<p>Dear David, Richard, and Paige,</p> <p>My fellow Wallingford neighbor, Kristin Kildall, and I are writing in regards to the current search for a location to construct a new Lincoln High School Practice "home field."</p> <p>Kristin and I are both professional landscape architects that reside within a block from both Wallingford Playfield and LHS. For full transparency, Kristin is currently engaged on other construction projects for both SPS and SPR and this site analysis/proposal is not affiliated with either of our design firms, but rather as Wallingford residents and as current and future families of LHS students. Kristin is a parent to two LHS students (one currently enrolled in the athletic program at LHS), and I will be a future LHS parent to my two younger children.</p> <p>After hearing the proposal at the community meeting last week, we both considered the district's and LHS' need for a football/soccer athletic field as well as the community's concern about its potential impact on Wallingford Playfield, and came together with the goal of coming up with a solution that would meet all the needs of LHS students, school district, and the surrounding Wallingford neighborhood.</p> <p>Based on the criteria used in your previous site studies (size of open space, student safety, accessibility and sustainability) we'd like you to consider repurposing the existing parking lot at the corner of 50th and Aurora within Woodland Park as the future Lincoln Field.</p> <p>As seen below, we have done a test fit at the site to include (See attachment):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 360' x 160' football field and soccer field (per NFHS)</li> <li>• 10' buffer</li> <li>• location for equipment storage</li> <li>• bleacher seating</li> <li>• an ADA accessible route</li> <li>• loading and bus parking</li> <li>• existing restrooms that can be renovated</li> </ul> <p>The proposed location would be an easy commute from LHS with an estimated walk time of 12 minutes or a 7 minute run. Many LHS students already commute to Woodland Park for various athletic practices and games utilizing a similar path as what is shown below.</p> <p>Significant benefits of siting the athletic field at the proposed lot at Woodland Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• creates additional open space for a neighborhood with increasing density. By converting an underutilized parking lot to an athletic turf field, the neighborhood is gaining open space amenity rather than displacing an existing one. Currently the open field at Wallingford Playfield serves a variety of users throughout the day such as daycare groups, neighbors exercising, recreational sports practice, dog walkers, picnics, birthday parties, etc. Siting the LHS athletic field at Wallingford Playfield displaces a highly-used flexible open space, with a single use turf program with very limited available windows for the neighborhood.</li> <li>• the field at Woodland Park would consolidate most of LHS athletic activities to the same location. More resources could be shared such as coach</li> </ul>

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	<p>office space, and equipment storage. This would also avoid prioritizing one sport over others by placing the football and soccer field closer to LHS than the others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• reduce project delays due to neighborhood and recreational team sports opposition. In addition to the various reasons neighbors may be opposed to the athletic field at Wallingford Playfield, the field is also often used for youth recreational sport groups with practice often starting on the earlier side around 5:30pm for the younger-aged kids. This could create schedule challenges as LHS football practice may run until 6-7pm at night.</li><li>• We've included a more detailed analysis in the attached exhibit. Please see the comparison chart for advantages and disadvantages for siting the field at Wallingford Playfield vs at Woodland Park in the attachment.</li></ul> <p>We feel the proposed location at Woodland Park would be a favorable and mutually-beneficial solution that addresses many of the needs and concerns of the LHS community, surrounding neighborhood, and school district. We would love to hear your feedback/questions, and ask that our proposal be shared with other relevant decision-makers.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-24 01:58:55	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I'm a neighbor of the school and regular user of Wallingford playfield. We use the park for two main reasons: sunlight and dog exercise. It is one of the few public spots within the neighborhood that provides an open place to picnic and enjoy the sun without tree cover. The other is that the field has been a great open space for our dogs to play and much closer than Woodland Park. I think both of those goals could be maintained if the site is designed thoughtfully with those additional needs in mind. I'd suggest repurposing the SE corner with the picnic tables, that is rarely used, for a fenced dog run and maintaining the portion in the NW corner similar to Option 1 for some natural grass for sunny days.</p>
2024-09-24 10:44:06	<p>The possible disaster of turning wallingford playfield into an ecological coving of turf should absolutely be shut down. This playfield has been a neighborhood hub for people of all ages to play sit picnic on the grass of this park. Also the first 4th of july the park could completely catch on fire because every year it is used to shoot up fire works. There is a terrible irony of creating and killing off the ecosystems th at the park sustains at many crucial levels.</p> <p>Creating a toxic covering will off gas surrounding areas. Please avert this park for this project.</p>
2024-09-24 11:13:27	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm reaching out to ask if there will be another feedback session for the proposed conversion of Wallingford Playfield to a turf field supporting LHS sports. I received a mailer yesterday sharing the planed feedback session that took place last week. I'm hoping there will be another session, as many of my neighbors in the surrounding area also had no idea this was happening and also received their mailers yesterday. Additionally, I would like to voice that the mailer is very misleading - giving the impression the decision on the field has been made, and provided statements about the benefits, with no mention of the impact to the neighborhood park. I think the neighborhood could benefit from putting out yard-style signs that communicate this impactful change being proposed.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
2024-09-24 12:39:49	<p>I have lived in the area for 15 years and use the park daily/weekly. my kids went to SPS. keep the wallingford playfield! it is an essential part of the neighborhood and provides a green space with trees, grass and open air for all in the community to enjoy. a plastic "turf" football field in its place would be a huge loss. please explore alternate locations (green lake fields) for football stadium.</p>
2024-09-24 12:42:01	<p>the repercussions of not having a field should have been thought about more carefully prior to LHS being built. Please look into alternatives, and please stop proposing this nonsense. There will be such backlash from the community. If it comes to it, there are hundreds of playfield lovers who would actively protest this, and we will rally if we have to. That is not a threat, but this is the reality that LHS will have to face if they keep proposing to take away a vital part of our community. If they want a field that badly, they need to sacrifice their parking lot or just be grateful that there are so many fields at Woodlawn, which is not inconvenient at all. Yes, it is not across the street from LHS. If a student or parent has such a huge problem with the field not being at the school, they can apply to choose a different school and enroll their kids in RHS. Stop being greedy, SPS. Your money could be doing so much more, but instead you propose to damage a community.</p>
2024-09-24 12:46:25	<p>Just wanted to say that we fully support putting it turf field at the Wallingford playfield site. We prefer retaining the old playground if possible but are okay with options a and b.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-24 13:35:53	<p>Do not take over Wallingford Playfield for an athletic field. It is a well-used community park frequented by many people in the area (walks, pick-up games, frisbee, picnics, community gatherings, etc.) Those activities would be destroyed by an SPS field, especially a field that could only intermittently and rarely be "scheduled" for any uses other than by SPS. We need this as a community park, and I and community neighbors are very upset about this potential hijacking of a beloved park with its lovely tree canopy areas. Our concerns will not be ameliorated by managed community meetings. This is and has been a park that I and others use every day. Leave it alone! I even say this as a Lincoln grad!</p> <p>Build your field at Lower Woodland, where you already use the fields.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-24 15:16:26	<p>Redeveloping the community park into a turf field offers numerous advantages, from improved athletic facilities and increased community engagement to reduced maintenance and enhanced safety. This transformation would not only address the current issues caused by off leash unsanctioned dog-park use but also provide a valuable, long-lasting resource for the schools and the broader community. A great, successful, local example of this type of park can be seen in Ballard at Loyal Heights Playfield which also recently underwent a redevelopment including a turf football size field. There is a fabulous playground for all ages of kids to use and a large turfed field that serves a growing population of people in the Ballard "Urban Village". The use of Loyal Heights field includes both adult and children's sports leagues as well as pick up activities during the non-assigned times of the day, which is typically during the standard 8 hours of the weekday that reflect school hours/ business hours.</p> <p>Key metrics determining the safety of public park use include lighting and visibility, maintenance and cleanliness, minimization of litter and vandalism, regular inspection of safe equipment and subjectively, safe accessibility of the park during the "open" hours, morning through evening. Redevelopment of Wallingford Park will provide additional resources to achieve these metrics.</p> <p>It is important to note that there are four elementary schools (JSIS, BF Day, Greenlake and McDonald), one middle school (HIMS) and one high school (Lincoln), within walking distance of Wallingford Park. Whether we support increased density in Wallingford or not, our neighborhood, a designated Urban Village, is growing rapidly and expanded community resources are needed to address this growth. In Wallingford we are incredibly lucky to have, within walking distance of Wallingford Park, access to Meridian Park, Greenlake Parks, and Gasworks Park for a variety of community needs. We are thrilled to see that the playground and the tennis courts will be preserved as part of the redevelopment plan.</p> <p>As many of you may be aware, Seattle Public School's budget deficit is approximately 90M dollars, a result of COVID related under-enrollment and woeful WA state under-funding. Severe budget cuts have resulted in the announcement of closure of schools and curtailing of beloved school programs for the 2025-2026 school year directly affecting all six schools in Wallingford area. Our community's children will be severely impacted by these ongoing cuts and closures to the schools and programs. The bucket of money that is slated for park redevelopment is a bright spot in an otherwise gloomy outlook for SPS students. While many families in our community do not have school aged children, well resourced schools and parks widely promote social stability community well being, and quality of life for the entire community.</p> <p>As neighborhood residents since 2007 and parents of school age children, we support the diversification of park use in our neighborhood by supporting the redevelopment of Wallingford Park to be in use by 2025-2026 school year.</p> <p>Transforming the community park into a turf field for use by the nearby schools, as well as for community sports leagues, presents several compelling benefits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enhanced Athletic Facilities</li> </ol> <p>Year-Round Usability: Turf fields provide a consistent playing surface that can be used in all weather conditions, ensuring that the 2,000 students and community sports leagues have reliable access to high-quality athletic facilities.</p> <p>Improved Safety: Modern turf fields are designed to reduce injuries, offering a safer environment for young athletes compared to uneven, worn-out grass fields which are particularly vulnerable to the ongoing off leash dog park use.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Increased Community Engagement</li> </ol>



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	<p>Broader Usage: A well-maintained turf field can accommodate a variety of sports and activities, encouraging more community members to participate in physical activities and fostering a sense of community.</p> <p>Organized Sports: By providing a dedicated space for organized sports, the field can help reduce the unsanctioned use of the park by off-leash dogs, ensuring the space is used as intended and maintained properly.</p> <p>3. Environmental and Maintenance Benefits</p> <p>Reduced Maintenance: Turf fields require less maintenance than natural grass, which can be particularly beneficial in a dense urban environment where resources and space are limited. This can result in cost savings and more efficient use of public funds.</p> <p>Durability: Unlike natural grass, which can be easily damaged by heavy use and weather conditions, turf fields are highly durable and can withstand frequent use without becoming unusable.</p> <p>4. Addressing Current Issues</p> <p>Mitigating Damage: The current unsanctioned use of the park by off-leash dogs has led to significant damage to the grass, making the field unusable for its intended purpose. A turf field would eliminate this issue, providing a resilient surface that can handle high traffic without deteriorating.</p> <p>Community Safety: By formalizing the use of the park for school and community sports, the area can be better monitored and maintained, enhancing safety and cleanliness for all users. This is especially relevant as many underused Seattle parks have been affected by encampments and permanent camper van parking that limit safe and clean access to the park by the public.</p> <p>5. Long-Term Investment</p> <p>Future-Proofing: Investing in a turf field is a forward-thinking decision that can serve the community for many years, accommodating the growing needs of the schools and local sports leagues.</p> <p>Attracting Events: A high-quality turf field can attract regional sports events and tournaments, bringing additional economic benefits to the community and the ever growing retail businesses along Stone Way and 45th, potentially minimizing the empty store front attracting vandalism phenomenon.</p> <p>Continued Use: Ongoing presence of tennis courts and a playground alongside a turf field, ensures that Wallingford Park will continue to provide diverse outlets for recreational play!</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-24 18:18:20	<p>Included you will find questions, comments, concerns, and a suggestion: In the slideshow posted online, there was NO mention of the displacement of current use of Wallingford Park. The middle school offers Ultimate as an afterschool program to over 100 youth of all genders - over 35% female. It sounds like the current plan for after-school programming will serve only males - football practice in the fall and boy's soccer in the spring. Are there plans for female and non-binary programming that have not been shared to comply with Title IX? Where will the middle school teams practice during the construction and after the fields have been commandeered by the Men's HS programs? Please remember that middle schoolers are even less prepared to travel distances for practices than are high schoolers with licenses and more lived experiences on public transportation. With the school closures coming up, maybe the turf track and field at Salmon Bay K-8 could be used for Lincoln's football, soccer, and track programs without having to destroy more public lands.</p>
2024-09-24 18:32:01	<p>Concern over proposed Wallingford Playfield site.</p>
2024-09-25 00:00:00	<p>Hi Richard, Paige and SPR team,</p> <p>and I would like to connect with you to discuss the Site Analysis/Proposal for an alternate location of an athletic field for Lincoln High School that Nancy sent out yesterday (see below). We spoke with David Graves at the Parks Department this morning, and he confirmed that the parking lot at Lower Woodland is a possible location for further study. Is there a day/time this week or next when you would be available to hop on a Zoom call and discuss it further?</p> <p>Here's our availability:                      Friday (9/27) - any time after 11:00                      Monday (9/30) - any time after 12:00                      Tuesday (10/1) - 9:00-10:00 and any time after 11:00                      Wednesday (10/2) - any time between 11:30 and 3:00, and anytime after 4:00                      Thursday (10/3) - any time                      Friday (10/4) - any time</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
2024-09-25 00:00:00	<p>Hey Paige,</p> <p>I'm a parent of a kids at Hamilton. Thrilled to hear about the prospect of turf for sports on that Wallingford playfield. What can I do to help support this effort? I am reading some pushback from community members about it which is disheartening and I'd like to get involved and support your project. Please let me know how I might help.</p> <p>Cheers,</p>
2024-09-25 09:45:46	<p>I have two girls that love sports and go to Hamilton and will be attending Lincoln. This will be so good for our students to have a turf sports field at Wallingford playfield. Kudos to the district and city for making this happen. We will save students from having to travel 30 minutes in traffic to memorial stadium and turn an uneven dog mud pit into a usable field for our youth! It will be safer and more environmentally friendly (no extensive travel for students to other fields) and healthier for our kids (promoting sports and activities with a nice usable field). It's a no brainer! Thank you</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-25 18:24:07	After receiving a postcard on September 23rd about a community meeting that was held on September 19 on the potential takeover of Wallingford Playfield for the Lincoln High School practice field I'm appalled. It is completely unacceptable to invite the public to an event that has already taken place. The proposals I see on your website claim to allow community access to our beloved playground but it seems the playground for younger children as well as the wading pool, a very popular summer attraction for children and family will be eliminated. Also the proposal seems to be strictly for high school students when, in fact, Hamilton Middle School also uses this field on a daily basis. I hope you can reconsider your plans to, at the very least, make this an improvement for the neighborhood and not only for a single high school.
2024-09-25 19:47:14	As housing density in Seattle increases, the importance of open public spaces in providing recreational opportunities for area residents is a priority. Converting an open public space to exclusive use as a football field is NOT consistent with this objective. Converting this land to a football field will render it incapable of supporting broad public use. Creating an area devoid of trees, picnic tables, inconducive to dog walking and supporting a sport that is only the province of teenage males is...nuts!!!
2024-09-25 20:25:16	I live on 43rd and Ashworth. I am very strongly opposed to a high school platfoeld to be put in Wallingford park. Wallinford has narrow streets where parking is already a problem. Also this our neighbord park that is in constant use for neighborhood children, grandchildren and all families and pets. The play area is already over run at lunch time by Hamilton middle schoolers. Adding a high school field would add light pollution, noise pollution, and exacerbate our parking problems. Our entire block is against this proposal, and I imagine we are not alone. We will fight against this proposal. Choose a site like Woodland Park, where lights and fields, wude streets and parking already exist.
2024-09-25 21:19:41	Whichever location is selected, please consider providing a dry, somewhat secure area where kids can store their backpacks, jackets, musical instruments, etc during practices. Kids often can't get into the schools outside of class time, so if they want to practice an instrument they need to bring it with them. Also, they all have school-owned laptops they need to bring home with them each night. Thank you for considering!
2024-09-26 00:00:00	Hi Paige,  I'm a resident of Wallingford and want to learn more about this project of turning Wallingford Playfield into a football field. The reading I've done shows that Lincoln High School had the very field they're looking to create before, but then tore it down to replace it with a parking lot. I'm curious why the parking lot is staying as-is. Why wouldn't you just turn the parking lot back into a field?  Thanks,
2024-09-26 01:01:21	In support of a turf practice field for students at Wallingford playground but please keep the playground! It is such a valuable asset to all the families in the neighborhood with young children. We spend so much time there and it would be an absolute shame to take away such a good community gathering space for young children and families. Outside time, and play time is crucial for young children and losing one of the only playgrounds in this area would be detrimental to so many young children.
2024-09-26 13:57:15	I really liked your presentation at Lincoln last week and as a community member only a few hundred yards from the proposed synthetic field I totally approve of your plans. I know it becomes emotional for many. but that field hasn't been able to handle the usage it gets for some years. Not even counting for the kiddy soccer in the Fall. I think removing the grass is a great solution. My only ask is, could you consider putting the existing tennis courts on lights as well? Thanks and keep up the good work.
2024-09-26 16:35:51	Seattle Public Schools should NOT be allowed to take over the Wallingford Playfield for their use as a lighted, artificial turf football field and scheduled organized athletic field. The proposed plans removes the public bathroom, kids play area, picnic knoll and the entire grass field. The Wallingford playfield was expanded in 1970 as a permanent OPEN space for recreational and scenic purposes. Forward Thrust Funds was used to expand the park and HUD records restricts the site from being sold, leased or otherwise transfer without prior written approval of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. It was not built to be assimilated into the school property or used by limited organizations. Wallingford has always been limited by the amount of open space for use by young kids to seniors. As Wallingford is designated as an Urban Village, it is suppose to receive more open space. This never happened and taking the only open space in the Wallingford Urban Village by the school district is not acceptable.

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-27 12:00:09	<p>Paige/Richard - After the public meeting, some field users and I were discussing other options. Since this is planned to be a practice field, a smaller field would be acceptable and the layout could be downsized significantly to avoid impacting the existing park features so much. A full-size field just doesn't fit there very well without negatively impacting trees, bathroom, playground, etc. and taking up most of the available space. For JV games, consideration could be given to upgrading Lower Woodland #2 to accommodate football. LW2 has lots of space and is already lit, synthetic with a very large (wide) field. Adding football lines would be a pain to cut in but perhaps painted lines would suffice for the relatively shorter football season - and adding goalposts would be fairly straight forward.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-27 14:25:43	<p>I want to advocate for the Lincoln field project at Wallingford Park.</p> <p>Redeveloping the community park into a turf field offers numerous advantages, from improved athletic facilities and increased community engagement to reduced maintenance and enhanced safety. This transformation would not only address the current issues caused by off leash unsanctioned dog-park use but also provide a valuable, long-lasting resource for the schools and the broader community. A great, successful, local example of this type of park can be seen in Ballard at Loyal Heights Playfield which also recently underwent a redevelopment including a turf football size field. There is a fabulous playground for all ages of kids to use and a large turfed field that serves a growing population of people in the Ballard "Urban Village". The use of Loyal Heights field includes both adult and children's sports leagues as well as pick up activities during the non-assigned times of the day, which is typically during the standard 8 hours of the weekday that reflect school hours/ business hours.</p> <p>Key metrics determining the safety of public park use include lighting and visibility, maintenance and cleanliness, minimization of litter and vandalism, regular inspection of safe equipment and subjectively, safe accessibility of the park during the "open" hours, morning through evening. Redevelopment of Wallingford Park will provide additional resources to achieve these metrics.</p> <p>It is important to note that there are four elementary schools (JSIS, BF Day, Greenlake and McDonald), one middle school (HIMS) and one high school (Lincoln), within walking distance of Wallingford Park. Whether we support increased density in Wallingford or not, our neighborhood, a designated Urban Village, is growing rapidly and expanded community resources are needed to address this growth. In Wallingford we are incredibly lucky to have, within walking distance of Wallingford Park, access to Meridian Park, Greenlake Parks, and Gasworks Park for a variety of community needs. We are thrilled to see that the playground and the tennis courts will be preserved as part of the redevelopment plan.</p> <p>As many of you may be aware, Seattle Public School's budget deficit is approximately 90M dollars, a result of COVID related under-enrollment and woeful WA state under-funding. Severe budget cuts have resulted in the announcement of closure of schools and curtailing of beloved school programs for the 2025-2026 school year directly affecting all six schools in Wallingford area. Our community's children will be severely impacted by these ongoing cuts and closures to the schools and programs. The bucket of money that is slated for park redevelopment is a bright spot in an otherwise gloomy outlook for SPS students. While many families in our community do not have school aged children, well resourced schools and parks widely promote social stability community well being, and quality of life for the entire community.</p> <p>As neighborhood residents since 2007 and parents of school age children, we support the diversification of park use in our neighborhood by supporting the redevelopment of Wallingford Park to be in use by 2025-2026 school year.</p> <p>Transforming the community park into a turf field for use by the nearby schools, as well as for community sports leagues, presents several compelling benefits:</p> <p>1. Enhanced Athletic Facilities</p> <p>Year-Round Usability: Turf fields provide a consistent playing surface that can be used in all weather conditions, ensuring that the 2,000 students and community sports leagues have reliable access to high-quality athletic facilities.</p> <p>Improved Safety: Modern turf fields are designed to reduce injuries, offering a safer environment for young athletes compared to uneven, worn-out grass fields which are particularly vulnerable to the ongoing off leash dog park use.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>2. Increased Community Engagement</p> <p>Broader Usage: A well-maintained turf field can accommodate a variety of sports and activities, encouraging more community members to participate in physical activities and fostering a sense of community.</p> <p>Organized Sports: By providing a dedicated space for organized sports, the field can help reduce the unsanctioned use of the park by off-leash dogs, ensuring the space is used as intended and maintained properly.</p> <p>3. Environmental and Maintenance Benefits</p> <p>Reduced Maintenance: Turf fields require less maintenance than natural grass, which can be particularly beneficial in a dense urban environment where resources and space are limited. This can result in cost savings and more efficient use of public funds.</p> <p>Durability: Unlike natural grass, which can be easily damaged by heavy use and weather conditions, turf fields are highly durable and can withstand frequent use without becoming unusable.</p> <p>4. Addressing Current Issues</p> <p>Mitigating Damage: The current unsanctioned use of the park by off-leash dogs has led to significant damage to the grass, making the field unusable for its intended purpose. A turf field would eliminate this issue, providing a resilient surface that can handle high traffic without deteriorating.</p> <p>Community Safety: By formalizing the use of the park for school and community sports, the area can be better monitored and maintained, enhancing safety and cleanliness for all users. This is especially relevant as many underused Seattle parks have been affected by encampments and permanent camper van parking that limit safe and clean access to the park by the public.</p> <p>5. Long-Term Investment</p> <p>Future-Proofing: Investing in a turf field is a forward-thinking decision that can serve the community for many years, accommodating the growing needs of the schools and local sports leagues.</p> <p>Attracting Events: A high-quality turf field can attract regional sports events and tournaments, bringing additional economic benefits to the community and the ever growing retail businesses along Stone Way and 45th, potentially minimizing the empty store front attracting vandalism phenomenon.</p> <p>Continued Use: Ongoing presence of tennis courts and a playground alongside a turf field, ensures that Wallingford Park will continue to provide diverse outlets for recreational play!</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-27 15:58:39	SPS Supt John Stanford promised the program at Lincoln would not use the park. SPS Director of Facilities, John Vacchiery, promised Lincoln would not use the park. The condition of needing athletic space existed since before Lincoln closed in 1980, when Lincoln practiced and played at Lower Woodland. Limited athletic space is one of the reasons (among many) that the plan for 20 years was for Hamilton to move to Lincoln. Alternatives exist, including restoring the field that used to exist on the north parking area at Lincoln, or building a new athletic field on the gravel lot at 50th and Aurora in Lower Woodland. Both could be a win-win, instead of taking away from the neighborhood a loved grassy area that is open for a variety of uses, including picnics, Frisbee, playing catch, watching the fireworks, or just lounging to read a book. The District created this problem through poor design choices. The community is vehemently against turning our treasured greenspace into a turfed scheduled athletic field.

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

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2024-09-27 19:16:27	<p>Redeveloping the community park into a turf field offers numerous advantages, from improved athletic facilities and increased community engagement to reduced maintenance and enhanced safety. This transformation would not only address the current issues caused by off-leash unsanctioned dog-park use but also provide a valuable, long-lasting resource for the schools and the broader community. A great, successful, local example of this type of park can be seen in Ballard at Loyal Heights Playfield which also recently underwent a redevelopment including a turf football size field. There is a fabulous playground for all ages of kids to use and a large turfed field that serves a growing population of people in the Ballard "Urban Village". The use of Loyal Heights field includes both adult and children's sports leagues as well as pick up activities during the non-assigned times of the day, which is typically during the standard 8 hours of the weekday that reflect school hours/ business hours.</p> <p>Transforming the community park into a turf field for use by the nearby schools, as well as for community sports leagues, presents several compelling benefits:</p> <p>1. Enhanced Athletic Facilities</p> <p>Year-Round Usability: Turf fields provide a consistent playing surface that can be used in all weather conditions, ensuring that the 2,000 students and community sports leagues have reliable access to high-quality athletic facilities.</p> <p>Improved Safety: Modern turf fields are designed to reduce injuries, offering a safer environment for young athletes compared to uneven, worn-out grass fields which are particularly vulnerable to the ongoing off-leash dog park use.</p> <p>2. Increased Community Engagement</p> <p>Broader Usage: A well-maintained turf field can accommodate a variety of sports and activities, encouraging more community members to participate in physical activities and fostering a sense of community.</p> <p>Organized Sports: By providing a dedicated space for organized sports, the field can help reduce the unsanctioned use of the park by off-leash dogs, ensuring the space is used as intended and maintained properly.</p> <p>3. Environmental and Maintenance Benefits</p> <p>Reduced Maintenance: Turf fields require less maintenance than natural grass, which can be particularly beneficial in a dense urban environment where resources and space are limited. This can result in cost savings and more efficient use of public funds.</p> <p>Durability: Unlike natural grass, which can be easily damaged by heavy use and weather conditions, turf fields are highly durable and can withstand frequent use without becoming unusable.</p> <p>4. Addressing Current Issues</p> <p>Mitigating Damage: The current unsanctioned use of the park by off-leash dogs has led to significant damage to the grass, making the field unusable for its intended purpose. A turf field would eliminate this issue, providing a resilient surface that can handle high traffic without deteriorating.</p> <p>Community Safety: By formalizing the use of the park for school and community sports, the area can be better monitored and maintained, enhancing</p>



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	<p>safety and cleanliness for all users. This is especially relevant as many underused Seattle parks have been affected by encampments and permanent camper van parking that limit safe and clean access to the park by the public.</p> <p>5. Long-Term Investment</p> <p>Future-Proofing: Investing in a turf field is a forward-thinking decision that can serve the community for many years, accommodating the growing needs of the schools and local sports leagues.</p> <p>Attracting Events: A high-quality turf field can attract regional sports events and tournaments, bringing additional economic benefits to the community and the ever growing retail businesses along Stone Way and 45th, potentially minimizing the empty store front attracting vandalism phenomenon.</p> <p>Continued Use: Ongoing presence of tennis courts and a playground alongside a turf field, ensures that Wallingford Park will continue to provide diverse outlets for recreational play!</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-28 00:00:00	<p>Can someone clarify this park meeting update timing? Why is the info not actually provided? This is not even a correct date - and why aren't there details on how to participate? This seems in bad faith to not be providing the community with actual timing and ways to participate - especially given there is a ton of opposition to the current plan - and serious questions about how this violates title IX.</p> <p>Good afternoon and Happy Friday Hamilton Families! I hope this message finds you well! Below you will find a few important announcements and reminders.</p> <p>Fall MAP Assessment for Math: This coming week, all Hamilton students will be taking the Fall MAP Assessment for Math. This is a benchmark assessment that will allow teachers to gain a deeper knowledge of your student's knowledge and practice of math. It is important for your student to take their time and give their full effort when completing this assessment. Please help us ensure strong testing habits and strategies by encouraging your student to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• get a good night's sleep.</li> <li>• make healthy food choices.</li> <li>• charge computer.</li> </ul> <p>We greatly appreciate the support and energy you give your student as we work together to build and teach them these valuable skills.</p> <p>Welcome Our New Social Studies Teacher: We would like to welcome Ms. Jocelyn O'Donnell, our newest staff member to the Hamilton staff. She is teaching our 8th grade social studies class and is filling the vacated position left by Ms. Frizzell who retired at the end of last school year. In addition, there have been some questions from parents regarding our additional Japanese teacher start date. We have identified an applicant with SPS Human Resources Department and hope to have them starting next week. If you have any additional questions, please call Dr. Marshall in the main office.</p> <p>Pouch Up Reminders: Parents, please remind your child not to forget their phone pouches. They must have them every day, and their devices must be "pouched-up." We have seen a significant difference in a decrease of cell phone usage during instructional time and we want to ask the community for their continued support.</p> <p>National Food Service Week:: This week is "National Food Service Week." Please join me in thanking our Cafeteria staff Ms. Karla Stanley, Kitchen Manager &amp; Ms. Lisa Adamek, Asst. Kitchen Manager for providing all of our nutritional needs!</p> <p>Park Renovation Update: Parents and community members, there will be a 2nd meeting to discuss the park renovations scheduled for this school year. The county is planning to renovate the Wallingford Park and transform it into a joint use sports field between Lincoln High School &amp; Hamilton Middle School. The field will be artificial turf with the possibility of play field lighting. The community members are invited to participate in the planning process on Thursday, September 30th. Please call HIMS for additional information.</p> <p>Teacher Wish Lists: Looking for ways to support classrooms and the incredible work of our Hawk Teachers? Please consider helping them purchase books, supplies, and games from their wish lists! Follow this link! Teacher and Staff Wish Lists! – Hamilton PTSA</p> <p>Can you help with Picture Day? Picture day is coming up on October 15, and we need your help with organization and helping students look their best! Please sign up here: Picture Day Volunteer Sign Up</p> <p>Wanna Be the Spelling Bee Parent? Our attendance specialist Kiwon Clark has been gauging interest in having HIMS participate in the SCRIPPS Spelling Bee this year. The PTSA could contribute a small amount but there would need to be a charge per student and/or fundraising element this fall, and she is looking for a parent or two to partner with for that figuring-out-the-funding part -- but she would love to organize and manage the contest to happen in February. Would you be interested in partnering with Ms Clark to get it funded and going? Contact her at 202-252-5814. Let's get our students excited!</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>abot speling!</p> <p>Or How About the Ski Bus Parent? Some interest this week, but this STILL ISN'T LOCKED: HIMS needs a new parent coordinator if Ski Bus is to happen for us this year. To learn about the position, contact last year's coordinator Alice Turner at XX. You can also contact the Ski Mohan office via email) XX or XX. Mohan is our bus and lesson partner, and registration for schools is underway.</p> <p>Fall General Meeting: Save the date for Thursday, Oct 24 from 6:30-8:30 pm, the first General PTSA Meeting of the year, which is welcome to all. In the panel we will have a panel of experts discussing the roles of everyone in the HIMS community during an urgent situation or emergency.</p> <p>Other Dates to Save: Come Eat Lunch with Your Student on Jan 22, March 26 and May 28. Get ready to volunteer for Hawk Days on Nov 8, Jan 31, and April 11. And 8th Grade Promotion will be the eve of June 17.</p> <p>And of Course, Join the PTSA: Come be part of a powerful and collective voice in the community. In return, the PTSA will be a relevant and helpful resource for you. Join here for just \$15/person with financial assistance available: <a href="https://wspta-00023255.givebacks.com/store">https://wspta-00023255.givebacks.com/store</a> And yes, we are starting a newsletter this year; it's in the works!</p> <p>In Partnership,</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-28 00:00:00	<p>(Adding local and federal Title IV coordinators):</p> <p>I'm writing to ask for a Title IX violation investigation into Lincoln High School (Seattle) utilizing a 5 million dollar levy in what was billed to taxpayers as a "practice" "home field" for multiple sports but in reality is creating a situation where boys varsity teams will get priority access to the only field attached to the school, and additional athletic facilities that will go along with it, while requiring girls teams and younger students to commute off campus. The project FAQ and community meetings have said that boys football will be prioritized on this new field, requiring girls soccer teams to commute off campus to separate fields since their season is at the same time. In the Spring, boys varsity soccer teams will then be allowed to use the field due to their season. This access was reiterated in regards to boys football at the community meeting, yet the project FAQ now states conflicting information in terms of who actually will get to use it.</p> <p>While community members have raised this issue with project planners and the schools, they have not addressed how they will ensure female athletes will have equal access to the resource. Before converting a public park, currently utilized by the entire community, SPS needs to clarify scheduling and actual use to ensure that we are not prioritizing 5 million tax dollars to develop athletic resources that will then be primarily used by boys teams, while still requiring female athletes to commute to fields off campus. This new field will also be displacing younger co-ed teams of players who currently utilize this in the fall and cannot drive.</p> <p>I'm attaching current screenshots from the SPS FAQ which provides contradictory information as it relates to how this field will be used and Title IX.</p> <p>1. FAQ says this a practice field for the whole high school, primarily for football and soccer (this means boys teams, due to their seasons). All other teams will still need to commute off campus for practice:</p> <p>FAQ now says it won't violate Title IX, and will not prioritize football (despite contrary info that it will prioritize it):</p> <p>Please ensure that SPS is not misusing this levy to primarily provide athletic resources to male athletes at the expense of young female athletes, by clarifying details on how the resource will actually be utilized and prioritized.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
2024-09-28 20:27:08	<p>This field will displace low income families who do not have yard space. There is subsidized housing on Stone Way and University House senior housing. Both of these groups of people heavily rely on this park. We have over 200 signatures (and growing) and 83 comments in opposition. There are HUNDREDS of comments in opposition on the Wallingford/Fremont Community Facebook page.</p> <p>We have formed an LLC and we have a lawyer. We will NOT let you take this park. It is VITAL to community mental health.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-wallingford-playfield-no-turf?fbclid=IwY2xjawFd_OtleHRuA2F1bQIxMQABHXCOAIrVuv4bLYHqm95hOifJI9d7vTgBQDfDeDzjmXtcA8E549J5tTg3g_aem_MIKG1k2TZYLpjYL9Btk1qw">https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-wallingford-playfield-no-turf?fbclid=IwY2xjawFd_OtleHRuA2F1bQIxMQABHXCOAIrVuv4bLYHqm95hOifJI9d7vTgBQDfDeDzjmXtcA8E549J5tTg3g_aem_MIKG1k2TZYLpjYL9Btk1qw</a></p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-29 12:43:36	<p>I'm writing to ask for a Title IX violation investigation into Lincoln High School (Seattle) utilizing a 5 million dollar levy in what was billed to taxpayers as a "practice" "home field" for multiple sports but in reality is creating a situation where boys varsity teams will get priority access to the only field attached to the school, and additional athletic facilities that will go along with it, while requiring girls teams and younger students to commute off campus. The project FAQ and community meetings have said that boys football will be prioritized on this new field, requiring girls soccer teams to commute off campus to separate fields since their season is at the same time. In the Spring, boys varsity soccer teams will then be allowed to use the field due to their season. This access was reiterated in regards to boys football at the community meeting, yet the project FAQ now states conflicting information in terms of who actually will get to use it. While community members have raised this issue with project planners and the schools, they have not addressed how they will ensure female athletes will have equal access to the resource. Before converting a public park, currently utilized by the entire community, SPS needs to clarify scheduling and actual use to ensure that we are not prioritizing 5 million tax dollars to develop athletic resources that will then be primarily used by boys teams, while still requiring female athletes to commute to fields off campus. This new field will also be displacing younger co-ed teams of players who currently utilize this in the fall and cannot drive. Please ensure that SPS is not misusing this levy to primarily provide athletic resources to male athletes at the expense of young female athletes, by clarifying actual details on how the resource will actually be utilized and prioritized.</p>
2024-09-29 13:38:07	<p>I see this is being called a practice field, and that only minimal seating will be provided. Can SPS and the Parks Department make a promise to the community and address this in the FAQ that SPS will never try to turn this into a full size football field with stadium seating, and take away the rest of the park from the community?</p>
2024-09-29 15:58:08	<p>Take a look at the Wallingford/Fremont area using Google Earth. You'll quickly see that Wallingford Playfield is the sole patch of green grass to run and play for many, many blocks. More and more dense housing is being constructed, and it's necessary! But in this urban jungle, we must have more community green space, not less! The playground was just completed...and it's amazing! A turf field will consume too much natural space, sacrifice too many trees and destroy the quiet beauty of this neighborhood gem. There are plenty of viable alternatives including a raised field above Lincoln's parking lot and Queen Anne Bowl.</p>
2024-09-29 20:14:25	<p>Thanks for the renewed focus on our local play field. It's heavily used by the community, so it should get more attention! However, limiting community access to this resource which is public and not a school property leaves me heavily against this project. Additionally, adding stadium-esque lighting in the middle of a dense neighborhood will impact the surrounding areas. Please continue to look for a better fit that can accommodate the school's needs, since the school has been transporting students for many years, perhaps Magnuson could host the teams.</p>
2024-09-29 20:18:52	<p>Hello -</p> <p>I want to weigh in and say I was stunned that a school would propose to take away a public playground to make it a dedicated resource for an extremely small set of the population (high school athletes).</p> <p>Students should be supported, but not at the expense of the whole population, particularly future students.</p> <p>I am appalled that it was even suggested, and trust that you will not move forward with this plan.</p>
2024-09-29 20:26:54	<p>While re-purposing the Wallingford Playfield for use by Lincoln and Hamilton students is likely the cheapest alternative, it would be much, much better for the community to build the new playfield on the footprint of the Lincoln High School parking lot, either as a cap over street-level parking or at street level over underground parking.</p> <p>The community of Wallingford needs the current Wallingford Playfield to be available for use by kids, dogs and families on weekday afternoons and Saturdays. Currently, this green space is one of the few places in north Wallingford where kids and dogs can run around; it has also been used as a practice field by city-league sports teams for younger kids. With Wallingford housing rapidly densifying, there will be more children and less green space for these kids "at home"; families will need the green space provided by the Wallingford play field.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-29 21:02:04	As the parent of a Lynx graduate and current sophomore, I strongly support a dedicated field for LHS and one within walking distance (not Queen Anne Bowl — there is no easy bus transportation so not workable). My preference is the Wallingford Playfield option given proximity to LHS.
2024-09-29 21:11:36	I like the idea but want to make sure the area ia available for other hamilton and lincoln activities and the neighbors.
2024-09-29 21:58:48	Love the idea to put it at Wallingford Play field. And keeping the playground and wading pool are a bonus. Students need close access fields
2024-09-29 22:03:01	The closest location to the above 2 schools for convenience is the best solution. A real grass field would be preferred, but high use may prohibit it? Saving the other playfield amenities is a must! Thx,
2024-09-29 23:38:51	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm writing to express my concerns about using the Wallingford Park site for the new playfields for Lincoln High School.</p> <p>I fully understand the need for a good practice space for the local student athletes. However, the Wallingford Park is an important open space enjoyed by so many. While my daughter was young, we often brought a soccer ball to the park during the day and kicked and ran through the grass. Now that she is older, I still enjoy walking through the park and sitting on the grass on a sunny day. I often see tai chi classes, or groups of people young and old using the open space and grass, and pre-schoolers and running and playing.</p> <p>Artificial turf is not the same as natural grass. Replacing the grass with a turfed playfield, and getting rid of the playground and wading pool would be a detriment to the neighborhood. As our neighborhood gets more dense, open spaces like this are even MORE valuable, and now is not the time to be getting rid of it.</p> <p>As I understand it, there are several alternative spots for the high school, and I would encourage Seattle Public Schools to select one of those.</p>
2024-09-30 00:00:00	<p>Hello Ms. McGehee –</p> <p>I am a resident of Wallingford and have sent the below message to our local representatives, councilmembers, Seattle Parks and Recreation, and Seattle Public Schools. I wanted you to have the communication as well. The main message it this:</p> <p>“I am writing to ask that you please not move forward with plans to have the Lincoln Athletic Field located at the Wallingford Playfield.”</p> <p>Unfortunately, I was not able to make the September 19th meeting but would like to know when the October meeting is planning to be scheduled so we can discuss these items in person.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

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2024-09-30 00:00:00	<p>Hello Mr. Diaz, Ms. Rivera, Dr. Jones,</p> <p>I have lived in Wallingford for 15 years and I am the parent of two children in the Seattle Public School system, with one child at Hamilton International Middle School and one at Cascadia Elementary. I would like to draw your attention to a growing petition protesting the Lincoln High Football field placement at Wallingford Playfield. You should know that the petition already has 250 signatures after just over a week, with 106 comments, all opposed. Additionally there are hundreds of opposing comments on the Wallingford/Facebook Community page.</p> <p>The petition is growing daily, as are the comments. I plan to send you updates as it continues to grow in size. Our community is VERY upset by this proposal. We feel there are other suitable solutions that do not rob our community of a much needed resources. Low-income families, families without cars or yards, and seniors (University House) rely on this park EVERY DAY. Our community mental health relies heavily on it.</p> <p>I walk Lower Woodland park every week. There is a ton of underutilized space- at the gravel lot near 50th and Whitman and also at the old, rarely-used bocce ball court. A raised field above the Lincoln parking lot is also still a very feasible option that does not deprive the community of its park.</p> <p>PLEASE DO NOT rob this community of a vital resource. We will suffer.</p> <p>Here is the link to our petition. Attached is a 50 page document including as many of the comments as I've been able to collect to date. Stay tuned for more.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-wallingford-playfield-no-turf?fbclid=IwY2xjawFlN6xleHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHYPLINDDDTfp1Lc7s8pezLkA2MdgrfCYGsQECHHmj8iaol8x3ZXHEIS8ag_aem_GaoK7j9D5OqSDxPWH1prQ">https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-wallingford-playfield-no-turf?fbclid=IwY2xjawFlN6xleHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHYPLINDDDTfp1Lc7s8pezLkA2MdgrfCYGsQECHHmj8iaol8x3ZXHEIS8ag_aem_GaoK7j9D5OqSDxPWH1prQ</a></p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-30 00:00:00	<p>You have not addressed how girls teams will have equal access. If you're making a football field here because football players won't have access to Memorial during construction and don't have their own field- you're saying this is for football, which is also stated lower in the FAQ. This was clearly the argument at the community meeting where the need was around football players having to commute.</p> <p>Lincoln took out their football field and turned it into a parking lot - the solution you're proposing is a shortsighted bandaid which involves taking away a public park from the community, and younger co-ed teams, so that a boys football team doesn't have to commute off campus. This will inherently give a 5 million dollar resource, billed as an athletic resource for everyone, to boys football and then boys soccer in the spring because of their actual schedules. Even your FAQ says these other teams will have to still commute off campus.</p> <p>If we're talking equity and access and increased benefit to the community - Lincoln should turn the much larger parking lot (which could actually fit a whole football field) back into their home field, rather than taking away access from the community and reducing actual green space. This would be more of a benefit in the up-zone and with increased density (especially for low income housing) for community members who don't have backyards.</p> <p>This plan needs to slow down and consider the long term needs of Lincoln (who actually needs a full field), the impact on both younger Hamilton students and multigenerational community access, not to mention fiscal responsibility (it cannot make fiscal sense to "move" a brand new multimillion dollar taxpayer paid playground and regrade a public park, over simply removing asphalt on Lincoln's old field).</p> <p>I can't imagine teachers can't be negotiated with to provide a more logical and fiscally responsible solution here - by reverting the parking lot to a field and zoning parking sports for teachers around the school.</p> <p>Attached is a photo of how this field used to look, which is clearly more accessible and large enough for all student needs, which is not even the case with Wallingford park. This location on Lincoln's campus would also add more play space within the up-zone and benefit the whole community.</p>
2024-09-30 01:24:31	<p>I'm a Wallingford resident and SPS school parent (HIMS + Lincoln) strongly in favor of building the new field at Wallingford park. Demand for turf playfields is high. It is a shame that Lincoln and Hamilton sport teams need to commute across the city while their rivals have easy access to fields. I hope you can minimize the loss of major trees and would support moving the playground over removing major trees that are still healthy.</p>
2024-09-30 01:50:53	<p>I live near both the high school and the park. A new field for the high school and middle school to access would be such a huge upgrade for the community. I really hope this happens.</p>
2024-09-30 01:57:50	<p>I sincerely believe this would be a very bad move for the community. Scores and scores of people use that park every day for all kinds of activity and it has been the center of many families lies for many years. To stuff a football field in there, removing any possibility for community use would be a bad move</p>
2024-09-30 03:39:47	<p>100 percent against, Lincoln use.</p>



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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-30 09:13:04	<p>Hello - I strongly support adding a turf field for Lincoln High (and Hamilton!) at Wallingford playfield. The students should have access to a field that does not require them to bus to another location in the city when there is an option located so close.</p> <p>Other community users would benefit. My 6 year old's fall Saturday soccer games are a spectacle of kids tripping over dirt pock marks or sliding and twisting ankles in uneven mud. So long as Woodland Soccer Club could still stage their U6-U8 games there, I think all of those parents would also support turfing the park.</p> <p>However, I strongly advocate for placing the turf field on the south end of the park where it would not disturb the current playground and wading pool. That area, as well as the wooded area along the fencing behind it, is wonderful as it is. Rebuilding the playground to the south end of the park would mean losing mature trees that are part of the playground experience and the lovely natural hide and seek area the kids have now. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.</p>
2024-09-30 10:22:01	<p>Wallingford playfield is a highly used neighborhood facility that should not be changed to a school athletic field. Use the Lincoln parking lot or some less used piece of open space.</p>
2024-09-30 11:03:04	<p>I would like to express my strong support for the Lincoln Field project at Wallingford park. We have lived in Wallingford for 10 years and have always felt the park is underutilized given the poor grass condition, perfect for rolling your ankle while walking across or stepping in dog poop. I would welcome a new turf field to improve community park use and to support our local students. Not to mention, it would be a great amenity to drive enrollment in our public schools. It just doesn't make sense to bus kids to far away fields when it could exist within walking distance. Thank you for gathering input on this great project!</p>
2024-09-30 12:17:17	<p>I do not approve of using Seattle public parks for school athletic fields. The Seattle School District should not co-opt a public park for its use. Please find a school property to use for Lincoln High School's need for an athletic field.</p>
2024-09-30 12:53:35	<p>I was at the meeting in September (we got the flyer in the mail the following week, by the way), where the reasons for not considering alternative sites were listed. I don't think there's full enough appreciation for how much Wallingford park is used by the community. We were there 3-4 weeknights last week and there were 10-35 people there each night. Each of the plans limits the grass space to areas where 30 people would never be able to congregate - why is the potential use as a JV playing space considered to be a higher priority than maintaining a community use space? The presenters frequently commented that they were taking our concerns into account and that there would be community use of the space, but if it's listed as a reservable playing field for sports the only hours that it would be not reserved are before 8AM and after 10PM? That is not just not prioritizing community use, it's not even considering community use. Why not make the field smaller? Indeed, a JV team would have to play at an alternative location if they needed it for a game - but how do you balance that against fully shutting down an extremely active community park? Go to the park on a nice weekend and count the number of people there. Our kids are going to be at these schools in a few years - so it's not that we're not taking the school use into account, but they've spent far more hours there as community members than they will as students.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-30 13:51:15	<p>I have recently become aware of the plans to find an athletic training field for Lincoln High School and other schools in the Wallingford area. While there are many things about this plan that are exciting for the kids to give the girls and boys a place to practice their sports each day throughout the school year, I am concerned at how this process is being run.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is not nearly enough community engagement in Wallingford for a project that has the potential impact this project would create. Wether this is intentional or not, this seems last minute, rushed, and designed to put the community involvement at a disadvantage.</li> <li>2. The Wallingford Playfield is a CRITICAL part of the community in Wallingford. The diversity of usage for the community is compelling. On any given day, you might see people playing frisbee, catch with a football or baseball, joggers running around the edge of the field, family and friends having a gathering in the picnic area, parents racing RC cars with their kids, people flying kites, kids playing on the playground or splashing in the field and of course tennis and pickle ball on the courts. Add to this the value that this park has for dogs (which are plentiful in Wallingford) to stretch their legs, socialize with other dogs, and to get out of the house as we all continue to emerge in a more social post COVID world. This park is the great equalizer for gatherings in our community - inviting people of all ages, socio-economic backgrounds, and interests to convene and connect with other members of the community. While this may not be completely destroyed by this project it will be severely muted as the use cases and available timing will be more limited.</li> <li>3. It's not clear what the opportunity is for the community to "vote" on this issue and who actually has the final say in terms of the site and if this is going to be cited at Wallingford Playfield or some other site. It's not clear what the mechanism is to objectively look at the impact this will have on all of us in Wallingford. Listening sessions are good but they look performative at this point as if a conclusion has already been drawn.</li> </ol> <p>From my perspective, there are more compelling options (which were communicated in the first meeting with the community September 19th) including the conversion of the parking lot into a multi-use space of parking and playfield like we see in communities all around the country.</p> <p>Lastly, I would add, we are lifelong supporters of the public schools with our children both participating in athletics at public schools so we understand the need and positive impact so we are not opposed to the project at all. In fact, we are very supportive. What we are not supportive of is the approach and impact of putting the athletic field at the Wallingford Playfield location.</p>
2024-09-30 14:10:28	<p>I live only 3 blocks from Wallingford Park and love the idea of the artificial grass surface for the two schools to support Soccer, Ultimate, and Football. I would prefer a high end grass surface, but I realize the city doesn't have the capacity to maintain it.</p> <p>I think it is important to maintain some sort of a play structure and/or wading pool - my kids used these items from when they started walking until the outgrew them.</p> <p>I know there is a concern from neighbors about having a place to take their dogs - this drives me nuts because the dogs aren't supposed to be on these fields anyway. However, I wonder if there is space to add a fenced dog run on the north west side of the park? People are still going to try to run their dogs on the artificial surface and I'm still going to "yell" at them to leash their pets and remove the dogs, but the designated area may help.</p>
2024-09-30 15:04:47	<p>I vote for South Field layout.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-30 15:20:37	<p>I believe that renovating Wallingford Park to become a turf field is a bad idea and takes away public spaces from the community. I recognize that Lincoln needs more practice space for their teams, but do not think that this is a fair solution.</p> <p>As a high school coach I know how much time turf fields are used by officially sanctioned sports. Ballard high school field is monopolized by HS athletics from after school until 8 pm or later every weekday in Fall and Spring. Turning a public greenspace over to be used such a majority of the time by high school athletics is unfair to other community members. The FAQ response to this saying "If the field is located at Wallingford Playfield, it will remain open to the community outside of school hours. Seattle Parks will manage scheduling of the new turf field ensuring that both students and local residents can continue to enjoy this valuable public space. The rest of the park will continue to be available during normal hours once construction is complete." feels disingenuous knowing how much of it will be booked by the high school.</p> <p>Losing greenspace takes away from free third-places in the community. Without this green space local residents do not have somewhere to go and sit in a quiet green area. Never has someone chosen to go and have a picnic, or read a book, or sit in a lawn chair on a turf field. But often these things are done on natural grass surrounded by trees.</p> <p>I understand not building the field here impacts Lincoln athletics. However the greater negative impact to the surrounding community is far larger. Around 49% of high schoolers participate in HS athletics, and with a school population of just under 1700 that is 850 student athletes affected (including sports such as swim, basketball, volleyball, wrestling, etc that do not use field space). The most recent published census (2010) of Wallingford puts the population at 12,200. The needs of these 850 athletes should not be prioritized over the needs of the 12,200.  <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallingford,_Seattle#:~:text=As%20of%20the%202010%20U.S.,the%20city%20as%20a%20whole">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallingford,_Seattle#:~:text=As%20of%20the%202010%20U.S.,the%20city%20as%20a%20whole</a>.</p> <p><a href="https://www.niche.com/k12/lincoln-high-school-seattle-wa/">https://www.niche.com/k12/lincoln-high-school-seattle-wa/</a></p> <p><a href="https://usafacts.org/articles/are-fewer-kids-playing-sports/">https://usafacts.org/articles/are-fewer-kids-playing-sports/</a></p>
2024-09-30 16:08:35	<p>I'm a Wallingford neighbor and I am against the project to flatten and install an athletic field at Wallingford Park.</p> <p>Inclusion: My child is not of school age. We use Wallingford park almost daily. To full restrict this field to only school use would be a great loss to my son (and others like him) who are too young to go to school yet. We use the field for him to learn how to ride a bike, picnics, playing with soccer balls, swimming in the summer, and more! This construction would greatly restrict our use of this park which is our nearest walkable green space.</p> <p>Access: Schools intend to use the athletic field about 11 hours a day (8am-7pm). Other organized sports and the community will only be able to use the field after 7pm, and before the park closes at 10pm. If they can schedule at all, with all the groups who have been displaced looking for that time. It's already useable for the school, this construction project will make it ONLY useable for school-aged kids.</p> <p>Greenspace and climate: The artificial turf field will take up 85% of the existing green space -- trees, grass, bushes, gone. Our neighborhood must prioritize preserving green space for a population that is only increasing in density. Not everyone has a backyard or a tree. This would remove greenspace which helps future protect our neighborhood in face of rising temperatures due to climate change.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read this message and listen to my concerns.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-09-30 16:23:54	<p>I am writing to strongly protest the proposal of converting the Wallingford Play Field to a turf mixed use park. The community uses this almost 24/7 and converting it to be used for sports only would be a detriment to the community. The fact that a large parking lot exists where there used to be a field is the exact reason this should not move forward. We have plenty of parking around this high school and a great public transit system, there is a wealth of literature out there to support that more parking does not help with congestion and can be used for other uses such as green space for students and people.</p>
2024-09-30 18:35:38	<p>The very nature of this changes makes Wallingford playfield no longer a green space for the community but a high school turf field for hire. With the increase in density (single family homes to townhomes), we desperately need to protect our green community space. I have a 3 year old daughter that runs and plays on that grass. Changing it to turf that can be reserved will substantially change the nature of park with the immediate community ranking last behind Lincoln and recreation leagues. I'm strongly against the proposal.</p>
2024-09-30 22:08:31	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Wallingford park is a community stable and meeting space. I enjoy Wallingford park weekly and would be extremely saddened if this park were to be destroyed. I implore you to consider the community impact of destroying this park.</p> <p>Please,</p>
2024-10-01 00:00:00	<p>Dear Richard,</p> <p>I am a neighborhood resident and a former Seattle Schools parent. I strongly oppose demolishing Wallingford's one green space and removing some of Wallingford's only mature public trees to build a plastic field, from which the multi-generational public would be excluded at almost all times. Wallingford is already a heat island, and the mature trees and grass at Wallingford Playfield are some of the only public areas which are working to mitigate that heat. Not only does this proposal remove mature trees, but artificial turf contributes to the urban heat island effect. The negative effects of this proposal, including on current Lincoln and Hamilton students and their families, as well as other neighborhood residents far outweigh the single positive of creating a practice field for student athletes that could be located somewhere else. The park is heavily used by those schools' students already, and also by many other neighborhood residents. Seattle Schools (and Lincoln High School's proposal) would limit use of the field to only HS athletes for almost all park hours. It also would destroy habitat for birds, insects and bats, would take away the only open space where children who are not HS athletes can play in the neighborhood, would take away the only greenspace for dogs and their people (who outnumber parents in the neighborhood), etc. This would be a tragic, unrecoverable loss for a neighborhood already short on greenspace.</p> <p>Perhaps Lincoln needs a practice field. But, as many people have suggested, redeveloping their parking lot (!) would actually add rather than take away from the neighborhood. I believe that a better location for a practice field could be found, although I also wonder, as the former parent of a HS swimmer, if schools continuing to share fields (much as they share swimming pools) isn't a better use of EXTREMELY limited school district, park, and city resources than constructing a new field at this time.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>

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2024-10-01 00:00:00	<p>Hi, I wanted to share my support for the field changes at Wallingford park/new Lincoln field. I have two young children and live about 1/2 a mile away. But I avoid going to the park because of the amount of off lease dogs that run up to my kids, the muddy field much of the year and the human feaces and trash that are commonly around the play area.</p> <p>For my kids that will go to Hamilton and Lincoln, I would be happy for them to have an improved field to use. Allowing them to have similar advantages to other schools around in the PE and sports opportunities. Exercise and outside time is important and especially necessary for city kids that don't have as many regular options to be outside as other areas.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
2024-10-01 01:06:07	<p>Wallingford Playfield is incredibly important for the residents of the neighborhood, as an open green space available to the community for a wide variety of activities. A closed and scheduled turf field takes away most of its value to the community, and leaves countless residents (who have small yards or none at all) with no nearby green space. Please pursue other options for finding sports fields for Lincoln and Hamilton.</p>
2024-10-01 13:49:05	<p>My name is Chris McPoland. I was an educator in SPS for 15 years, and I've lived in Wallingford since 1978. My concerns regarding Seattle Parks give-away of control of our central neighborhood gathering and green space to SPS are as follow:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Even cork-substrate synthetic turf fields have "grass" blades that are composed of polyethylene (86.3%) and polypropylene, plastics which accounted for up to 15% of meso- and macroplastics found in river and sea surface waters, resulting from runoff (see: Environmental Pollution Vol. 334, from Oct 2023). This plastic field would replace and smother the living soil - an eco system which supports the health of the surrounding trees and shrubs. Cork vs. rubber pellet substrate can only mitigate the heat dome effect, not do away with it.</li> <li>2. In the unlikely scenario where you would actually have room to plant 3 trees for every mature tree removed because of lack of space, those that survive the plastic environment would not be mature for about 20 years and so do not truly "replace" our parks removed trees. The point of a park is to have a preserve of nature in our community to be enjoyed by all of us living in the middle of an urban environment.</li> <li>3. Our neighborhood has seen an explosion of removal of single family homes with yards being replaced by townhouses and apartments with no yards. Where will these families be taking their children to play in a natural green space - to Wallingford Athletic Field but only after dark? Let's see the proposed schedule with times of day noted for public access to the park after SPS has exclusive use for the full school day and for after school practice also.</li> <li>4. If the field doesn't fit without removing and relocating the wading pool and new play structures and restrooms (and trees?) to a different corner, then, umm, it doesn't fit. Meridian Field has been discounted due to "displacement of character &amp; current use" - but the same holds true for Wallingford Playfield. The clear candidate should be Woodland #7 - a complex with parking and amenities already (not a change of character or use). At the September 19 community meeting, the neighbors suggested looking at an unused field at Gasworks Park, and Mr Bass agreed facilities would take a look. When will we see the results and conclusions of that?</li> <li>5. Artificial turf has a useful life of only 8 to 12 years and due to the economics is not recycled (Environmental Pollution Oct 2022) so it will likely end up in a landfill. Having to replace it is costly and wasteful. A repaired drainage system and installation of natural turf would also require maintenance and money but not be permanently polluting.</li> <li>6. SPS says that an environmental study will be done, yet proposes starting construction in April. Will the results be public before the contract is signed?</li> </ol>

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	<p>The field Lincoln currently uses won't be available for the 3 years following the current academic year. This looks like a hasty decision resulting from poor planning, without regard to the future permanent consequences.</p>
<p>2024-10-01 14:17:43</p>	<p>I am a neighborhood resident and a former Seattle Schools parent. I strongly oppose demolishing Wallingford's one green space and removing some of Wallingford's only mature public trees to build a plastic field, from which the public would be excluded at almost all times. I am sympathetic to the idea that Lincoln needs a practice field. But, as many people have suggested, redeveloping their parking lot (!) would actually add rather than take away from the neighborhood. Wallingford is already a heat island, and the mature trees and grass at Wallingford Playfield are some of the only public areas which are working to mitigate that heat. Not only does this proposal remove mature trees, but artificial turf contributes to the urban heat island effect. The negative effects of this proposal, including on current Lincoln and Hamilton students and their families, as well as other neighborhood residents far outweigh the single positive of creating a practice field for student athletes that could be located somewhere else.</p>
<p>2024-10-01 15:00:19</p>	<p>I hate all the NIMBY's who want the muddy torn-up grass field to stay "for everyone" and don't want a turf field for the two schools right there.</p> <p>As long as you don't fence off the field and people could use it when not in use, please build it.</p> <p>I live in Wallingford and have a child who's a ways away from going to Lincoln but nonetheless I fully support it.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-01 15:53:18	<p>Do not use precious open space so needed by the community.</p> <p>The proposed field will take over the Wallingford park open space and prevent access to an essential community resource, remove critical tree canopy and prevent the addition of more tree canopy so needed to keep our city livable.</p> <p>Putting a lid on the parking area north of the high school makes a great deal of sense, as it will provide shade and protection for the cars and make a two-fold use of the land area.</p>
2024-10-01 16:18:59	<p>Hello, I am writing to express my hope that Seattle Public School will NOT put an athletic field at Wallingford Playfield. It would take away an important community green space that is heavily used by kids, seniors, and community groups. Put the athletic field somewhere else!</p>
2024-10-01 16:48:26	<p>I have been reading about the project to construct an athletic field at wallingford playfield. I live less than a block away from this park and walk or jog on the dirt path that encircles the field multiple times a week. If the athletic field is constructed, will there still be a walking path circling the field? Will that path still be open to the public during events? Thank you!</p>
2024-10-01 18:48:34	<p>If you put a turf field it will be covered in dog waste quickly. Please put in a dog park at Wallingford playfield.</p>
2024-10-01 19:29:15	<p>Hello, my name is , and I am a resident of Wallingford, living just five blocks from the playfield. I have concerns about the proposed plan to add a turf field and remove a significant amount of green space from the existing playfield. I believe the reasoning behind this decision feels rushed and counterproductive. While I understand the need for a temporary field during the 2-3 years that Memorial Stadium is under construction, I oppose permanently relocating student athletics to the playfield. This decision would not only increase light pollution but also reduce open access for most of the community throughout the day. Additionally, the environmental impact of removing mature trees and installing plastic turf is troubling.</p> <p>I would be happy to discuss my concerns further if you're interested. Thank you for taking the time to read my comment.</p>
2024-10-01 19:35:52	<p>I would like to provide some input as a longtime community member and neighbor of Lincoln High School. I have lived right across the street from Lincoln for years, and have loved living in such a lively, kind, calm neighborhood. Wallingford Playfield is an important community gathering spot for families, students, friend circles, pet owners, and after-school groups. The block offers a peaceful retreat for thousands of neighbors and community members, and I believe it would be an incredibly sad disservice to all its loyal members to transform it into a sporting arena outfitted with fake grass, bright floodlights, loud speakers, and a major influx of cars looking for parking spots. I urge decision makers to consider a different spot for this exciting project, somewhere that can comfortably accommodate this. Thank you.</p>
2024-10-01 19:35:52	<p>I would like to provide some input as a longtime community member and neighbor of Lincoln High School. I have lived right across the street from Lincoln for years, and have loved living in such a lively, kind, calm neighborhood. Wallingford Playfield is an important community gathering spot for families, students, friend circles, pet owners, and after-school groups. The block offers a peaceful retreat for thousands of neighbors and community members, and I believe it would be an incredibly sad disservice to all its loyal members to transform it into a sporting arena outfitted with fake grass, bright floodlights, loud speakers, and a major influx of cars looking for parking spots. I urge decision makers to consider a different spot for this exciting project, somewhere that can comfortably accommodate this. Thank you.</p>
2024-10-01 20:36:56	<p>I am opposed to a new Lincoln HS Athletic Field being built at the Wallingford Playfield. Undoubtedly, this location is optimal, since it is the closest to the school. However, the current green space, children's play area and wading pool are well utilized by children, families and adults of all ages. Their hours of usage do not necessarily coincide with Lincoln HS's plan to have it reserved during their school day and after school as well. There has been a rejuvenation of families with young children choosing to live in Wallingford. They need a place where these pre-school-age children can run around safely, as well as play on the equipment and use the wading pool during the day in the summer. Elementary children need a safe green space to run around after they finish their school day, as well. I am also concerned that the wading pool will not be replaced if it is removed, due to the expense and a resulting lack of space to accommodate one. From a public health perspective, Wallingford needs Wallingford Playfield to remain open and available to</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>its increasing residents throughout the day. Green space is not a luxury; it is a necessity for mental and physical health. I am disappointed that the need for an athletic field was not addressed during the renovation of Lincoln HS and hope you will decide on a different solution.</p>
<p>2024-10-01 22:25:05</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm very concerned about the plans to convert Wallingford Playfield into an artificial turf playing field. The park is a wonderful place for neighbors and community members to gather and a landmark of the area. We are in the Lincoln High School district and my son is likely to play sports on the field, but I still oppose this plan because it comes at the expense of this wonderful playground and park. Please do not move forward with this plan.</p>
<p>2024-10-02 00:00:00</p>	<p>Hi Paige,</p> <p>Can you help me understand why it is OK to try to steal wallingford park from hundreds of residents that use the park every day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is the ONLY park in Wallingford.</li> <li>- Lincoln high-school planned to build such a facility on-site, but seniors did not want to lose parking...so they wasted their own space on a parking lot</li> <li>- the school promised the community (after their planking lot priority decision) to NOT take over Wallingford park any longer.</li> <li>- the school clearly lied through their teeth.</li> </ul> <p>Why are you not holding the school to their word?</p> <p>Why do you think that a few spoiled football players should get to take the only park from an entire neighborhood?</p> <p>Love to hear your excuses for this action!!</p>



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-02 00:00:00	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I live in the Lincoln High School district and right near Wallingford Playfield. I wanted to share my concern and opposition to the planned changes at Wallingford Playfield. This park is a wonderful place for neighbors and community members to gather and a landmark of the neighborhood. I am opposed to this development as the athletic field/artificial turf will remove 85% of the existing green space, limit the use of the area to primarily school use, create more light, noise, and parking disruption. There are many more in the community than just high school students and in the high density area of Seattle the park/area should serve more than just a select group.</p> <p>Please consider alternate options as this plan will leave a permanent scar on this community and create a loss that cannot be undone.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
2024-10-02 00:00:00	<p>I just heard about the school districts plan to turn Wallingford Park into an enormous astroturf play field. I am bitterly opposed. The park is used by the entire neighborhood. I walk there every day and love seeing people playing frisbee, children playing on the grass, people practicing tai chi. I love its big trees. It's a beloved urban oasis, that should be kept for the entire neighborhood to use.</p>
2024-10-02 00:00:00	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm writing to inform you that our petition to prevent Wallingford Playfield from being taken over by the Lincoln High School Football team has grown to 300 signatures and has 129 comments in opposition. The reaction on our neighborhood Facebook community page has been overwhelmingly negative.</p> <p>Regardless of the athletics levy, the optics of this are terrible- as SPS aims to close 20 elementary schools, it has the funding to install a regulation size JV football field, taking over a beloved community park.</p> <p>I have included the 30+ comments that have been posted since my last email to you that include a 50 page document of all of the opposing commentary I've compiled from this petition and Facebook thus far.</p> <p>Our neighborhood feels betrayed by SPS and the Seattle Parks Department. Please find an alternative solution to this problem.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-wallingford-playfield-no-turf?fbclid=IwY2xjawFlN6xleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHYPLINDDDTfp1Lc7s8pezLkA2MdgrfCYGsQECHHmj8iaoL8x3ZXHEIS8ag_aem_GaoK7j9D5OqSDxPWH1prQ">https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-wallingford-playfield-no-turf?fbclid=IwY2xjawFlN6xleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHYPLINDDDTfp1Lc7s8pezLkA2MdgrfCYGsQECHHmj8iaoL8x3ZXHEIS8ag_aem_GaoK7j9D5OqSDxPWH1prQ</a></p> <p>Thank you for your time, Wallingford resident</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-02 00:00:00	<p>My husband and I live in the Wallingford neighborhood and bought our home here 29 years ago. Our house is only 2 blocks away from the Wallingford Park and we use it every day, walking our dog or playing pickleball on the tennis courts. As you may now be aware, Seattle Public School (SPS) has a plan to convert Wallingford Park (43rd &amp; Wallingford) into a full-sized artificially turfed football/soccer field, primarily intended for high school athletic practice and games. They intend to submit this plan to Seattle Parks &amp; Rec, and to start bidding and construction in April 2025.</p> <p>This plan would essentially eliminate easy, close access to a public park to our many neighbors (i.e. the public). We are outraged at the suggested plan, especially when we learned of the history of Seattle Public Schools and their prior commitments to Wallingford neighbors. At a time when the city is encouraging more density, we cannot afford to LOSE access to public spaces. The city should be thinking of how to build more public parks, vs. eliminating one. The new townhouses and apartment buildings springing up all around Wallingford and other neighborhoods in Seattle don't have yards or much, if any, vegetation, making the Wallingford park even more critical. The park is already well used by students at Hamilton Middle School and Lincoln High School for a variety of activities. It is also regularly used by several day care centers who routinely bring the toddlers to the park. The playfield is also a meeting place for many of the neighbors - with or without kids or pets.</p> <p>Other concerns with this proposal are the loss of green space with live grass and fully grown trees surrounding the park. The SPS plan would remove the grass and replace grown trees with saplings. Artificial turf has a negative environmental impact and a negative impact on people who play sports on the artificial turf.</p> <p>The field would be fenced and use or access to the football field would be significantly limited to the general public. The proposed plan prioritizes school athletics, displacing community use out of proportion to the community's presence and need. This proposal is counter to Seattle Parks and Recreation Mission Statement: "Seattle Parks and Recreation equips employees and the public for well-being as we support healthy people, a thriving environment and vibrant community. We provide safe and accessible spaces for residents and visitors to work, recreate, rejuvenate and enhance quality of life and wellness for children, teenagers, adults and seniors."</p> <p>Please weigh in on this proposal and support the neighborhood vs. an athletic field. There are better options than eliminating a public park.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-02 00:00:00	<p>Dear Paige,</p> <p>I am reaching out in hope you can advocate for the thousands of people against Seattle Public Schools proposal to get rid of the Wallingford Park. SPS wants to flatten Wallingford Park and replace it with a full-sized artificial turf football field primarily for student athletic use.</p> <p>The school district claims they are doing “public engagement” but have failed to let Wallingford residents know about public meetings before they happen (most residents getting no notices at all, or notices over a week after meetings occur). Because of this, I believe that SPS is not getting an accurate picture of the community’s opinions on this plan, by intentionally and selectively polling specific people that only support this plan, and failing to give the opportunity to hear opinions of those that do not.</p> <p>If there is anything you can do to help make our voices heard by SPS, we would really appreciate it! We would appreciate these public engagement meetings be made accessible to all, and are very open to the option to make this decision based on a vote of the ENTIRE community. Please hear our concerns!</p> <p>Best,          “This is a profound health equity issue: the removal of a neighborhood, natural, free play exacerbates the growing divide between who has access to enjoy the health benefits of physical activity and who does not and leaves lower income Wallingford families with no access to affordable public play space.”          -Wallingford resident on faculty at the University of Washington’s Center for Leadership in Athletics. Former leader of the King County Play Equity Coalition.</p> <p>Why preserve Wallingford Park rather than install a full-sized football field?          Here are some of our objections to the proposed artificial turf athletic field:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Displaces current multigenerational neighborhood use. The park is already home to many uses, including picnics, meetings, pickup field games, practice, theater, Frisbee, tai-chi, dance, and more, by people of all ages and backgrounds. The proposed plan narrows usability from a broad demographic to primary use by student athletes.</li> <li>2. Loss of green space. The sizing diagrams for this plan show that the artificial turf field will take up 85% of the existing green space — trees, grass, bushes, gone. Our neighborhood must prioritize preserving green space for a population that is only increasing in density. Not everyone has a backyard or a tree. This would remove greenspace.</li> <li>3. Environmental impact. Artificial turf is not the same as grass, and has environmental impact. We will see a loss of canopy as significant trees are removed. Young trees require decades to provide shade and habitat for local wildlife.</li> <li>4. This park already serves the schools. The schools are already using this park for PE and practice. This proposal gives them nearly exclusive use of a field designed primarily for athletics rather than open and general use.</li> <li>5. Plan prioritizes school athletics. This plan gives nearly all the park other than playground and tennis courts over to Varsity Football, Varsity Soccer, and JV games, displacing community use out of proportion to the community’s presence and need.</li> <li>6. Restricted hours, with heavy school use. Schools intend to use the athletic field about 11 hours a day (8am-7pm). Other organized sports and the community will only be able to use the field after 7pm, and before the park closes at 10pm. If they can schedule at all, with all the groups who have been displaced looking for that time.</li> <li>7. Children will lose essential park activities. This proposal favors the needs of student athletes at the expense of other local children. Children use the park now, beyond merely the playground. Kids like to run, to kick and throw balls, to ride their bikes — and they need a safe space to do so. This plan would eliminate the park for the use of children outside the limited playground area. This includes neighborhood daycare and preschools that rely on the</li> </ol>

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	<p>park's open space.</p> <p>8. The community will lose open access, both in time and square footage. Open space for adults and children to play, and enjoyment of greenspace, is appropriate and legitimate use of a park. A toddler walking on grass should not need to schedule time.</p> <p>9. Sound and light pollution. We are assured that field lighting won't spill out into the neighborhood. (Do neighbors in Greenlake want to weigh in on their experience with Woodland Park Playfield?) Even if true, this position discounts park uses like sunset and star-gazing. Sound pollution from games and evening practices will certainly impact neighbors for blocks around.</p> <p>10. The Park must be maintained. Could the grassy field be better maintained than it has been these last few years? Yes! We all want that. We ask that Parks &amp; Rec resume maintaining the field properly as it has in times past. But flattening the park – removing grass, trees, and greenspace, then covering it over with plastic – is not the answer.</p> <p>11. This proposal is counter to Seattle Parks &amp; Rec (SPR) Mission Statement: "Seattle Parks and Recreation equips employees and the public for well-being as we support healthy people, a thriving environment and vibrant community. We provide safe and accessible spaces for residents and visitors to work, recreate, rejuvenate and enhance quality of life and wellness for children, teenagers, adults and seniors." We contend that this artificial turf proposal would buy convenience for student athletes at the expense of the wellness of children, non-athlete teenagers, adults, and seniors. Is this consistent with SPR's mission?</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-02 00:00:00	<p>Hello Ms. McGeHee,</p> <p>I'm writing to convey my concern and opposition to the planned changes at Wallingford Playfield. This park is a wonderful place for neighbors and community members to gather and a landmark of the neighborhood. We are in Lincoln High School district and my son plays athletics so he/we are likely to use the field. Nevertheless, we are still opposed to this development as the athletic field/artificial turf will remove 85% of the existing green space and limit the use of the area to primarily school use. There are many more in the community than just high school students and in the high density area of Seattle the park/area should serve more than just a select group.</p> <p>We urge you to listen to the community and consider other options. Thank you!</p>
2024-10-02 00:34:24	<p>I'm writing to express my concern over the plans to dramatically change the beloved neighborhood gem that is the Wallingford Playfield. As an 8-year resident of the neighborhood, I've personally enjoyed the park almost daily as a place to rest, meet my neighbors, and sink my feet into the grass. It currently serves a wide variety of people for a wide variety of uses from children's soccer to family picnics and Shakespeare in the Park. Turning the park into a turfed athletic field would take this space away from all the people who live here for the benefit of only a few, and this feels profoundly unfair.</p> <p>Furthermore the destruction of the grass and trees only add to the growing heat problems our city faces in the summers and limits our access to the green and growing environments that help us maintain physical and mental well-being. Wallingford is growing as much needed housing is being developed, and our new neighbors will also need a place to play and relax, not an off-limits plastic field with glaring floodlights.</p> <p>I want to express my position and the heartfelt wish that these plans won't go through.</p> <p>Best,</p>
2024-10-02 13:23:09	<p>Please reconsider using this beloved park for Lincoln High School's proposed athletic field. My husband and I have seen our kids grow up using the park and we still use it almost daily now.</p> <p>Seattle needs to step up—taking our urban environment seriously: preserving and creating green space, protecting old trees, and safeguarding equal access to community resources that contribute so much to everyone's quality of life.</p>
2024-10-02 14:20:08	<p>I favor having a field constructed at Wallingford so long as it doesn't require moving the current wading pool and play structures. Use by both Lincoln and Hamilton is supported.</p> <p>I seem to recall, but perhaps not correctly, that originally the SPS in the 1990s indicated that if Lincoln was opened it would not use the Wallingford park. I favored opening Lincoln then and support the school being open in Wallingford. It would be good to clarify however what the original commitment was. If this is a change I am still in support.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-02 15:49:39	<p>My husband and I live in the Wallingford neighborhood and bought our home here 29 years ago. Our house is only 2 blocks away from the Wallingford Park and we use it every day, walking our dog or playing pickleball on the tennis courts. As you may now be aware, Seattle Public School (SPS) has a plan to convert Wallingford Park (43rd &amp; Wallingford) into a full-sized artificially turfed football/soccer field, primarily intended for high school athletic practice and games. They intend to submit this plan to Seattle Parks &amp; Rec, and to start bidding and construction in April 2025.</p> <p>This plan would essentially eliminate easy, close access to a public park to our many neighbors (i.e. the public). We are outraged at the suggested plan, especially when we learned of the history of Seattle Public Schools and their prior commitments to Wallingford neighbors. At a time when the city is encouraging more density, we cannot afford to LOSE access to public spaces. The city should be thinking of how to build more public parks, vs. eliminating one. The new townhouses and apartment buildings springing up all around Wallingford and other neighborhoods in Se attle don't have yards or much, if any, vegetation, making the Wallingford park even more critical. The park is already well used by students at Hamilton Middle School and Lincoln High School for a variety of activities. It is also regularly used by several day care centers who routinely bring the toddlers to the park. The playfield is also a meeting place for many of the neighbors - with or without kids or pets.</p> <p>Other concerns with this proposal are the loss of green space with live grass and fully grown trees surrounding the park. The SPS plan would remove the grass and replace grown trees with saplings. Artificial turf has a negative environmental impact and a negative impact on people who play sports on the artificial turf.</p> <p>The field would be fenced and use or access to the football field would be significantly limited to the general public. The proposed plan prioritizes school athletics, displacing community use out of proportion to the community's presence and need. This proposal is counter to Seattle Parks and Recreation Mission Statement: "Seattle Parks and Recreation equips employees and the public for well-being as we support healthy people, a thriving environment and vibrant community. We provide safe and accessible spaces for residents and visitors to work, recreate, rejuvenate and enhance quality of life and wellness for children, teenagers, adults and seniors."</p> <p>Please weigh in on this proposal and support the neighborhood vs. an athletic field. There are better options than eliminating a public park.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
2024-10-02 18:35:09	<p>Hi, I am writing to explain that I will have to boycott the proposal at the city level and organize the protest if the turf program will be proposed. This park is used by kids, adults, by nearby daycares and summer programs and by elderly Tai chi classes. Proposal would mean that this space would essentially be closed to the neighborhood permanently prioritising athletes and it's not something that neighborhood would allow. Just make the park usable with the existing space and level it so that water is not concentrated on the lower parts of the field.</p>
2024-10-02 18:46:56	<p>I live in the area see this park used by the entire neighborhood — turning it into an athletic field does nothing for those in the community.... Consider taking your parking lot and using it as a field (as it was in the past).</p> <p>This park is for multi purpose ... with several condos and townhomes also being added — there is no greenspace ... we need that. A public park should not be used solely for the school</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-02 20:04:19	<p>Hello</p> <p>My name is Hamoon and I am a Wallingford resident for the last 21 years.</p> <p>I was informed that Seattle Schools plans to convert Wallingford park to a football/soccer field. This park is barely big enough to accommodate such a field. Our neighborhood cannot afford traffic stemming from games played in a football field.</p> <p>As our city becomes more densely populated, we will need open/park space to support wellbeing of those living here. Residents have picnic here and take rest under the trees. This park currently serves multiple purpose and is well suited for our community. Please reconsider your plan.</p> <p>Regards,</p>
2024-10-02 22:37:02	<p>When Lincoln remodeled, the plan was for a football field on the school grounds. Senior students had a temper tantrum because they would lose parking, so the field was kept as parking.</p> <p>The school promised to NOT pursue a field at wally playfield..</p> <p>As usual with government entities, that was obviously a blatant lie.</p> <p>Wallingford playfield is for residents of this neighborhood, It is used by hundreds of local residents every day. Every use you can imagine. It is the ONLY park in all of wallingford!a</p> <p>It is NOT for spoiled rich families to take away from the larger community, to meet the selfish needs of a few.</p> <p>Shame on all of you self-serving A-holes!</p>
2024-10-02 22:50:01	<p>I am concerned with SPS's plan to replace the majority of Wallingford Park with a turf sports field. Currently, the park is a vital space that serves people of all ages for a wide range of activities. Families bring their children to play in the field and the playground, older adults use the park for walks, and people often relax in the open space on the rare nice Seattle spring day. Replacing this park with a turf field would significantly limit the space's flexibility and prevent many of these activities from taking place.</p> <p>While I understand the value of sports facilities, I believe that this decision overlooks the importance of accessible, natural green spaces for everyone. A turf field is not an equivalent replacement for a natural park, as it does not offer the same opportunities for diverse, informal recreation or support for environmental health. In addition, the heavy scheduling of the field for school activities will prevent the community from using the field.</p> <p>Given the massive population growth in Seattle, we should be looking for ways to create new green spaces, not replacing them.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-02 22:53:20	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I live in the Lincoln High School district and right near Wallingford Playfield. I wanted to share my concern and opposition to the planned changes at Wallingford Playfield. This park is a wonderful place for neighbors and community members to gather and a landmark of the neighborhood. I am opposed to this development as the athletic field/artificial turf will remove 85% of the existing green space, limit the use of the area to primarily school use, create more light, noise, and parking disruption. There are many more in the community than just high school students and in the high density area of Seattle the park/area should serve more than just a select group.</p> <p>Please consider alternate options as this plan will leave a permanent scar on this community and create a loss that cannot be undone.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
2024-10-03 00:00:00	<p>I'm writing as a community member who really wants to keep Wallingford Playfield, and not see it turned over to Lincoln HS for a football field with little to no public access. We already have very little green space in the blocks near our home. Going to Gasworks or Woodland Park isn't always feasible.</p> <p>We enjoy this park throughout the year, meeting other members of the community, making new friends, getting exercise and fresh air. We also watch the 4th of July fireworks from here each year and have for nearly 20 years. It would be devastating to lose this beautiful resource. Please consider other options for a football field that would really only positively impact junior high and high schoolers, and mostly boys.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>



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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-10-03 00:00:00</p>	<p>Dear Paige McGeHee,</p> <p>I am writing as a neighbor of Lincoln High School and a frequent user of Wallingford Playfield to express my concerns about the proposed athletic field at the park. While I support the need for athletic facilities for Lincoln High, I am deeply concerned about the significant impact this project would have on the park and the surrounding community.</p> <p>The proposed field would occupy approximately 85% of the park's green space, displacing a wide range of community activities. Although it has been stated that the playground and wading pool areas will remain, this proposal fails to address the extensive elimination of open green space currently used for picnics, Frisbee, children's free play, and general community gatherings. This open, accessible space is essential to the multigenerational use of the park. The replacement of grass with artificial turf, which would primarily serve scheduled and reserved school activities, limits casual and spontaneous public use of the park. School use is prioritized during school hours, extending into the evening until 7 p.m., leaving only limited time for other organized teams and community activities, often as late as 7-10 p.m.</p> <p>In addition, the removal of mature, likely Exceptional trees will drastically change the park's character and environmental quality. Replacing these trees with saplings will not immediately offset the loss of canopy or habitat.</p> <p>Given these concerns, I strongly encourage Seattle Public Schools and Parks &amp; Rec to explore alternative locations. The north parking area of Lincoln High School could accommodate a field, either in place of or on a lid over the parking lot, preserving the park's open space for the community. Alternatively, the unused area at Lower Woodland Park offers ample space for a full-sized athletic field without sacrificing valuable community resources at Wallingford Playfield.</p> <p>I hope these alternatives will be seriously considered to meet both the school's needs and preserve the essential recreational and environmental benefits of Wallingford Playfield.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-03 00:47:51	<p>Hello,</p> <p>As a parent and community member in Wallingford, who's children have grown up playing at Wallingford park as young children and now as young adults in their twenties, we want to express our desire to keep Wallingford Park as a community playfield. My son's played sports throughout high school and one in University.</p> <p>It is a challenge to find space for sports but the original creative design for Lincoln High school over top of the parking lot was a positive and creative idea. That was five years ago when Lincoln said they would not impact Wallingford park but now they want to create a turf field that does not include playspace for the community. A full size turf field with lights in a community that does not have a recreation center or green space outside of this one park.</p> <p>Children at John Stanford Elementary do not have green space, and families and children would and still do, meet up at the park to play after school</p> <p>I support athletics and a need to space, that is why the Queen Anne bowl is such a great offering for this High School that has known they would have to travel to a location off campus for practice and games.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
2024-10-03 10:05:42	<p>I urge you to consider another space for a sports field. There are many reasons to not subsume this park; here are just a few:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-It is our neighborhood gathering space. Wallingford, unlike UDistrict, Queen Anne and Ballard, has no Community Center. That park is it. We have birthday parties there, all manner of play and games, outdoor Shakespeare plays, and when it snows the tiny sloped area is where little ones can safely sled. Dave Matthews taught his girls to ride bikes there. It is our epicenter and only place to congregate.</li> <li>-It is the defacto space where people run their dogs. Regardless of rules and signage, regrettably it's just a fact I see every single day. How will you guard against this? Fully fence and lock it? Not a good look.</li> <li>-Removing open green space and trees and laying out artificial surfaces is never a wise decision, long term. Full stop.</li> </ul> <p>Please do not remove our small spot of open space, beautiful trees and our neighborhood nexus. It is the wrong decision.</p>
2024-10-03 12:13:06	<p>Please do not go forward with the turf field at Wallingford Park. The grass field is already used for soccer games for kids and there are turf fields already built that are not far away at lower woodland park. This project would introduce a lot of unnecessary microplastics into the area and would reduce the tree cover as well as removing a highly used park from the neighborhood.</p>
2024-10-03 12:19:12	<p>Please do not tear down the playground and wading pools at the Wallingford Playfields. Please do not flatten the hill and uproot the grass to replace it with turf. There are athletic fields 5 mins away at Woodlawn Park. The park is perfect as is and is used lovingly and frequently by the local community. Instead use the money to keep schools open!</p>
2024-10-03 14:32:24	<p>We visit this park with our kids every week! Please do not take away this community resource!</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-03 15:36:51	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Im writing as a resident of Wallingford and I support converting Wallingford playfield to a turf field! This would be a great use of the space and make our neighborhood a great place to be. Seattle needs more turf fields and I think this is a great idea!</p> <p>Best,</p>
2024-10-03 16:41:03	<p>I am writing as a neighbor of Lincoln High School and a frequent user of Wallingford Playfield to express my concerns about the proposed athletic field at the park. While I support the need for athletic facilities for Lincoln High, I am deeply concerned about the significant impact this project would have on the park and the surrounding community.</p> <p>The proposed field would occupy approximately 85% of the park's green space, displacing a wide range of community activities. Although it has been stated that the playground and wading pool areas will remain, this proposal fails to address the extensive elimination of open green space currently used for picnics, Frisbee, children's free play, and general community gatherings. This open, accessible space is essential to the multigenerational use of the park. The replacement of grass with artificial turf, which would primarily serve scheduled and reserved school activities, limits casual and spontaneous public use of the park. School use is prioritized during school hours, extending into the evening until 7 p.m., leaving only limited time for other organized teams and community activities, often as late as 7-10 p.m.</p> <p>In addition, the removal of mature, likely Exceptional trees will drastically change the park's character and environmental quality. Replacing these trees with saplings will not immediately offset the loss of canopy or habitat.</p> <p>Given these concerns, I strongly encourage Seattle Public Schools and Parks &amp; Rec to explore alternative locations. The north parking area of Lincoln High School could accommodate a field, either in place of or on a lid over the parking lot, preserving the park's open space for the community. Alternatively, the unused area at Lower Woodland Park offers ample space for a full-sized athletic field without sacrificing valuable community resources at Wallingford Playfield.</p> <p>I hope these alternatives will be seriously considered to meet both the school's needs and preserve the essential recreational and environmental benefits of Wallingford Playfield.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2024-10-03 21:07:48	<p>As a neighbor who visits this park 3-4x a week with my active toddler, I vehemently oppose this plan. The school takeover will remove the only safe green space we have within walking distance to let my toddler run like the wind. Restore the often vacant school parking lot to its former role as a field, resurface the high schools giant front yard, convert the middle school basketball courts to multipurpose, buy one of the many vacant lots on 45th- but whatever you do, leave community green space to the community.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-03 22:22:02	<p>I understand that the schools need sports fields. Sports are a key part of growing up, and a really important way for kids in the city to spend time outside. Similarly, though, parks are a key part of kid's playtime, particularly when they are younger.</p> <p>I think it's appropriate that Wallingford Park become something that can be used by the schools. I do not, however, think either of the proposed plans effectively share the park space with everyone else.</p> <p>It must be possible to make a practice field that is somewhat smaller than the proposals. The existing maps show the corner of the field either eclipsing the play structures entirely or abutting them so closely that football practice will chase out the little kids.</p> <p>Please don't move forward with either of the current plans. Please create more options that more equitably share the space.</p> <p>Wallingford Resident and Parent</p>
2024-10-03 23:16:10	Your website convinced me. Mostly I would like to prevent more BUSSING to other locations. Please try to keep as many trees as possible.

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-04 00:00:00	<p>o Hello again,</p> <p>We continue to gather signatures on our petition to save Wallingford Playfield from being taken over by Lincoln athletics. Lincoln High needs to find a solution that does not hurt the community that surrounds and supports it. Every day the Wallingford Park Alliance speaks with park users who are shocked and upset to hear that Lincoln wants to take over our park. The school promised the neighborhood they would not do this and we feel betrayed. WE ARE YOUR COMMUNITY! Many good alternatives exist.</p> <p>-Wallingford Park Alliance  <a href="https://wallingfordparkalliance.org/">https://wallingfordparkalliance.org/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-wallingford-playfield-no-turf?fbclid=IwY2xjawFlN6xleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHYPLINDDDTfp1Lc7s8pezLkA2MdgrfCYGsQECHHmj8iaolL8x3ZXHEIS8ag_aem_GaoK7Ij9D5OqSDxPWH1prQ">https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-wallingford-playfield-no-turf?fbclid=IwY2xjawFlN6xleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHYPLINDDDTfp1Lc7s8pezLkA2MdgrfCYGsQECHHmj8iaolL8x3ZXHEIS8ag_aem_GaoK7Ij9D5OqSDxPWH1prQ</a></p> <p>Here are the latest comments that have come in over the past two days:</p> <p>§ Yasmine United States            Oct 04, 2024            Keep the park public!</p> <p>§ Leslie Taylor United States            Oct 04, 2024            No football field!</p> <p>§ remy mann Belgium            Oct 04, 2024            PLEASE do not take away this space the wallingford community needs green space.</p> <p>§ Mary Fleenor United States            Oct 04, 2024            It should stay a community park. Rip up the parking lot that used to be the field</p> <p>§ Anonymous United States            Oct 04, 2024            kind of cringe bro</p> <p>Nicole Radstrom United States            Oct 04, 2024            My daughter loves playing at this park. The Wallingford community already doesn't have enough gathering places or green spaces. I support high school athletics, but another option needs to be chosen rather than diminishing a beloved community resource. What about the original plan to create a field on top of the high school parking lot?</p> <p>o Stefan Candra United States            Oct 04, 2024            I'm heavily against turning Wallingford Playfield into a school football field. It's robbing the community of valuable green space for the benefit of a few.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>o Hernan Savastano United States Oct 04, 2024 Please don't take away a beloved neighborhood park, one that families and kids of all ages enjoy, so that high school jocks can get more concussions and knee injuries.</p> <p>o Jessica L United States Oct 04, 2024 It's a shame if our public park becomes a fenced off public turf.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>• Sandra Martin</li> <li>• Oct 04, 2024</li> <li>• As a resident this is inappropriate use of a space that is most welcome in an area where density has increased a lot in the last few years and continues to do so as more apartment buildings and townhouse are being built or a planned where there was a single family dwelling or commercial building. What has made Seattle living so special is how walkable it is and the easy access to green spaces. I also object to artificial turf. There have been studies recently that are finding that as the materials age and breakdown toxics are released and the cancer rate among kids who play on them is going up. Artificial turf, to date is not fully biodegradable. Also the fact that the public would be squeezed out is bad form and short sighted. The school does not need a football team or field. I am guessing they want one to increase revenues. They should focus on other sports instead of develop a great jazz band! The field has higher and better uses for everyone rather than for a few.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anonymous Oct 04, 2024 I also believe MS and HS kiddos deserve well-maintained playfields. Alternative locations to Wallingford playfield could include:</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Queen Anne bowl - is in the middle of the Lincoln geo zone and is already turf!</li> <li>- Big Howe</li> <li>- Upper Woodland Park (gravel lot at 50th and Whitman near Aurora)</li> <li>- existing parking lot turned to a field or an elevated field</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rita Smith United States Oct 04, 2024 Keep the park!</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anonymous United States Oct 04, 2024 There are not enough community parks open green spaces and parks in neighborhoods for everyone to enjoy. The park should not be turned into a sports field for a select few. Gas Works park is being used as a concert venue on the week end and taken away from public use. We don't need to take another park away that families and the community use.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrea Iacolucci United States Oct 04, 2024 A green play space for the community that has no other space, or community center.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sidney Sorenson United States Oct 04, 2024 Astroturf is horrible! And everyone brings their kids and dogs there! Plus parking around those blocks is already bad for the homeowners there.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anonymous United States Oct 04, 2024</li> </ul>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>Turf is bad for the environment! and humans! Includes PFAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analissa Iversen United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>I love our park. Please don't take it away.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anonymous United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>No football field! This park is a neighborhood and it would make my family so upset to see it turned into this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sahil Sanghvi United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>Please do not remove a wonderful public park from our community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cindy Suzumura United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>When SPS remodeled Lincoln High School, why didn't they include a playfield in the initial site plan? The community should not have to pay for SPS's poor planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alyssa Suzumura United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>This was my favorite park when I was a kid and I still go there for picnics with friends and to throw the frisbee around. It's always been a great spot to hang out with other folks in the community and it would be a huge shame to lose it. It feels like there are less and less public spaces to spend time and I don't think we should be fencing it off.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bobbie Spillers United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>As an employee of the Seattle Park Department in grounds maintenance for 25 years, I beg you: Please, please! No plastic grass!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anonymous United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>Many families rely on this park and playground for play and activities with their children, mine included. Dropping in a giant turf field would disrupt the community, not enrich or benefit the majority. Keep the space natural grass and multiuse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lizanne DaviszUnited States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>As a neighbor who visits this park 3-4x a week with my active toddler, I vehemently oppose this plan. The school takeover will remove the only safe green space we have within walking distance to let my toddler run like the wind. Restore the often vacant school parking lot to its former role as a field, resurface the high schools giant front yard, convert the middle school basketball courts to multipurpose, buy one of the many vacant lots on 45th- but whatever you do, leave community green space to the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anonymous United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>We need public parks more than an anytime in our history. We are expanding housing by putting people in narrow boxes and micro units and people need a park to go and do whatever they want whether it's throw a frisbee, play with their children, lay and read a book. Do not take this park we don't have that many in wallingford!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jody Blecksmith United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>This is not an environmentally sound decision. Synthetic turf needs replaced and has lots of waste. We need the green stormwater interception that</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>grass and trees provide. Plastic grass does not cool down in the heat. Let's stop putting this stuff everywhere. It's a waste if well meaning \$</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anonymous United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>Introducing a synthetic turf football field will compromise the value, amenities, and resources of the current park/playfield. Please don't do this to the families and neighbors that rely so much on this precious community gem.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lillian Mance United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>I love this park, please leave it alone for the neighborhood to enjoy!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anonymous United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>Natural green spaces help keep people healthy! Support diverse recreational areas that connect people with nature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M J Foy United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>Please keep Wallingford Playfield as it has been for years. It brings me joy regularly. The location is great to visit on days off and to visit it while taking a short break on busy days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rebecca Sliter United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>This is the only public park within walking distance of my home that is appropriate for toddlers (Gasworks is only for bigger kids). Keep it public!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erin Elsasser United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 04, 2024</p> <p>We enjoy this park throughout the year, meeting other members of the community, making new friends, getting exercise and fresh air. We also watch the 4th of July fireworks from here each year, and have for nearly 20 years. It would be devastating to lose this beautiful resource.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christopher King United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 03, 2024</p> <p>Get rid of a parking lot instead!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sabrina salazar United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 03, 2024</p> <p>There are several other options in the neighborhood for a HS practice field. Keep our little playfield natural and free for use anytime by ALL RESIDENTS of Wallingford!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catherine Henson United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 03, 2024</p> <p>There are several other options in the neighborhood for a HS practice field. Keep our little playfield natural and free for use anytime by ALL RESIDENTS of Wallingford!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeffrey Powers United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 03, 2024</p> <p>Please keep Wallingford Playfield a grass, mature tree lined space for all. Sports are great, but the proposed plan will limit access to the park/field for the entire community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Katelin United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 03, 2024</p> <p>We visit this park with our kids every weekend. Please do not take away this community resource!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will Tengtio United States</li> </ul>



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>Oct 03, 2024 I feel strongly that the park should be left alone. The playground and wading pools are used by many in the community. Many families in the area use the soft green grass to play with their kids or their dogs. There are turf fields just 5 mins at Woodlawn Park, why do we need more? And why is SPS going to fund construction for unnecessary turf when they have to close down schools?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emma Pazoff United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 03, 2024 There is already multiple turf fields at Woodland Park that are used by Lincoln High School students. This would get rid of a nice park in the neighborhood and would introduce a lot of unnecessary microplastics into the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clare Breidenich United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 03, 2024 I live half a block from the Wallingford park and have not only enjoyed it myself over the years, but also observed how many individuals, groups and families use it. The park should be for the enjoyment of the entire neighborhood, not just the narrow interests of the high school football team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Batty United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 03, 2024 Feel very strongly that this proposal to repurpose Wallingford Park is an appalling idea. Reduces the Park user base to two schools and ignores the vast majority of local people who currently enjoy the space for so many different purposes across ALL age groups young and old.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• david pascoe United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 03, 2024 Lincoln high-school promised they would not do this. Clearly they lied through their teeth and have ZERO integrity. Hundreds of neighbors use this park every day. Don't let spoiled high-school football kids take away such a valuable neighbor resource!!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priscilla Long United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 03, 2024 The park should be for all of us. There should be grass there, and trees. A non-ecological space such as a parking lot should be found for the playing field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anonymous United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 03, 2024 The park has been around for a long time should be for use by the whole Wallingford community. It's unfair to have it be flattened and made into an athletic field specifically for Lincoln High school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kendra Shimmell United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 03, 2024 The park should be for community use, multi-use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harsha Vardhan Simhadri United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 03, 2024 Our young kids play in this playground almost everyday. Please keep the playground and wading pool open to young children. There are no other public play spaces nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jacob Oshins United States</li> </ul> <p>Oct 02, 2024 This park is an important part of our community, one that was essential outdoor space as we were raising our children. Without it, the neighborhood lacks what it needs for young families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donna reynolds United States</li> </ul>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>Oct 02, 2024 Please do not public space and turn it into one purpose area ... this is a neighborhood park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anna Kotyk United States</li></ul> <p>Oct 02, 2024 I use this park often with my kids. This project is just plainly stupid, I am not against the turf part of the field but removing the access to kids to the park and killing the trees is just insane. If you want to invest into play area, you can at least make the restroom safe from drug addicts and level the field so it doesn't become the mush. It doesn't make sense to just go and destroy the whole park, spend millions of dollars to make it usable, it will be usable with small changes.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-04 00:00:00	<p>Dear Mr. Best,</p> <p>Please accept my request to preserve wonderful, multi-use Wallingford park, that is a treasure to the community, with its mature trees and natural setting, as great for children and adults as it is for teens. Improving the turf so that it can be used for practices would be OK, but healthier to improve the grass than to add AstroTurf.</p> <p>Lower Woodland Park is the perfect setting for Lincoln football. Thank you for your consideration!</p>
2024-10-04 00:07:08	<p>First of all, I believe there is a Seattle ordinance that requires replacing any park areas that are used for another purpose?</p> <p>The presentation did not include two very viable alternative locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gasworks has a very large, mostly unused area behind kite hill which could very well become a field, probably with room for a track and possibly some bleachers</li> <li>2. Woodland park has a very large barely used parking area at the SW corner which could serve the same purposed without taking away a heavily used community park</li> </ol> <p>Thanks for your consideration of the above.</p>
2024-10-04 00:59:38	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I'm a Wallingford community resident. I strongly urge you to reconsider the plan to convert Wallingford Park into a turfed field.</p> <p>When I heard of this proposal, I became deeply concerned for a number of reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Covering the ground with a plastic film, especially one the size of a football field, is incredibly detrimental to soil health and any organisms that live in it (worms, insects). Needless to say, this also has downstream effects on any wildlife that depend on those organisms as a primary food source.</li> <li>2. Artificial turf is a major contributor to microplastics found in the ocean and rivers (<a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749123010965">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749123010965</a>). This effect will be amplified due to the amount of rain we get in Seattle.</li> <li>3. Wallingford Park is currently used by a number of diverse communities. Whenever I visit the park, I see groups of kids running around, friends having picnics, and individuals enjoying a peaceful space. If this park were to be flattened and used as an athletic field, so many of us will lose one of our only large greenspaces in the neighborhood.</li> </ol> <p>Please reconsider this plan. It would be devastating if we lost this space.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-04 02:11:11	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm a Wallingford resident and I love Wallingford Playfield. Initially, I was excited to hear about the new turf plan. Now, however, I am not. The main thing that bums me out is that the community park would essentially not be for the community anymore. We wouldn't be able to use it as it would be primarily dominated by reservations and not open to the public. That saddens me. The best part of it is going there when there's nothing else to do and running around and kicking the soccer ball around. After the renovation, residents of Wallingford, and Seattle as a whole, wouldn't be able to use it as a park anymore. That's super sad.</p> <p>Best,</p>
2024-10-04 03:21:27	<p>We have an LHS class of '23 grad in our household, and are community members near Wallingford Park. We are very concerned about SPS's proposal to take over / take away the majority of the park grounds from everyone else in this community who shares the space. If you come to visit this park, you will find it in heavy use most all of the time! Folks walking their dogs, kids playing soccer or frisbee, folks walking or jogging around the park perimeter, kids all over the playground. Our 22 year old had his 2nd and 3rd birthday parties at this precious park! It is NOT OK for this sacred space to be stolen away from the public! LHS kids go to nearby Woodland Park for baseball/softball, cross country and track, I believe soccer as well. Football can also use that space and play games at Memorial stadium. That seems fair!! What doesn't seem fair is dismantling the park so that only a select few get to enjoy it! Besides the loss of a community gem, the neighborhood can't take on the parking needs of LHS students and staff and families on weekends and evenings, in addition to what we have already absorbed during weekdays. It's all just too much!! Thanks for considering our views.</p>
2024-10-04 04:09:44	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm heavily against turning Wallingford Playfield into a school football field. It's robbing the community of valuable green space for the benefit of a few. The school will be taking all daytime access, only opening the field to the public after 7pm. That is hugely unfair to the wider community. Only few people can enjoy a public park after 7pm outside of summer. By having exclusive daytime usage, the school is practically taking over the field, leaving meaningless scrap for the public. Please don't go ahead with this plan.</p> <p>Best,</p>
2024-10-04 15:40:30	<p>I am writing to express concern about the proposed conversion of Wallingford Park to an artificially turfed athletic field. As a resident of Wallingford, taking precious greenspace away from the community is not a good use of funds. This park, as it is now, can be used by everyone for any sort of activity, from sitting and reading a book, playing tennis, or watching your child's soccer game. If this park were converted to a turf athletic field, which I understand would benefit the high school, would limit this use to only students in school sanctioned sports.</p> <p>While having the sports field would benefit students who participate in school athletics, the negative impact would severely outweigh those benefits. About 49% of highschoolers participate in high school athletics, and with a school population of around 1700, 850 students (this number includes sports that would not use the field, like swim, wrestling, etc.) will be affected by not building this field. The most recent published census of Wallingford had the population at 12,200. The needs of 850 student athletes should not be prioritized over the needs of 12,200.</p> <p>Replacing this green space with turf will also create negative environmental impacts on our community. This will take away large trees to be replaced by saplings, will replace grass with plastic, and will take away shaded spaces which are increasingly more important as our world becomes hotter each year.</p> <p>Walk by Wallingford park on any given day and you will see that it is being used by our community. I implore you to consider the massive impact this change would have on this community. Please don't take away this precious green space.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-04 20:11:34	<p>I am writing to express concern with the proposed conversion of Wallingford Playfield to an artificial turf field. Wallingford Playfield is a much loved and used gathering point for community members of all ages, especially families with young children. Converting it to a sports field will reduce access, despite what organizers suggest (other similar fields around the city are used predominantly by organized sports and are seldom available for kids and community members to gather and play informally.) Furthermore, artificial turf is increasing exposure to microplastics and will raise temperatures in the park, particularly given that the proposal includes the removal of so many mature trees. Wallingford Playfield is not the place for this project- please look at the underutilized spaces at Gasworks park or the Lincoln HS parking lot instead. Don't take away the green spaces our community loves and values.</p>
2024-10-05 00:00:00	<p>Dear Paige McGehee</p> <p>I am writing as a Wallingford community member to voice my strong concerns over the proposed conversion of Wallingford Park into a turf athletic field.</p> <p>A rapidly-growing urban neighborhood like Wallingford relies on its green spaces. For the growing number of apartment, condo, and townhouse dwellers in our neighborhood, Wallingford Park is the only green space within a 10-minute walking distance. It is critical that we preserve and expand these spaces, not replace them with artificial, plastic turf that only benefit school athletics.</p> <p>Wallingford Park is currently enjoyed by residents of all ages, income levels, backgrounds, and physical ability levels. People walk, play with their dogs and kids, have picnics, potlucks, and group events. Pick-up leagues, recreational leagues, and youth leagues all play sports here. I walk my dog through this park almost every day, and have watched kids from Hamilton Elementary rehearsing plays and dance recitals and students from Lincoln High relaxing, playing games, practicing sports, and eating lunch. I've watched Zumba classes and parents teaching their kids to play soccer. Seniors doing their morning Tai Chi and families having sunset picnics. Even on the darkest, gloomiest days of winter, there are always members of our community enjoying Wallingford Park.</p> <p>This park is an absolutely vital part of the Wallingford community that currently benefits all of us and helps make Wallingford the vibrant, beautiful place it is. Replacing this park with an artificial turf field that only benefits school athletics would be a crippling blow to this community and a disservice to the students of both Lincoln High and Hamilton Elementary. We all deserve free access to the outdoors. Please reconsider these plans for Wallingford Park.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
2024-10-05 00:00:00	<p>Hello Paige McGehee,</p> <p>I am a community member concerned with the Seattle Public Schools proposed plans for the Wallingford Playfield. You state in your presentation: "It's important for our communities to be heard—that's why we're looking for input and feedback." I appreciate these efforts. Where can I review this community input and feedback?</p> <p>Thanks for your attention to this matter.</p> <p>Best,</p>
2024-10-05 00:54:41	<p>Yes, please do locate the new athletic field for Lincoln High School at Wallingford Playfield! That is a great option for Lincoln and will benefit Hamilton Middle School as well. What a brilliant idea. The Wallingford neighborhood needs to do more to support its excellent neighborhood public schools.</p>
2024-10-05 10:45:33	<p>Hello! Not sure if this is the place for my comment. I'm a parent who lives right by Wallingford Playfield. My kid plays soccer there for Woodland park and the field is patchy and dangerous. We would love a night field that our kid could play soccer on too! Please keep the play area, however! It's really important for the families in the community. I feel like it could be a win win. I am also a dog owner and understand that the field actually isn't an off leash dog park so that should not be considered. Thank you so much! Alanna Beebe 4209 Interlake Ave N</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-05 11:22:27	The proposed new turf field would regrade the park, flattening it, removing shade-giving trees, and reduce publicly available green space by 85%. Turf fields increase heat islands within cities, exposure to microplastics, and are now being replaced within professional sports. There are other options, including Lincoln reverting their parking lot back to their old field which would be a bigger win for the community and meet more of their needs for more athletes. The current field conditions could also be improved with better parks maintenance. The entire community in Wallingford would greatly benefit if we can keep the green space in Wallingford park!
2024-10-05 12:52:49	<p>As someone who lives 1/2 block away, I think it would be a great mistake to build a turf field in the park on 42nd and Wallingford. I walk in the park every day, and appreciate the trees and natural setting. I see many different groups utilize that space, families with children, people enjoying the space. To convert it into a field that eliminates the vast majority of the use of the park for most of the people in the neighborhood would be a poor decision.</p> <p>Please do not do this</p>
2024-10-05 15:37:33	In reading about the proposal, I am totally against giving Lincoln High School full use of the park for fake turf or any additional uses. The city up zoned our neighborhood in 2019 with MHA and has increased the density making promises that up zoning for multi family and eliminating single family zones would come with park space near parks and schools. To propose reduction of park space is totally contradictory to the city's major principles proposed in 2019. To move the wading pool and deprive children of this wonderful place in summer is unacceptable. To move the bathrooms as well and create a construction project that would disrupt the use of the park for a long time and inconvenience Wallingford residents. Seattle schools does not have the right to take over this park and use it for night games with bright lights and further over burden the neighborhood with night sports events. A terrible plan. Abolish it. Seattle schools foresight as reflected in school closures missing. Contact Blanchett High, could they share their field or Ingraham?
2024-10-05 17:11:29	I love this idea. I live a block from Wallingford park. I have wanted a solution to the mud pit in the grassy field that starts in November and lasts until spring. Also, it has become a dog park and I bet the vast majority of protesters are the culprits using Wallingford park as an off-leash park. Thanks!
2024-10-05 18:21:53	As a Wallingford resident I was extremely concerned to hear about the plans to convert Wallingford Park into an athletic field. Wallingford Park is an incredibly beloved place where people in the community gather to have picnics, play games and sports, play with their dogs and kids, walk, read, have dance recitals, practice Tai Chi, yoga, and meditation, and otherwise enjoy nature. It is a little green oasis in a sea of urban development. Parks are absolutely vital to the health and vivacity of a neighborhood. Taking away something that benefits so many on a daily basis and turning it into an artificial turf wasteland that is on permanent reserve by school sports teams would be an unbelievable loss to this community. Please reconsider these plans.
2024-10-06 00:00:00	I am writing to add support to Wallingford becoming Lincoln's practice field. With children in Lincoln's district and on rec teams of multiple sports we need more fields that are usable all year long and not just in the summer. As long as there is still a playground and trees at Wallingford, I support the proposal.

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-06 00:00:00	<p>Dear City and School Officials,</p> <p>My name is Dr. Julie McCleery, and I'm a Wallingford resident who is on faculty at the University of Washington's Center for Leadership in Athletics. Until recently, I also led the King County Play Equity Coalition, an organization dedicated to ensuring all kids – regardless of race, gender, zip code, and ability – have access to sport, free play, and outdoor recreation. I'm writing to you today as a private citizen with substantial understanding of the constraints and challenges our community is facing in providing access to open space and playfields for all youth. I am asking you to take a serious look at the choice to put a turf, lit playfield at Wallingford Park. I have attached a lengthy letter that includes pictures and illustrations but I have five primary arguments. This is the TLDR version:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) This decision will have profound health equity consequences in Wallingford, the only neighborhood in the city without a community center, and one that is seeing exponential growth of families without backyards.</li> <li>2) This choice is squarely in opposition to the stated mission of Seattle Parks &amp; Recreation and the City of Seattle's strategic plan; specifically, the City's goals to provide recreation opportunities within a 5-10 minute walk shed for all citizens especially those in Urban Villages.</li> <li>3) It is misguided and unjust for the City to put the onus on the community to resist the school district's efforts as opposed to invoking its own stated goals and strategic plan for the reason this is not an equitable solution to Lincoln's lack of an athletic field.</li> <li>4) It seems that many who don't live in Wallingford – like the vast number of Lincoln families who live on Queen Anne (with their own free play parks and community center) are getting to lobby for a decision on behalf of Wallingford residents. Families who don't live in Wallingford have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Of course they want a field for their kids; they have no concern for what is lost in Wallingford.</li> <li>5) There are ample compromise options. As someone who has advocated for a field for Lincoln since its renovation, I propose you pursue an alternative that adds to inventory and honors the 5,000 residents who will lose their 10 minute park walk shed if you go ahead with this plan.</li> </ol> <p>Thank you for attending to this issue. I'm particularly eager to hear from our elected officials about how this comports with the City's stated goals for Urban Village livability and walkability and your understanding of what growth should look like in a recently upzoned neighborhood.</p> <p>Best,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-10-06 00:00:00</p>	<p>Dear Paige McGehee,</p> <p>My name is A _____ and I live at _____ . I am joining my Wallingford friends and neighbors to protest the Seattle Public School plan to request that Seattle Parks convert Wallingford Park to an artificial-turf athletic field.</p> <p>The park is currently a vibrant and accessible place for recreation and socialization for all of Wallingford’s residents and beyond (including Lincoln high schoolers and Hamilton middle schoolers).</p> <p>I live a block from the park and am there nearly every day. I see the elderly taking a stroll or sitting and talking on its benches; I see young parents and their children playing on the field or picnicking; I see pet owners walking their pets; I see school kids having their lunch, playing kick ball or frisbee, studying on the grass after school or having fun with their friends; I see people of all ages jogging, walking and playing. I see nature—grass, trees, bushes, picnic tables, fall colors, spring green. And this oasis of green is more important than ever with the ongoing loss in our neighborhood of single-family houses and adjacent gardens for denser and less-green multi-unit housing.</p> <p>To take this resource away from our Seattle neighborhood community and convert it into a synthetic field for one group only is a blatant misuse of a public park. The restriction of the athletic field to high school athletes only from 8am to 7 pm is draconian to say the least, not to mention the light and noise pollution that neighbors would be subjected to. There are larger and more appropriate venues for a single-use athletic field where the impact on limited green space and neighborhood community would not nearly be so severe: Woodlawn Park or Gasworks Park come to mind, or converting the Lincoln parking lot.</p> <p>Do not let the usurpation of Wallingford Park occur. Find and develop a more appropriate alternative that will be welcomed by all. Lincoln High School already impacts our neighborhood in stressful ways with traffic, noise and trash, but until now school and community have lived well together. That would no longer be the case with the take over of Wallingford Park. Please do not let it happen.</p>



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-06 13:37:51	<p>an extensive list below of some reasons why! if you can take the time to go visit the wallingofrd playfield any eve, afternoon after school you will see how well used it is by the community, please dont take that away... thank you. Cynthia Yatchman</p> <p>.....why not save money on artificial turf and put it into education :)</p> <p>Displaces current multigenerational neighborhood use. The park is already home to many uses, including picnics, meetings, pickup field games, practice, theater, Frisbee, tai-chi, dance, and more, by people of all ages and backgrounds. The proposed plan narrows usability from a broad demographic to primary use by student athletes.</p> <p>Loss of green space. The sizing diagrams for this plan show that the artificial turf field will take up 85% of the existing green space — trees, grass, bushes, gone. Our neighborhood must prioritize preserving green space for a population that is only increasing in density. Not everyone has a backyard or a tree. This would remove greenspace.</p> <p>Environmental impact. Artificial turf is not the same as grass, and has environmental impact. We will see a loss of canopy as significant trees are removed. Young trees require decades to provide shade and habitat for local wildlife.</p> <p>This park already serves the schools. The schools are already using this park for PE and practice. This proposal gives them nearly exclusive use of a field designed primarily for athletics rather than open and general use.</p> <p>Plan prioritizes school athletics. This plan gives nearly all the park other than playground and tennis courts over to Varsity Football, Varsity Soccer, and JV games, displacing community use out of proportion to the community's presence and need.</p> <p>Restricted hours, with heavy school use. Schools intend to use the athletic field about 11 hours a day (8am-7pm). Other organized sports and the community will only be able to use the field after 7pm, and before the park closes at 10pm. If they can schedule at all, with all the groups who have been displaced looking for that time.</p> <p>Children will lose essential park activities. This proposal favors the needs of student athletes at the expense of other local children. Children use the park now, beyond merely the playground. Kids like to run, to kick and throw balls, to ride their bikes — and they need a safe space to do so. This plan would eliminate the park for the use of children outside the limited playground area. This includes neighborhood daycare and preschools that rely on the park's open space.</p> <p>The community will lose open access, both in time and square footage. Open space for adults and children to play, and enjoyment of greenspace, is appropriate and legitimate use of a park. A toddler walking on grass should not need to schedule time.</p> <p>Sound and light pollution. We are assured that field lighting won't spill out into the neighborhood. (Do neighbors in Greenlake want to weigh in on their experience with Woodland Park Playfield?) Even if true, this position discounts park uses like sunset and star-gazing. Sound pollution from games and evening practices will certainly impact neighbors for blocks around.</p> <p>The Park must be maintained. Could the grassy field be better maintained than it has been these last few years? Yes! We all want that. We ask that</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

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	<p>Parks &amp; Rec resume maintaining the field properly as it has in times past. But flattening the park – removing grass, trees, and greenspace, then covering it over with plastic – is not the answer.</p> <p>This proposal is counter to Seattle Parks &amp; Rec (SPR) Mission Statement: “Seattle Parks and Recreation equips employees and the public for well-being as we support healthy people, a thriving environment and vibrant community. We provide safe and accessible spaces for residents and visitors to work, recreate, rejuvenate and enhance quality of life and wellness for children, teenagers, adults and seniors.” We contend that this artificial turf proposal would buy convenience for student athletes at the expense of the wellness of children, non-athlete teenagers, adults, and seniors. Is this consistent with SPR’s mission?</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-06 18:26:55	<p>I a Seattle home owner who lives in the vicinity of Wallingford Park. I writing to express opposition to the currently propos ed full sized artificial turf athletic field for Wallingford park.</p> <p>I understand the need for a field accessible to Lincoln High School and Hamilton MS sports teams and community athletic programs. However I believe a full size ( regulation football) field is out of place at Wallingford park as it would severely compromise the other aspects of the park that are important to the community.</p> <p>I believe a better use of funds would be for a downsized turf field, oriented N-S on the Western edge of the park- this would function for Lincoln and Hamilton athletic practices and activities. It would preserve the existing mature trees, avoid the unnecessary expense of re-locating the playground, and preserve a large measure of living grass to be utilized for other important park activities.</p> <p>I would imagine that a down-sized proposal as such could potentially leave enough money left to install enhanced crosswalks ( crosswalks with flashing lights like what exists Stone way N and 48th St for example) at Green Lake way, and N 50th in such a way as to provide for a safe walking (running) route for the track and field athletes from both Lincoln and Hamilton to reach lower Woodlawn Park athletic fields. (see attached marked up map)</p> <p>In any case, a full sized Turf field at Wallingford park is an imbalanced use of the park.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
2024-10-06 22:55:21	<p>I support the conversion of Wallingford playfield into turf. I am a Wallingford resident and think that this is a more pressing use of the space that is often unusable due to mud, dog poop, and dog digging in the open area that is currently there. I do support having unscheduled time (especially on th weekends) so the non-school community can still utilize space. I also think that priority for scheduling beyond HIMS and LHS sports should be give n to local groups (e.g., HIMS &amp;LHS ultimate clubs that currently use the space as well as the younger woodland soccer games on fall weekend mornings that are already scheduled there. Thanks!</p>
2024-10-06 23:52:44	<p>Congratulations on making such a wise and logical decision. May SPS and SPR proceed quickly and efficiently.</p>
2024-10-06 23:53:41	<p>We vote to transform the Wallingford park into a sustainable sports field for Lincoln high school. This week, our kids have p ractice after 8:00pm across town. This is not equitable nor safe.</p> <p>Thanks for considering our input</p>
2024-10-07 00:00:00	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to let you know that I strongly oppose using the Wallingford Playfield for the newly planned athletic field. This is a special place for our whole community and it should not be replaced with an artificial turf field.</p> <p>Luckily, we can use the large North Lincoln Parking lot for this instead. In such a walkable, bikeable, and transit friendly neighborhood there is absolutely no reason for so many parking lots. Putting the field here would save our grass playfield and still provide an athletic field for the school.</p> <p>Best,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-07 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige and Principal Eichner,            Can you please provide scheduling details for how the new field will get used, since the FAQ has now been updated to say *football will not be prioritized for access and will not dictate scheduling*? This is especially important for understanding the title IX implications for these \$5 million tax dollars.</p> <p>The community wants to understand:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How will girls soccer equally share access to the new field with boys football since they share the same season? How will this be broken down day by day?</li> <li>2. Will boys soccer in the spring share access with other teams to ensure there is equal access for girls on this field as well in that season?</li> <li>3. Younger Hamilton co-ed teams (girls) will be losing access to the field and will now have to commute elsewhere. How is that being weighed in terms of scheduling?</li> <li>4. Currently the field is broken into 5+ fields for elementary aged co-ed (girls) Wallingford soccer teams to practice weekday afternoons. How will the neighborhood absorb the loss of those fields for scheduling as well?</li> <li>5. How are the needs of girls softball being prioritized here who also want a field?</li> </ol> <p>Thank you,</p>
2024-10-07 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige,            Can you provide the wording of the levy for the Lincoln field? I see the FAQ has been updated to state that the field is *not for football and the football team will not be prioritized for access*. Did taxpayers approve the creation of a football field, or has football actually been prioritized here without voter approval, and in violation of title IX?</p> <p>I ask because I hear that girls softball would also like resources (turf) - so why is boys football being prioritized to take over a small community park, which currently is utilized by hundreds of young co-ed (girls teams) and younger Hamilton teams who would then be deprioritized so boys high school football doesn't have to commute? The FAQ you have put together currently contradicts itself in terms of prioritizing football and needing a full field, but then saying it doesn't prioritize football.</p> <p>Will girls soccer and boys football equally share this new 5 million dollar athletic resource in the fall? What about equal access for other teams that include girls? Does girls softball get a field out of this \$5 million levy as well? Is there any place it states boys football should get a full sized field in what voters approved?</p> <p>Thanks for clarifying how the proposed plan does not violate title IX,</p>
2024-10-07 00:14:48	<p>As a Wallingford resident and father of a Lincoln high school student and Hamilton middle school student, I strongly support this project and urge it to move forward as quickly as possible. Lincoln is the largest high school in the city and it desperately needs its own athletic field. The proposed locations of Wallingford playfield and Lower Woodland are the closest and make the most sense. I believe the proposed mitigation steps for Wallingford playfield are reasonable to support multiple uses for the park.</p> <p>Fulfill the will of the voters who approved this capital levy and move forward with the proposed project.</p>
2024-10-07 01:14:45	<p>A home turf field at Wallingford Playfield and track at Lower Woodland is an excellent idea for both the students and the community. Most if not all other high schools in the Seattle area have home fields on site which gives the students better and safer access to school sports activities and Team bonding and reduces traffic and students driving hastily to rush to different practice sites. This is safer not only for the students but also for the local community</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-07 11:07:53	I think that Wallingford Playfield would be the ideal location of the new turf field for Lincoln and Hamilton. The students deserve a field that is close to the school to decrease the time for commuting. These 2 schools are the only ones without any athletic fields which can be used for PE and sports. The current field at Wallingford is in poor shape with many holes that dogs have made - this has caused injuries for students.
2024-10-07 13:39:58	Please don't put turf at Wallingford Playfield and DEFINITELY do not "relocate" the playground and wading pool.
2024-10-07 15:14:14	I am not in favor of the plan to make Wallingford Park a part of LHS athletic complex, particularly under the current plan which is insufficient for the need and denies community access most of the time to most of the park. The current LHS parking lot was the athletic field in the past and this already designated space should be utilized first before community assets are seized. Perhaps a parking lot could be built underneath the field?
2024-10-07 19:04:10	<p>Size of practice field will take up too much space and be hugely out of scale.</p> <p>When many of the blocks around the park, were up-zoned a few years back, we were told the park could be used by residents of the 5 to 6 unit 40+ foot tall condos that were allowed. Now all the open space that the existing park provides will disappear.</p> <p>Why not locate the practice field at Lower Woodland?</p>
2024-10-07 19:24:07	<p>Please consider putting the athletic field in the parking lot of Lincoln High School. This is the obvious solution.</p> <p>It's unfair to ask the residents of Seattle/ Wallingford to give up this multi-use public park when SPS already owns useable real estate that would address the schools needs.</p> <p>Though promises are being made that residents will still have access to the park, realistically that access is severely diminished as is the natural beauty of the park.</p>
2024-10-07 19:59:33	As a resident of Wallingford for over 5 years, I do NOT support building a sports field that would displace community use of the park. I have enjoyed the space regularly as it is and feel it would be a huge loss to the neighborhood to replace the park with exclusive sport use.

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-07 22:29:01	<p>My husband and I have lived in Wallingford for 35 years and raised our children here, and we strongly oppose turning the Wallingford Playfield into a sports field for use primarily by Lincoln High School and Hamilton Middle School students.</p> <p>As residential density increases in Wallingford with the construction of more townhomes and apartments, the need for green space for use by residents and families is greater, not less. When will neighborhood residents see the proposed schedule with times of day noted for public access to the park after SPS has exclusive use for the full school day and for after school practice?</p> <p>We are also deeply concerned about the environmental impact of removing mature trees and replacing grass with an artificial surface. Even cork-substrate synthetic turf fields have “grass” blades that are composed of polyethylene (86.3%) and polypropylene, plastics which accounted for up to 15% of meso- and macroplastics found in river and sea surface waters, resulting from runoff (see: Environmental Pollution Vol. 334, from Oct 2023). This plastic field would replace and smother the living soil - an eco system which supports the health of the surrounding trees and shrubs. Cork vs. rubber pellet substrate can only mitigate the heat dome effect, not do away with it.</p> <p>If the field doesn’t fit without removing and relocating the wading pool and new play structures and restrooms (and trees?) to a different corner, then it obviously doesn’t fit the site. Meridian Field has been discounted due to “displacement of character &amp; current use,” but the same holds true for Wallingford Playfield. The clear candidate should be Woodland #7 -- a complex with parking and amenities already (not a change of character or use). At the September 19 community meeting, the neighbors suggested looking at an unused field at Gasworks Park, and Mr. Bass agreed facilities would take a look. When will we see the results and conclusions of that?</p> <p>SPS says that an environmental study will be done, yet proposes starting construction in April. Will the results be public before the contract is signed? The field Lincoln currently uses won’t be available for the 3 years following the current academic year. This looks like a hasty decision resulting from poor planning, without regard to the future permanent consequences.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2024-10-08 00:00:00	<p>Dear Mr. Best,</p> <p>I am a neighbor to the Wallingford Park, for many years, and I'm very concerned about the possibility of transforming this greenspace into a restricted turf athletic field. The whole community uses the park. It's currently accessed by Hamilton Middle School and Lincoln High School, all the at-home parents and their children and a myriad of neighbors and sports teams on the week-ends. It's a joy for the entire Wallingford/Fremont/Greenlake neighborhoods and I would be really sad to see it so restricted - not to mention the increased activity and parking issues in the surrounding neighborhoods. The area is already highly impacted by the two schools' teachers and students.</p> <p>Please consider a more appropriate, not neighborhood-internal space for your turf field.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
2024-10-08 11:41:54	<p>Please don’t turn it into a football field, it’s a public space that people use to hang out and exercise in frequently. Kindergartens and preschools and after school clubs like boys and girls club often come here to let the little kids play, and dog owners also come here to let their dogs exercise and have fun. Nobody hangs out on football fields! This park is used by people other than Lincoln high schoolers, and we should respect that.</p>
2024-10-08 13:26:37	<p>Stop the over development of greenspaces</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-08 14:34:22	<p>I'm writing to express my hope that Lincoln will choose not to move ahead with their bid for a renovation of the Wallingford Playfield. I have been a Wallingford resident for 8 years and have felt blessed to have use of such a wonderful public space. Besides my own use, it brings me great joy to see it used so widely and frequently by people of all ages. That so many free-use public green spaces exists is part of what makes Seattle great. Once lost, I don't expect to see new ones pop up. This will be a permanent loss for Wallingford.</p> <p>I deliberated for a good time before writing this message, as I also understand the benefit to the student athletes that would come from a school-adjacent practice field. Still, losing free access to the majority of that space for much of each day, the light pollution that would result and the loss of plant life to be replaced by cork and plastic are all unacceptable prices to pay when the students already have access to training and competition spaces, even if not immediately next to the school. It seems a trade off between convenience for the students and staff of the school, and a total loss of an indispensable public resource for the rest of us. Thanks for reading.</p>
2024-10-08 15:05:44	<p>I'm a Wallingford resident and an alum of the Seattle Public Schools. I'm concerned about the plans to install an artificial turf field at the Wallingford playfield. What will be the ecological impact and the effect on local biodiversity if a portion of the trees are removed and the grass replaced with artificial turf? I did read the project description that said that cork infill will be used and that the presence of microplastics will be minimal. I'm not happy with even minimal microplastics replacing a field that is currently grass. I work an unconventional schedule and often walk through or by the field and there is rarely a time of day that it's not in use by community members. To have them barred from using the public space during school hours or during practice or games would be a real hit to the community. I've seen notes from community members saying people can go to Gasworks or Gre enlake instead, but for people who live near the playfield, that turns a walk to a green space into the need to drive or find alternate transportation.</p> <p>Also, why is it that the school district can afford to take on this project and take over a Parks Department space when there are simultaneously questions about schools being able to remain open due to budget issues. It's funny how there's always money for athletics, but not for teacher salaries or for other student or family support projects. Don't get me wrong - I played sports in high school as well and know it can be an important part of school for a lot of students. I attended Hamilton and Roosevelt before either school was renovated and we bussed and carpooled around the city - and walked to Evans pool from Roosevelt - to get to games and to practices. With the expansion of the lightrail and rapid ride options, why not encourage students and their parents to take public transportation? I don't drive, but I know that the parking situation in Wallingford is already a nightmare - where will parents/students park for games or practices at the playfield? What will be done to ensure that residents have adequate parking and won't be blocked into their driveways by cars parking too close or across driveway openings (a frequent occurrence on my street)?</p> <p>At a time when the effects of climate change are becoming more and more apparent and are visible here in Seattle as well, I just cannot get on board with a project that is taking a grass field (even though it's one that's often not in the best condition) and replacing it with synthetic materials.</p> <p>The contact form below requests my phone number, but I would prefer not to be contacted by phone.</p>
2024-10-08 17:02:08	<p>Upgrading the uneven, muddy field - great! Monopolizing limited play space in the face of a national obesity epidemic - awful!! The park is already in near constant use by the middle school, afterschool sports programs, and neighborhood fitness classes. It's deeply misleading to phrase this as simply an upgrade to the field!! It's taking away an important public resource.</p> <p>My toddler, who does not have access to a back yard, plays on the equipment every single day. (How long would "moving" that e quipment take?) The green space is also an important community gathering space. There is nowhere else I can safely teach my child to kick a ball. I've watched Shakespeare in the park. The park hosts marching bands and family reunions, community events, and dogs and children enjoying the open space - literally every day. Tell the truth - you aren't upgrading the field so highschoolers can use it (both fine), you are stealing public resources for your narrow and nearly exclusive use.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-08 19:17:51	<p>I wholeheartedly support the creation of a new athletic field for Lincoln High School at Wallingford Park. While I realize no one likes change and the neighbors feel like they are losing unstructured activity space, Lincoln students are also part of the neighborhood. They currently have to scramble to practice and games at unpredictable times and places. For my student's sport, that often means Green Lake field. While he does ride the bus to get there, it usually takes over 20 minutes and makes practice go longer into the afternoons, cutting into time for homework and other activities. Many other students are being driven from school to practice, adding to the traffic and carbon footprint of the school. His sports team also tends to have a lot of away games because they don't have a home field to use at Lincoln. All of these issues would at least be lessened by the creation of a new sports field close to the school, and because Wallingford Park is between Lincoln and Hamilton, it seems ideal. Let's let Lincoln and have the same opportunities as students at other Seattle high schools. There's room for everyone at Wallingford Park.</p>
2024-10-08 19:24:23	<p>I'm highly in support of Lincoln field being located at Wallingford Park. There are many community questions however that will need to be addressed soon, including what would happen to the playground, how many trees would need to be cut down, and if every other possible solution has been evaluated. Especially the solution of placing Lincoln Field in the parking area, or on top of a parking structure where it used to be located. the planning team will have a hard time getting community support until all of these questions are answered.</p> <p>I have a kid at Lincoln and younger kids in sports too and I'm looking forward to having another lighted turf field nearby. My oldest daughter currently practices at lower Woodland 7 along with seven other teams sharing the same field.</p> <p>I would also like to suggest adding lights to the playground so that the playground is usable after sunset in the winter. Seattle's weather is mild enough that it's warm enough to play outside even when it's dark out and we could take a page from Nordic countries and light the playground so that children can continue to get exercise after the sun goes down at 4:30 PM.</p>
2024-10-08 20:27:40	<p>I am a homeowner in Wallingford in my 30s and about to have a kid. A couple other friends have also recently bought houses in Wallingford. I take walks through the neighborhood several times a week and often find myself laying in the grass at Wallingford play field. I recently became aware of the plan to eliminate this, one of the last large green spaces in the neighborhood and replace with a football field. I am vehemently against eliminating the vast majority of one of our few parks in the neighborhood so that a select group of kids can have a plastic covered football field.</p> <p>I read that Lincoln High School used to have a field and decided that they'd pave it for parking. Now the school is trying to take over a park and destroy more green space to ameliorate that decision. If the school wants a field back then pay what it costs to build a parking structure with a football field on top with the space that they have. Doing that would at least create more open space (albeit plastic covered). This is the only plan that doesn't displace the current broad demographic use in favor of primary use by student athletes.</p> <p>I have voted for every school levy that has come up on the ballot for the 8+ years I've lived in the neighborhood and discussed the measures positively with friends. If a football field is placed at the Wallingford play field I will never vote for another school levy the entire time I live in the area and will use my time and energy to persuade my friends to do the same. I will actively campaign against them all.</p>
2024-10-08 22:26:12	<p>I think it's a great idea to turf Wallingford play field to give Lincoln High School access to nearby files space. The current Wallingford play field is over run with off leash dogs and then becomes a muddy mess in the fall/winter/spring.</p>
2024-10-08 23:26:48	<p>I was recently directed to the website countering some myths about the proposed field, which I appreciate. My primary concerns were the loss of the playground and wading pool, and the toxicity of turf fields. If the playground and wading will remain (or be the same size but moved), and if the synthetic turf is not harmful, then I don't have objections. However, I feel the community needs more informations about plans for keeping or moving the playground/wading pool and should have access to full information about the synthetic turf: brand, material, evidence that it is not harmful, etc. (E.g. is it 100% cork or mixed with plastic, and so on). Wallingford playground is a huge asset to the community and no field would be worth tearing it down.</p>



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-09 00:00:00	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a resident of the Wallingford area, and I feel passionate about the proposed destruction of Wallingford Park. I love Wallingford Park, and I DO NOT support the proposed construction plan to turn the green space into a plastic, artificial turf. This proposed construction will severely limit my ability to enjoy Wallingford Park. I live in an apartment building in the area and Wallingford is the closest green space that I can enjoy. I have many happy memories in Wallingford Park and am horrified by these proposed plans.</p> <p>I don't normally email officials or get involved in civic matters; however, I feel very strongly about this issue and I implore you to consider the residents beyond football players. The City of Seattle Parks and Rec Department did a survey in 2021 and 2022 and found that people want athletic fields WITHOUT artificial turf. <a href="https://seattle.gov/parks/about-us/plans-and-reports/2024-parks-and-open-space-plan">https://seattle.gov/parks/about-us/plans-and-reports/2024-parks-and-open-space-plan</a></p> <p>Listen to your citizens!</p> <p>Best,</p>
2024-10-09 00:00:00	<p>Hello Paige,</p> <p>I am in the Lincoln High School district and live near Wallingford Playfield. I wanted to share my concern and opposition to the planned changes at Wallingford Playfield. This park is a wonderful place for neighbors and community members to gather and a landmark of the neighborhood. I am opposed to this development as the athletic field/artificial turf will remove 85% of the existing green space, limit the use of the area to primarily school use, create more light, noise, and parking disruption. There are many more in the community than just high school students and in the high density area of Seattle the park/area should serve more than just a select group.</p> <p>Please consider alternate options as this plan will leave a permanent scar on this community and create a loss that cannot be undone.</p>
2024-10-09 00:00:00	<p>Ms. McGehee, Mr. Best, Mr. Briggs and Mr. Mizrahi,</p> <p>I'm writing to ask you to please slow down your selection process so that the entire Wallingford community can work WITH you to find the best location for LHS's practice field. While I understand that Memorial Stadium is imminently under renovation, you have been aware of this for quite a while. As my grandfather used to say, 'Lack of planning on your part doesn't constitute an emergency on mine.' Our little playfield deserves a lot more thoughtful consideration of alternatives before being cut-down at the knees. There is a LOT of history of SPS making promises to the Wallingford community for improvements to SPS properties as well as protections from SPS taking over SPR parks, including Wallingford Playfield.</p> <p>Adequate consideration has not been given to viable alternatives to our little park. SPS HAS the real estate for a practice field immediately adjacent to the north side of the school...where the field was located for decades. Additionally, there is open space at Woodland Park, a short jog of under a mile away for youth warm-up, for a facility that would meet all the needs of the sports programs.</p> <p>Please work with us, not against us. Please stop trying to pit neighbor against neighbor with a rushed process that clearly had a pre-determined outcome at the Sept 19 meeting. And please, do a better job posting the time and place for the next meeting. I guarantee, you will have a ROBUST turnout.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-09 00:20:23	<p>I disagree strongly with the choice of Wallingford playfield as a location for the Lincoln high school athletic teams. This park is widely used by the community, and not just by sports teams, but by people playing frisbee or catch, or having a picnic, or playing with their dog. All of that will be pushed to the periphery by a turf field. Because of the shortage of fields, I would expect the afternoon and evening hours to be entirely taken over by sports teams, leaving no room for the community who enjoys the park for non-athletic purposes. There simply isn't enough room to put in a football field without squeezing out the community that loves this park. Please look elsewhere!</p>
2024-10-09 01:17:47	<p>Hi there! As a Wallingford resident and a parent with future high schoolers, I would like to voice my support for the project to add turf to Wallingford playfield. We desperately need more places for kids to play sports and this location seems look me a good one.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
2024-10-09 20:06:27	<p>I am writing to you today to urge you NOT to put in an artificial turf athletic field at Wallingford Park Playfield.</p> <p>Yes, Lincoln HS needs an athletic field. I am one of many neighbors that supports the schools, both LHS and HIMS.</p> <p>But LHS should not take a community resource and change it so that it primarily serves athletics, pushing out all the other people who use this park daily, for things like frisbee, day-care, and families with kids playing on the grass. Also dancers and the tai-chi. Shakespeare in the park!</p> <p>I've been here fifteen years. I've seen Wallingford go from sleepy bedroom community to bustling urban village. As densely packed as we are now, with more apartments and townhouses all the time, we need open green space with grass and trees more than ever.</p> <p>We need a park with grass and trees for use by anyone to come, play, or sit, without needing to reserve it. Without it being plastic.</p> <p>Please find somewhere else to build your athletic field.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2024-10-10 00:46:44	<p>Locating the athletic field adjacent to the middle school and high school makes perfect sense, but reducing the much-used neighborhood park into essentially a pocket park for our upzoned community makes absolutely no sense at all. Build the athletic field on the Lincoln HS parking lot.</p>
2024-10-10 10:44:30	<p>Hello, I live in the neighborhood and see that space utilized by so many varied homes, people, and families. It would be a shame to have it changed into plastic and have it be limited access. Please reconsider this proposed plan.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-10-10 18:56:18</p>	<p>Subject: Support for Installing a Sports Field at Wallingford Park</p> <p>Hi,</p> <p>As a long-time Wallingford resident living just a few blocks away from Wallingford Park, my family has greatly enjoyed and benefited from the park. My boys started playing on the playground before they could even walk, then learned soccer on the muddy fields in the fall, followed by many pick-up games of Ultimate. We navigated the holes and deposits left by four-legged friends and dealt with the 3-6 months each winter when the field was closed for reseeded. Overall, it's a fantastic neighborhood park and a valuable asset to the city.</p> <p>Given its location between Hamilton International Middle School (HIMS) and Lincoln High School (LHS), Wallingford Park has the potential to provide even greater value to our community and students, many of whom are our neighbors. By replacing the often muddy, uneven playfield with an all-season turf field, the neighborhood will benefit from a park that serves more people and is utilized more frequently throughout the day and year.</p> <p>Additionally, having a sports practice field (and track at LW7) will significantly reduce the time and emissions associated with the current bussing requirements. As a parent of LHS athletes, I have seen firsthand the impact that bussing to Memorial Stadium or other locations for football practice has on my boys. They often didn't get home until 8:30 PM after a long day of school and practice. By the time they showered and ate dinner, they barely had time to study before bedtime. Providing local practice options will give our students more time and energy to focus on their studies and get better rest.</p> <p>I am fully supportive of adding a sports field to Wallingford Park, as it will enrich our neighborhood and give our students more time for both practicing and studying.</p> <p>Thank you for investing in our students and the neighborhood.</p>
<p>2024-10-11 00:00:00</p>	<p>My kiddos are now grown... in college and beyond. Yes, their middle school and high school years were wonderful and sports played a big part in their lives. Overlapping their years, it was a 12-year period of our lives.</p> <p>The 10 years before middle school ages, and the decades I hope to enjoy into the future at Wallingford Park will be a far longer period of time. I think it's important to remember that the park is a long-term asset for families on an arc... not just for families that have middle and high schoolers.</p> <p>There are alternatives on SPS land (the parking lot that was for decades a practice field) and much larger nearby SPR properties (Woodland Park) that can better accommodate the needs of Lincoln students.</p> <p>It really saddens me to see how this issue around a community park is wedging such a divide among us. It seems to me that the approach SPS has taken: not creating a community group to advise the process; giving last-minute notice of meetings; threatening urgent action when the knowledge of Memorial Stadiums renewal project has been known for a long time... all of these things are intentionally pitting us against each other.</p> <p>Please work with us to find the best possible solution for ALL of WALLINGFORD!</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-11 12:32:54	<p>Please don't turn our park into a turf field for sports. This park is essential to the community. It is always busy. The kids playground, the tennis courts, the field, and the picnic areas are used by neighbors of all generations for many different activities.</p> <p>There are other parks near by that have more space to put a turf field in while also maintaining part of the park for community use such as Gasworks and Meridian Parks.</p> <p>Another option is to turn the Lincoln parking lot back into a field like it used to be.</p> <p>Thanks for your consideration.</p>
2024-10-11 12:47:55	<p>Please do not turn Wallingford Park into a turf field. It is important to the community as a small slice of greenspace that allows for children to play and the people who live in the surrounding neighborhood to gather.</p>
2024-10-11 14:55:19	<p>Please consider an underground parking lot and ground level athletics field vs. converting Wallingford Play field. The impact on non-high school athlete populations is just too high to make losing the park worthwhile (not to mention moving in the wrong direction in terms of canopy to cool our cities as temperatures rise).</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-11 19:31:23	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>I am writing to provide input on the proposed turfing of Wallingford Playfield. I am opposed to this project for many of the same reasons you have already heard from many other members of the community, and summarized well here: <a href="https://wallingfordparkalliance.org/#why-preserve-wallingford-park">https://wallingfordparkalliance.org/#why-preserve-wallingford-park</a>.</p> <p>But I want to focus my comments on the alternatives.</p> <p>I am a Wallingford resident who lives about a block from the park and my family has used the park since before we became parents. Our children do not currently attend Lincoln, but our daughter will attend next fall. We have lived in Wallingford for more than 20 years so we are intimately familiar with the growth and changes our neighborhood has seen over the years.</p> <p>While I am not in favor of turfing over Wallingford Playfield, I do agree that more field space is needed, not only for the high school and middle school, but for Seattle as a whole. I would suggest considering the following alternatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lincoln parking lot: I understand from the FAQs that you are revisiting the idea of underground parking at the current parking lot and putting the field over it. This might be more expensive, but it is the best long-term solution and investment for the school and community. It used to be a field, so that location makes the most sense. Some folks might say it is not large enough for a football field, but for a practice field, it is large enough, and the field can still serve other sports as well. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro: Lincoln gets a long-term dedicated priority field, which can also be shared with the middle school and general community when not in use.</li> <li>• Con: Cost. Perhaps enlist the PTSA and neighborhood groups to fundraise.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Gas Works Park: The grassy area west of the parking lot is underutilized. A field could be placed in the center of the wedge shaped area that is currently occupied by the grass and the parking lot. The parking could be moved to either side of the field (to allow a larger rectangle for the field. It may not be regulation size, but seems good enough for practices. Athletes can walk/jog or bus and walk (15-20 min). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro: Close to school; parking nearby; adds additional field space for Seattle as a whole</li> <li>• Con: Size might be smaller, but seems large enough for practice space.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. John Marshall Building (520 NE Ravenna): This school (currently used as a temporary school when other schools are being renovated) has a large parking lot. It seems to have lots of parking, so no need for underground parking. Just turf over part of the parking area. The 62 bus goes there. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro: On underutilized SPS land; turfing over parking lot is less expensive; still parking space left over.</li> <li>• Con: Not as close to the school</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Lower Woodland: There appears to be space north of the Upper Woodland Courts and west of the Baseball Field for additional field space. This may currently be taken up by mountain bike tracks, but seems like dirt tracks would be easier to re-route to another portion of the park.</li> </ol>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro: Closer to the school; increases number of fields available to Seattle as a whole</li> <li>• Con: Competition with other uses. Possible opposition from mountain bikers, environmentalists who want to preserve the trees</li> </ul> <p>5. Queen Anne Bowl: If Lincoln HS football already has a bus to take them to practices, why not bus them to Queen Anne Bowl (still closer than Seattle Center)? It also has parking at the North Queen Anne School (Cascade Parent Partnership) next door. It's already turfed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro: Already turfed, so no cost (except perhaps adding lighting). Parking next door at North Queen Anne Building parking lot after school hours</li> <li>• Con: Not football sized, not as close to school (but closer than Memorial Stadium). Competition with other SPR users.</li> </ul> <p>I also want to point out that high school teens have (or should have) more experience traveling around Seattle after dark. Turfing over Wallingford Playfield for their priority use means displacing middle school Ultimate Frisbee players (6th and 7th graders; read: 10-13 year olds) who currently use the field in the after school hours (3:45-5:45). It makes more sense to reserve these closer fields for younger athletes, instead of making them take public buses to farther away fields, such as Greenlake Playfield.</p> <p>Your answers regarding prioritized usage in the FAQs was not clear to me. Could you clarify at your next public meeting whether the proposed field would be used only for practice, or if games will be held there? If not there, where will "home" games be held? Will Memorial Stadium become the "home" field for Lincoln football again after its renovation?</p> <p>With Memorial Stadium becoming unavailable as soon as Summer 2025, I understand the school's urgency in completing this project. However, I find it objectionable to be trying to push this through on such an aggressive timeline when it will have long term impacts on the neighborhood for decades to come.</p> <p>I urge you to consider alternative options that make more sense for the long-term future of both our schools and our community.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-12 00:00:00	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Our petition continues to grow, now at 538 signatures. Please see the most recent comments posted over the past few days. This is an incredibly unpopular proposal. Everyone we speak to is shocked and angry that SPS wants to take over our park. Please listen to your community and constituents.</p> <p>We would love a response from you.</p> <p>Thank you, Wallingford Park Alliance</p> <p><a href="https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-wallingford-playfield-no-turf?fbclid=IwY2xjawFlN6xleHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHYPLINDDDTfp1Lc7s8pezLkA2MdgfCYGsQECHHmj8iaol8x3ZXHEIS8ag_aem_GaoK7J9D5OqSDxPWH1prQ">https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/save-wallingford-playfield-no-turf?fbclid=IwY2xjawFlN6xleHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHYPLINDDDTfp1Lc7s8pezLkA2MdgfCYGsQECHHmj8iaol8x3ZXHEIS8ag_aem_GaoK7J9D5OqSDxPWH1prQ</a></p>
2024-10-12 00:00:00	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is _____ and I've been a Wallingford resident for almost four years. I love this neighborhood. It's an amazing place to feel connected to the city as well as build smaller tight-knit communities.</p> <p>Something else I love about the neighborhood is all of the green space. It's amazing to have a place for us locals to go and reclaim some our connection to nature. I'm scared that if we replace this green space with a plastic field we might see more and more of it. I would hate to see our beautiful emerald city become and astro-turf city for the sake of convenience.</p> <p>I know this might be seem like a overreaction, but I know that they are many people these days that are exhausted by an artificial world that seems to be inescapable. I sure am. As a kid I played soccer and my absolute favorite practices or games were the ones where it was raining. I loved getting muddy and dirty, pulling chunks of grass out of my cleats, and have grass stains on my knees for days after a match. Please don't take that experience from these kids. Please don't force them to give up what might be the only natural communion they might have.</p> <p>I love this city, for all its faults and problems, it has done one thing right. It has prioritized nature in the community. Please don't sacrifice that priority for another. Please, from the bottom of my heart, do not replace nature with plastic.</p> <p>From a former Marine and Eagle Scout, thank you for your time.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-12 01:13:42	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing because I have concerns about plans for an athletic turf field taking over Wallingford park. This plan would limit outdoor access for the community and significantly reduce green space. The surrounding neighborhood would also be affected by sound and light pollution.</p> <p>I live in Wallingford and only found out about this because of flyers another community member put up. So outside of my concerns for how this would affect the community, I am also very concerned with how SPS is approaching this. It seems like the process is rather rushed, and the efforts to engage the community are not in good faith.</p> <p>I urge SPS to consider other options and slow down the process to engage meaningfully with the community in a way that produces both buy-in and trust.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
2024-10-12 01:28:10	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing because I have concerns about plans for an athletic turf field taking over Wallingford park. This plan would limit outdoor access for the community and significantly reduce green space. The surrounding neighborhood would also be affected by sound and light pollution.</p> <p>I live in Wallingford and only found out about this because of flyers another community member put up. I didn't know about the siting review meeting on 9/19 but have heard there will be another in October. When and where will that meeting be held?</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
2024-10-12 15:09:11	<p>I live near Wallingford Park, and I and many residents use it for a variety of activities daily, including casual and organized sports like frisbee and soccer, picnics, tai-chi, dog walking, exercise, and many more activities. SPS should not hijack the park for a limited use for an artificial turf field for Lincoln High School. I graduated from Lincoln, which has used Lower Woodland for sports for years - build the field there! Or use the large parking lot north of Lincoln for the field. Leave Wallingford Park alone! Keep the park a park, for the use of all and not just for one school community.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-10-12 17:02:00</p>	<p>I am writing to ask that you please preserve Wallingford Playfield in its current state and move forward with finding an alternative location for a synthetic turf athletic field for Hamilton and Lincoln. My family have lived in Wallingford for the last 11 years and have a 10 and a 6 year old. Our oldest will be at Hamilton next year and both of our kids play club soccer and would stand to benefit, at least in the short term, from a turf soccer field. However, after careful consideration of the proposal, I am writing to ask that you preserve the park as is.</p> <p>The proponents of this plan are downplaying the value of the park, as it is currently comprised, to our community. Since becoming a parent 10.5 years ago, we have spent more time at that park than any other in the city, not just for the playground but for impromptu games of soccer, kickball and baseball, as well as gathering with friends where our kids have room to run. There is tremendous value to open space that does not have to be booked ahead of time with the parks. Both of our kids have had rec soccer games and practices at the park and we look forward to seeing friends and neighbors there.</p> <p>If Wallingford Playfield is converted to synthetic turf, it will simply not be available for this sort of flexible community use, despite what proponents of the plan would have us believe. Like the other synthetic turf fields, it'll be booked by organized sports, including school sports and club sports, almost constantly. The rec soccer league will be forced to find alternative fields -- even now, older kids have to play most of their games in Shoreline because they don't get priority access to turf fields in or near Wallingford. Furthermore, synthetic turf is environmentally unfriendly and will significantly heat up the park in the summer.</p> <p>I don't disagree that Hamilton and Lincoln need better access to athletic fields. But converting a beloved community park which is currently used by residents of all ages and reducing access to natural green space in Wallingford is not the solution. Please find another site for the athletic field.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-13 20:15:35	<p>I have lived here since before Lincoln High School was reopened a few years ago. I've supported Seattle Public Schools, however the plan to convert Wallingford Park to a turf field is incredibly concerning. I am confident SPS can find an alternative location that would not negatively impact the community like this plan would. I am sure these are repetitive but these points reflect my feelings very accurately.</p> <p>Displaces current multigenerational neighborhood use. The park is already home to many uses, including picnics, meetings, pickup field games, practice, theater, Frisbee, tai-chi, dance, and more, by people of all ages and backgrounds. The proposed plan narrows usability from a broad demographic to primary use by student athletes.</p> <p>Loss of green space. The sizing diagrams for this plan show that the artificial turf field will take up 85% of the existing green space — trees, grass, bushes — gone. Our neighborhood must prioritize preserving green space for a population that is only increasing in density. Not everyone has a backyard or a tree. This would remove what greenspace we have.</p> <p>Environmental impact. Artificial turf is not the same as grass, and has environmental impact. We will see a loss of canopy as significant trees are removed. Young trees require decades to provide shade and habitat for local wildlife.</p> <p>This park already serves the schools. The schools are already using this park for PE and practice. This proposal gives them nearly exclusive use of a field designed primarily for athletics rather than open and general use.</p> <p>Plan prioritizes school athletics. This plan gives nearly all the park other than playground and tennis courts over to Varsity Football, Varsity Soccer, and JV games, displacing community use out of proportion to the community's presence and need.</p> <p>Restricted hours, with heavy school use. Schools intend to use the athletic field about 11 hours a day (8am-7pm). Other organized sports and the community will only be able to use the field after 7pm, and before the park closes at 10pm. If they can schedule at all, with all the groups who have been displaced looking for that time.</p> <p>Children will lose essential park activities. This proposal favors the needs of student athletes at the expense of other local children. Children use the park now, beyond merely the playground. Kids like to run, to kick and throw balls, to ride their bikes — and they need a safe space to do so. This plan would eliminate the park for the use of children outside the limited playground area. This includes neighborhood daycare and preschools that rely on the park's open space.</p> <p>The community will lose open access, both in time and square footage. Open space for adults and children to play, and enjoyment of greenspace, is appropriate and legitimate use of a park. A toddler walking on grass should not need to schedule time.</p> <p>Sound and light pollution. We are assured that field lighting won't spill out into the neighborhood. (Do neighbors in Greenlake want to weigh in on their experience with Woodland Park Playfield?) Even if true, this position discounts park uses like sunset and star-gazing. Sound pollution from games and evening practices will certainly impact neighbors for blocks around.</p> <p>The Park must be maintained. Could the grassy field be better maintained than it has been these last few years? Yes! We all want that. We ask that Parks &amp; Rec resume maintaining the field properly as it has in times past. But flattening the park — removing grass, trees, and greenspace, then covering it over with plastic — is not the answer.</p>

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	<p>Community trust and buy-in on process and decision. This plan has rolled out very quickly – so quickly that many people who would be affected by it only learned of it in mid-September, mere days before the community meeting on 9/19 – and couldn’t attend. Worse yet, many neighbors report having been notified about the meeting after it had occurred. Many stakeholders felt unheard and uninvolved. SPS’s decision options, and the process of creating the plan, have felt rushed and hidden. In times past, SPS has involved community and business in such impactful decisions. We urge SPS to slow this process so it can engage meaningfully with the community in a way that produces both buy-in and trust.</p> <p>This proposal is counter to Seattle Parks &amp; Rec (SPR) Mission Statement: “Seattle Parks and Recreation equips employees and the public for well-being as we support healthy people, a thriving environment and vibrant community. We provide safe and accessible spaces for residents and visitors to work, recreate, rejuvenate and enhance quality of life and wellness for children, teenagers, adults and seniors.”</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2024-10-13 22:03:39	Please prioritize the children of Seattle public schools and remake the field adjacent to Lincoln to support students use of it for classes and sports.

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-14 00:00:00	<p>I'm trying to clear my calendar, as are several of my neighbors, for this important meeting. Can you please tell us when it will be so that we can be available to attend?</p> <p>Short notice is not just rude, it's a sign that this process is rushed and poorly researched.</p> <p>Please reply to this email with the following requested information:            Date &amp; Time:            Location:            Format: (eg. Time for community comment?)            Attendees from SPR, SPS and City of Seattle</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
2024-10-14 00:00:00	<p>Hi Page,</p> <p>I live across the street from the Wallingford park (42nd and Burke).I had reached out to the city a bit ago to see if they would be putting in a crosswalk due to all of the school foot traffic.</p> <p>With the proposed park field plan, do you know if that intersection will get a crosswalk (I hear cars slamming on their breaks frequently and it's a big concern with existing foot traffic, which I suspect would increase with the changes to the park?</p> <p>I didn't realize there was a community meeting in September. I'd like to attend the next meeting to learn more.            Do you have a date/location for the next community meeting?</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
2024-10-14 00:00:00	<p>Hi All,</p> <p>I wanted you to see why the current "fight" over the use of Wallingford Playfield is so frustrating for many of us in the neighborhood. This is one example of the way we tried to support this particular need for Lincoln and the Wallingford Urban Village. This is not the only one. When the advice of the community goes unheeded and then the community is the one to suffer the consequences of that short sightedness, it really does a number on our faith in our city's leaders and undermines our belief in strategic goals and growth management.</p> <p>I sent this email to our City Councilmember and our School Board rep at the time (2018). Ultimately, all advice about how to truly and deeply plan for the needs of the school community and the urban village concurrently fell on deaf ears. Please don't let that happen again.</p>
2024-10-14 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige.</p> <p>The Wallingford Community gets together each month to talk about neighborhood projects. Our next meeting is on 10/17.</p> <p>Do you have a date for a 2nd meeting in regards to the Lincoln Field project? We'd like to let our community know.</p> <p>thank you!</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-14 12:47:16	<p>I've lived in Wallingford since 1982, and my four young children use Wallingford Park daily. I live a block from the park and it's the only park that my children can reasonably walk to that doesn't require getting in a car or walking over a mile. I'm concerned about the proposed redevelopment plan that will replace much of the park's open green space with an athletic field. Growing up I spent the majority of my time at that park with my friends in the neighborhood doing everything from playing pickup soccer and football games to hanging out after school with kids from class to playing catch with my dad - both when I was at Hamilton and earlier at Latona Elementary. My children are at BF Day and Hamilton now and Wallingford park is the highlight of living in this neighborhood.</p> <p>As the Zoning is increasing density and overdeveloping with multi-units that have no parking, removing the greenspace will only compound the issue. Where do kids hang out if there's no close public space? How are they expected to be healthy if there's nowhere to run and play? If anything, the green space helps mitigate the density issue.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider this plan and engage the community to find a more balanced solution. The other location options would be infinitely preferable. Or using the Lincoln High School Parking lot which makes sense as this is a primary use for the athletic field for Lincoln High School Students.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
2024-10-14 15:37:03	<p>I'm a parent of one student currently at Lincoln and two future Hamilton and Lincoln students. Over our 11 years living in the neighborhood, my kids have all spent countless days playing on the playground at Wallingford Park. All of them have played community soccer with Woodland soccer club at Wallingford, and I have coached several seasons for that league, as well as two seasons of ultimate for Hamilton. I was also, until recently, a dog owner. So, I understand the need to balance the diverse needs of residents.</p> <p>An artificial turf field at Wallingford Park would be a tremendous benefit not only to Lincoln and Hamilton students, but to the community in general. With a growing population citywide and in Wallingford, an increase in playing space, measured in field-hours, is a necessity. An artificial turf field is the only realistic option given the expected intensity of use, and lighting is essential given our dark winters.</p> <p>Artificial turf would be significantly safer than natural turf, since the latter inevitably turns into something resembling the aftermath of an artillery bombardment. Last year, practicing with an adult team on one of Seattle Parks' poorly maintained natural grass fields, I broke my ankle. It ruined my entire summer and I don't wish it on anyone else.</p> <p>In a city with scarce space we should be looking to using all land for its highest and best use. Surface parking is generally the lowest and worst use. SPS, Parks, and Planning should evaluate the possibility of waiving Lincoln's requirement to provide on-site parking, or either undergrounding the parking or creating an elevated greenspace above the parking. Although the Lincoln parking lot is too small to accommodate a regulation sized football field and sidelines, such a space could accommodate a useful practice sized field, or new natural space to compensate for the loss of non-reservable space at Wallingford Park.</p> <p>A lot of the discussion has centered on Lincoln's football team. It will be critical to ensure that girls sports get equal access to the field, as do other field sports, such as ultimate and soccer. Access to non-school users should prioritize local, community based groups that welcome participation from all. Elite, private club sports should be expected to pay market rate for private field access.</p> <p>It is possible to accommodate a new artificial turf field at Wallingford Park while preserving and improving the experience for other users. In particular, I urge you to consider the possibility of lighting the tennis courts and playground in conjunction with the playing field, so that these amenities will also be available to users after dark - which is of course is essentially all of our after-work time in the winter.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-14 16:14:07	<p>Hi there, I just wanted to say as a long time resident of Wallingford, and with my children in both Hamilton and Lincoln that we are VERY BIG Supporters of updating Wallingford park with field turf.</p> <p>I am hopefully however, that it can be done in a thoughtful way to allow all community to still use the resource and so hoping we can keep the tennis courts, keep a playground (different location is fine) and also keep a path that people can walk around the park in as I know many folks do use it for this.</p> <p>Updating to field turf is such an amazing place for our community to come together and allow our kids and us to not have injuries walking across the existing mud field and deal with dog poop.</p> <p>Thanks so much!</p>
2024-10-14 17:04:38	<p>I grew up in Wallingford, one block away from the Wallingford park. I went to the park every weekend of my childhood with other neighborhood kids. I remember rolling down the (real!) grass hills and playing make believe in the trees. I discovered my love of running by sprinting around the field. I met neighbors and made friends. When it snowed in the winter we took sleds down the little slopes at the field. In the fall I played hours of recreational soccer in the field. In the summer we took library books to the field and had picnics while we read. Year round we hosted and attended many birthday parties in the park. I can sincerely say my childhood would not have been the same if the park didn't exist, or if a giant plastic turf field that I had to sign up to use was there instead.</p> <p>I am deeply upset that Seattle Public Schools wants to destroy this vital community space and turn it into a turf field. I am a proud graduate of Hamilton Middle School and Garfield High School. I understand the importance of maintaining and updating SPS facilities. With that in mind, I find it outrageous that the School District is using Lincoln's "need" for a new football field as an excuse to destroy a beautiful green space in the middle of our city. It is my understanding that this is not the school district's only option; there are other venues where students could practice football, that wouldn't require destroying a well loved park. It is also outrageous that the school district is attempting to take away use of this community resource by community members, who would no longer be able to freely use the space if this plan goes through.</p> <p>As a lifelong member of the Wallingford community I strongly oppose the proposed destruction of Wallingford park and demand that SPS reconsider its deeply harmful plan.</p>
2024-10-14 20:18:14	<p>"Many Lincoln students have to travel long distances for early morning and late evening practices. During the fall and winter months, this means students are leaving campuses in the dark, raising safety concerns" This is frankly nonsensical and shameful bikeshedding. We live in the Northwest. We have winter. There are periods of the year where it is dark until students are in class and it'll be dark when they leave that field if it was modified. This sort of illogical fearmongering is below the school district.</p>
2024-10-14 21:28:19	<p>I am writing in support of the Lincoln playfields at Wallingford park.</p>
2024-10-14 21:56:43	<p>I wanted to voice my support for the turf field at Wallingford playfield. My children used Wallingford playfield for recreational soccer while they were growing up and my daughter played on that field for Ultimate Frisbee at Hamilton. Both children are students at Hamilton and use the field for school activities and PE. The field has always been very poor quality. A few years ago, the city tried to grow new grass, unsuccessfully. This is not ideal for all of the children who use it. It would be amazing to have a high quality playing surface in our neighborhood. Due to other sports participation, we know how much of a shortage there is for field access in this city. We need more field space and Wallingford is a great place to do this.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-14 22:38:31	<p>Placing an athletic turf field at Wallingford Park would remove access from the general public in favor of an exclusive group of users -- student athletes (who will access the park from 3:40-7:00 pm), and citywide organized sports teams, who will be able to reserve and use the turf field from 7:00-10:00 pm. That means the general public could only access the field between 10:00 pm and 8:30 am. The mission of Seattle Parks and Recreation is to "provide safe and accessible spaces for residents and visitors to work, recreate, rejuvenate and enhance quality of life and wellness for children, teenagers, adults and seniors." Placing a turf field at Wallingford Park for use of Lincoln High School, Hamilton Middle School, and citywide organized sports teams would exclude most of the public; i.e., anyone not in official student athletics (varsity teams and football would be prioritized, according to the FAQs), or in a citywide adult or youth organized sports team. Given the extremely limited access to green, open spaces in our dense city, it makes more sense from an equity perspective to place a turf field in a spot that would not remove heavily used existing green space. For example, the gravel lot at Lower Woodland (50th and Aurora) would be an ideal location for a turf field. It would not displace pre-existing greenspace, and it would activate a previously underused open space in Seattle. For these reasons, please do not place a turf athletic field at Wallingford Park.</p>
2024-10-14 22:57:53	<p>I'm in full support of athletic fields for Lincoln High School to be located at Wallingford Playfield. I am confident that this will be a shared community asset to be enjoyed beyond Lincoln High School students. Recreation is important to the mental and physical health of young people. Thank you for your work on this important project.</p>
2024-10-14 23:01:37	<p>A turf field is much needed for our Lincoln HS athletes, as well as Hamilton middle school athletes &amp; PE classes. Talk about resourcing our schools! This is a wonderful opportunity to add this asset to these schools, as well as to the community as a whole. I think many neighbors don't understand how a turf field will be so much more used than the field in its current state.</p> <p>A few suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Next meeting a few people should be able to talk from each side. Mainly, I believe the neighbors don't know the reality for athletes right now &amp; how the turf field will change that for the better!</li> <li>-to appease neighbors who are worried only the field will be used for paying groups, it might be good to have certain times on weekends where no one can book it - maybe 11-1 or something like that?</li> <li>-please have someone from Woodland soccer league come talk about how this will positively impact them too! I think many neighbors don't know that local rec leagues get priority for field rentals. I know they would prefer not to play on a muddy, hole filled field!</li> </ul> <p>Thanks for all the work you're doing to make this happen for our children &amp; community!</p>
2024-10-15 00:00:00	<p>Hello,          I'm reaching out from Councilmember Maritza Rivera's office. Can you please tell me when/where the next public meeting about the proposal for Wallingford Playfield will be?          I see something in a slide deck about 10/24, but I'm not seeing that date on the SPS page.          Thank you!          Wendy</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-15 00:00:00	<p>Dear Richard Best, Seattle Public School Director of Capital Planning (spoke at LHS presentation 9/19) and Paige McGehee, Project Manager of the LHS Field Project:</p> <p>I am writing to you as a resident of Wallingford since 1987. I live across from the Wallingford Playfield and Hamilton School; my family and I have utilized this green space for nearly 40 years. The Wallingford Playfield has been a community asset and treasured place for residents of all ages. To lose this green space for the community to only serve the schools is not right. For sure the schools need athletic fields, but they should not be at the cost of community spaces. As Wallingford is changing and there are more apartments and townhouses, the community needs this green space even more. This is a Seattle Park, not a school property. The playfield already supports the schools, and the community should not be forgotten. This plan gives nearly all the park other than playground and tennis courts over to Varsity Football, Varsity Soccer, and JV games, displacing community use out of proportion to the community's presence and need.</p> <p>Removing established older trees with saplings is devastating - the development now allowed in Wallingford is causing a significant decrease in green space and trees and grass. Astro turf is not the same as green grass and earth. The green space of Wallingford playfield/park will be decreased by 85%.</p> <p>This plan has rolled out very quickly – so quickly that many people who would be affected by it only learned of it in mid-September, mere days before the community meeting on 9/19. I was unable to attend due a work trip. Many stakeholders felt unheard and uninvolved. SPS's decision options, and the process of creating the plan, have felt rushed and hidden.</p> <p>This proposal is counter to your Seattle Parks &amp; Rec (SPR) Mission Statement: "Seattle Parks and Recreation equips employees and the public for well-being as we support healthy people, a thriving environment and vibrant community. We provide safe and accessible spaces for residents and visitors to work, recreate, rejuvenate and enhance quality of life and wellness for children, teenagers, adults and seniors."</p> <p>We rely on this community asset for our well-being and enjoyment. It is not right to take it away for a football field. This proposed change will narrow the use of the field and denies people of all generations to get exercise and make use of green space. Save our community resource. There are other alternatives for a football field with astro turf.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2024-10-15 00:00:06	Yes, do it, especially if it will prevent people illegally letting their dogs tear up the field and poop all over it.
2024-10-15 00:12:26	I am supportive of the sports field. I am incensed by the number of off leash dogs at Wallingford playfield and the damage the dogs do to the fields. This change would be a park upgrade.
2024-10-15 00:13:07	I have four kids, all slated to go to Lincoln High School. I don't have a lot of time to formulate a long narrative here, but I want to say I ardently support a turf playfield, hopefully with lights. I believe Seattle does not have enough field space to use year-round and evenings, and the kids need a place to play. The turf fields I frequent with my kids, and as a soccer player myself, get considerably more use than Wallingford playfield does. I am sensitive to those wanting to keep grass and preserve nature, but with Gasworks, BF Day, Meridian Park and Lower Woodland grassy areas nearby, there are plenty of grassy options.



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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-15 00:15:23	<p>We live in the neighborhood (2314 N 40th Street, Seattle, WA 98103), currently have 2 kids in SPS, and a 3rd one joining next year (JSIS) and we 100% support the proposal to convert Wallingford Playfields from grass to artificial turf. The grass there appears to be very difficult to maintain, and is constantly being destroyed by people who allow their dogs to run on it, mainly off-leash (2 things which are not permitted on Seattle Playfields). A turf field will benefit not only Lincoln High School and Hamilton Middle School (where all 3 of our children will go) but it will benefit the environment by not being a huge waste of water every summer, most of it used in vain. And if the lack of grass means a lack of off-leash dogs to frighten the kids playing on the playground, all the better!</p>
2024-10-15 01:03:07	<p>I fully support the proposal for a turf field at Wallingford Park. Our public school students need a field on/near campus. I understand the concerns of neighbors but Wallingford is blessed with multiple parks nearby.</p>
2024-10-15 01:05:52	<p>I have 4 children, and we have been avid users of the play structures, wading pool, tennis courts, and fields at Wallingford Playfield since we moved to Seattle in 2009. All of my children have attended neighborhood public schools, including Hamilton Middle School and Lincoln High School. They have participated in recreational sports including Woodland Soccer Club, club soccer teams, and middle and high school teams. I will note that I have never had a child on the Lincoln football team nor the men's varsity soccer team.</p> <p>From the time my now-19-year-old started playing soccer with the Woodland Soccer club at age 5, the field space there has been in terrible, nearly unplayable condition, and it has only gotten worse. The surface is uneven, muddy with scarce grass, which grows in large clumps which my 7-year-old son and his teammates trip on, and the ball is deflected by. There is often dog excrement on the playing field due to its frequent use as an unofficial off-leash dog park. Children trip, fall, sprain ankles, and slip on it.</p> <p>I have long hoped that this field would get an upgrade. When Lincoln reopened, I was thrilled to have a high school right in the neighborhood, but concerned about the lack of a playfield. From my children's years playing recreational and competitive soccer, I knew that field space in the neighborhood is already quite limited and sought after by a variety of sports organizations.</p> <p>Creating a turf playfield at Wallingford would provide more space for practice and games for Lincoln and Hamilton teams as well as the Woodland Soccer Club and other neighborhood organizations. Ideally, this could be done without removing all the trees, or displacing the entire playground at the current park site. Regardless, the high school and middle school PE classes and sports teams are long overdue to have a useable year-round sports field nearby, and many other community groups will also benefit from it.</p> <p>Some community members have expressed concern about potential health impacts of synthetic turf. I would imagine that Seattle Schools and Seattle Parks would build this field with the sustainable and less toxic cork and sand fill as used in other recent field builds and renovations. Other community members have expressed concern regarding loss of trees. I hope the perimeter of the park can still have trees to provide shade, habitat, and aesthetic benefit.</p> <p>From what I have seen, aside from organized sports groups, the most frequent users of (and most outspoken defenders of) the current poor quality field are dog owners. Perhaps there is another location in the neighborhood - maybe a portion of Meridian Park or Gasworks - that could be used to create an off-leash dog park with natural grass and mud for these park users.</p>
2024-10-15 01:19:45	<p>My family is supportive of the proposal to convert Wallingford playfield's field to a rec field for Lincoln HS and Hamilton Intl MS, if it's designed properly, provides inclusive access to a variety of groups, and allows the rest of the park to still be used for multiple purposes after construction. Community groups like rec soccer would also benefit from this field on evenings and weekends.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-15 01:22:28	<p>Wallingford should be shifted to turf. This will benefit the neighborhood, the schools, and especially the students. Most of the kids playing in the grass at Wallingford are kids who will benefit from this turf. In middle school and high school. It is an unsafe swamp much of the winter and not sure full for sports; please improve it with turf so we can use it year-round</p> <p>The neighbors opposed mostly like to run their dogs in the grass illegally. I'm tired of finding poop in the kids' soccer field. Don't listen to them.</p> <p>Please make Seattle a better place to raise a family. It is so hard to compete with suburban schools who have massive turf fields next to their facilities. Let's treat our kids like the priority they are. Add turf to Wallingford playfield.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Ps. Please next turf field 1&amp;2next to Blaine. Thanks!!</p>
2024-10-15 01:22:42	<p>I have lived in Seattle all my life and in the neighborhood for the last 20 years. Anyone doubting the true field usefulness of a true field should view the Loyal Heights field on a weekend day. Maybe take a time lapse of a utilized field on a weekend day and show the benefit to the community.</p> <p>The High School must have a field. Another option is to use Eminent Domain and take a neighborhood block.</p> <p>You talk about dog poop but this also removes risk for goose poop.</p>
2024-10-15 01:41:03	<p>I think that our neighborhood and two major schools need to finally have a decent field. I really hope that the administration will choose our hundreds of students over dog owners who want to keep Wallingford Park to let their dog running around and digging holes. I tried to go to the park to play with my kids but between the holes and the poops, and soon the mud, it's not a usable resource.</p> <p>Please, put down the turf and let's finally invest on our kids.</p>
2024-10-15 10:59:45	<p>I support the field project! Wallingford Playfield is constantly filled with holes/poop left by dogs or mud. Please keep the playground!</p>
2024-10-15 11:21:34	<p>My wife and I reside at _____, less than a block down from Wallingford Park. We, along with many other local residents, benefit by walking or relaxing on the benches placed around its tree-lined perimeters. We delighted in bringing our children and now our grandchildren to the playfield and, in the summers, to the supervised wading pool provided there. There is a cozy picnic area for friends and families to enjoy. And on weekends kids and their parents enliven the Park with spirited soccer matches. Seniors from the nearby University House regularly use the trail along the perimeter of the playfield and enjoy viewing activities by other age groups from the vantage point of the benches placed around the edge. Residents of the ever-increasing apartment complexes now cropping up in the vicinity take advantage of the green space their housing does not provide. The current use by Hamilton Middle School and Lincoln's PE classes fits in seamlessly with the neighborhood use of the playfield. As you can see, here is a space that is the essence of what a neighborhood park should be, providing a respite for all age groups and all types of residents. All this will go by the by if the proposed plan goes into effect: i.e., to transform this little jewel of a neighborhood asset into an illuminated facility restricted for athletic competition on artificial turf. Please find another solution for the Lincoln High School.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>10/15/2024 1:25:27 A+B5:H5M</p>	<p>My husband and I have been residents of Wallingford since 1982. We have raised our children here and now our grandchildren visit as well and we have always considered ourselves blessed to live in this neighborhood.</p> <p>All of us who live in Seattle have observed almost daily changes to the neighborhoods we have called home. Here in Wallingford it has meant the loss of the Guild 45, Bartells and many small businesses on 45th. We have been saddened by the changes that being designated an "Urban Village" have resulted in, including the many apartment units and townhouses being built replacing small single family homes. We have seen the transformation this has caused but realized it was the inevitable result of the city needing to accommodate the rapid growth it is experiencing.</p> <p>We have never written to complain or ask for answers to this rapid explosion of growth in our neighborhood till now.</p> <p>Last month, we received an announcement from the Seattle Schools of a public meeting on the recommendation that was being made to convert the Wallingford Park to the Lincoln High School Practice Field on September 19. Unfortunately, our invitation arrived 6 days after the meeting had taken place which effectively eliminated any possibility of giving input to this plan which impacts so many.</p> <p>Our family has been a daily user of this park since moving here. We have had two daughters play early morning soccer games on Saturday for over 15 years. We have walked and talked with residents of University House as we strolled around the pathway of the park, we have held birthday parties, showers and reunions in various corners of the park over the year, we have marveled at the diversity of people who utilize this park on a daily basis. From Tai-Chi classes to PE classes from the adjoining Hamilton MS, to pre-schools who use it as their daily exercise for their little charges. We have come there when we get our infrequent snow, even in the middle of the night, and made snow angels on the gentle slopes surrounding the park.</p> <p>This park is in constant use. And none of these activities could take place on an artificial turf that eliminates all of the grass and trees that have grown here over the years.</p> <p>At the end of this letter, I will note the history of neighborhood involvement in this project as well as some alternate suggestions but I am guessing it is all information that has been presented to you in one way or another.</p> <p>I will end this letter with the simple request that you stop to really listen to the people who live in this neighborhood and not just the parents of student athletes who attend Hamilton or Lincoln. While I applaud student athletics I also realize as a former teacher that they represent a relatively small percentage of the K-12 (and younger) population of the youth who live in this area. Constructing an artificial field to replace the natural grass and trees that are currently there would cause irreparable loss.</p> <p>There are solutions listed below that meet the needs of both students and neighborhood families. Displacing local families and disregarding their input would only exacerbate health and activity inequities. I ask you to consider alternative options and allow our small and widely used neighborhood park to remain as is – a park for all to enjoy.</p> <p>We are happy to talk with you about any of the issues addressed in this letter.</p> <p>Thank you for listening.</p> <p>History</p> <p>Many Wallingford neighbors strongly advocated for Lincoln High School to build a turf playfield on the North side of the school rather than a parking lot, but the District chose to build the parking lot instead.</p>

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	<p>The neighborhood proposed a public/private partnership in which they would raise funds to support the building of the playfield for Lincoln athletics, but SPS said they would prefer to use Woodland Park.</p> <p>The neighborhood group told them that Woodland Park was highly scheduled and would be difficult to access on a regular basis, but SPS turned down our offer of funding and made the decision not to build a playfield for Lincoln.</p> <p>Equity concerns:</p> <p>Natural, free-play parks like Wallingford Park are vital for families without backyards, cars, or the means to pay for organized sports.</p> <p>Research shows that youth from low-income families are less likely to engage in physical activity or organized sports and having access to low-cost, public options is vital to health equity.</p> <p>Wallingford has recently been upzoned to an Urban Village that has seen very significant increases in townhomes and affordable housing, exactly those families who lack backyards and access to structured sports.</p> <p>Installing a turf field will displace these neighborhood users who rely on the park for physical activity and recreation, and will primarily benefit those who already have access to structured sports.</p> <p>And tangentially, it is frustrating to see SPS closing schools due to lack of budget but proposing to spend millions of dollars to turn our small neighborhood park into a turfed athletic field for its students.</p> <p>Access Issues:</p> <p>Wallingford is the only neighborhood in Seattle without a community center!</p> <p>According to the Seattle Parks and Recreation Community Center Plan, “A community center should be located within one mile of every Seattle household...</p> <p>Each Urban Center of the City is to be served by a community center” (SPR Plan, 2016, p. 44). The plan goes on to say that “the most significant gap is in the Wallingford neighborhood” (p. 44).</p> <p>Instead of addressing this gap, SPS is proposing to remove another communal space, further limiting recreational access for ALL families in the neighborhood.</p> <p>This decision widens the gap between those who can access physical activity opportunities and those who cannot, and steals more recreational amenities from the one neighborhood in Seattle without a community center.</p> <p>Compromise Solutions:</p> <p>There are better ways to meet both school and neighborhood needs:</p>

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	<p>Explore other fields such as Queen Anne Bowl (which is already a turfed athletic field, and most QA students attend Lincoln HS),</p> <p>Woodland Park (e.g. underutilized parking lots) or Green Lake (e.g. east of the community center) for turf installation.</p> <p>Revisit the original idea of a field next to the school, replacing or covering the parking lot with a turf field for athletics</p> <p>Consider partial turfing at the West end of the park only, leaving plenty of natural space for free play.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-10-16 00:00:00</p>	<p>I grew up in Wallingford, one block away from the Wallingford park. I went to the park every weekend of my childhood with other neighborhood kids. I remember rolling down the (real!) grass hills and playing make believe in the trees. I discovered my love of running by sprinting around the field. I met neighbors and made friends. When it snowed in the winter we took sleds down the little slopes at the field. In the fall I played hours of recreational soccer in the field. In the summer we took library books to the field and had picnics while we read. Year round we hosted and attended many birthday parties in the park. I can sincerely say my childhood would not have been the same if the park didn't exist, or if a giant plastic turf field that I had to sign up to use was there instead.</p> <p>I am deeply upset that Seattle Public Schools wants to destroy this vital community space and turn it into a turf field. I am a proud graduate of Hamilton Middle School and Garfield High School. I understand the importance of maintaining and updating SPS facilities. With that in mind, I find it outrageous that the School District is using Lincoln's "need" for a new football field as an excuse to destroy a beautiful green space in the middle of our city. It is my understanding that this is not the school district's only option; there are other venues where students could practice football, that wouldn't require destroying a well loved park. It is also outrageous that the school district is attempting to take away use of this community resource by community members, who would no longer be able to freely use the space if this plan goes through.</p> <p>As a lifelong member of the Wallingford community, and a graduate of Seattle Public Schools, I strongly oppose the proposed destruction of Wallingford park. I ask that you listen to our community and abandon Seattle Public School's harmful proposal.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

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<p>2024-10-17 00:00:00</p>	<p>Mayor Harrell, Superintendent AP Diaz, and Councilmember Rivera,</p> <p>Some years ago, the City asked all neighborhoods in Seattle to put together a Neighborhood plan to address housing, transportation, business districts, open space, and community health. Wallingford, like every neighborhood in Seattle, spent years working on this project. Once submitted, the city, reviewed, amended, and rolled those neighborhood plans into their Comprehensive Plan. That work informs the city on how we can increase our population while keeping communities vibrant.</p> <p>From Wallingford's Neighborhood Plan p. 24-25:            "In order to meet Comprehensive Plan goals, there should be one acre of village open space per 1,000 households in Wallingford Residential Urban Village (i.e., 2.17 acres of open space). "  <a href="https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/Neighborhoods/Planning/Plan/Wallingford-plan.pdf">https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/Neighborhoods/Planning/Plan/Wallingford-plan.pdf</a>            The only open space within the boundaries of Wallingford's Urban village, is Wallingford Park. It is 1.59 acres, so it is already short of the goal for the Neighborhood Plan.</p> <p>The plan also said: There should be one facility for indoor public assembly in the Residential Urban Village and there should be one dedicated community garden in the Residential Urban Village. (Urban village map attached below)</p> <p>Wallingford has neither of those within the Urban Village boundaries. Wallingford also does not have a community center or a public pool, and Wallingford has one of the smallest libraries, if not the smallest, in the city. Wallingford is underserved in resources. Yet our population is exploding. Stone Way has added many apartment buildings in the last decade, and townhouses and ADU/DADU combos are being steadily built throughout the neighborhood. Currently, there is an 88 unit building, with no parking, in the planning process on 45th.</p> <p>Seattle's Office of Sustainability has stated we need to increase the number of Seattle households within a 10 minute walk to a park. We need to ensure equitable access to parks, and we need to achieve 30% canopy cover. Removing natural grass, restricting open play, and removing mature trees with their canopies, is the antithesis of Seattle's own goals. <a href="https://www.seattle.gov/environment/environmental-progress/trees-and-green-space">https://www.seattle.gov/environment/environmental-progress/trees-and-green-space</a></p> <p>There is an alternative for a field for Lincoln High School nearby. The dirt parking lot off 50th above the Woodland Park picnic area and below Hwy 99, is the right size and it is an underused space. It is also within walking distance of Lincoln High School. There have been rumors that the zoo wants this lot so that they can charge money for parking. Say no to that. The zoo has three parking lots already. Overflow zoo patrons can easily park in the neighborhood or take public transportation to get there.</p> <p>Lincoln needs a field. Wallingford needs their open space and heavily used public park. Please add your voice to the conversation. It is critical that the city honor the neighborhood plans so that the livability of Seattle does not suffer.</p> <p>If you haven't yet read Wallyhood today, here's another voice supporting our local park: <a href="https://www.wallyhood.org/2024/10/wallingford-athletic-field/#gsc.tab=0">https://www.wallyhood.org/2024/10/wallingford-athletic-field/#gsc.tab=0</a></p> <p>Thank you,</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-18 00:00:00	<p>What an absurd idea to change a neighborhood park into a sport's field! This is the community park where I stroll through daily....where individuals run or walk the circle for exercise, where folks meet new friends as they throw balls to their dogs, where birthday and other celebrations are thrown for families and their friends, where being in the green of nature is grounding and allows one to just sit and ponder or meditate. That mellow community park where the health of the neighborhood is served by people just being in the midst of the natural space? That community park where one can find respite from the hustle and bustle of their busy lives? You want to change that park? The optimal words here are community and neighborhood. The schools already use the space for their physical activities such as Frisbee relays and the high school band practices there to name a few. Yet, you want more? You want to cover the natural green grass with synthetic covering for a sports field? It is unconscionable. The city deemed this space as a neighborhood park for a reason. It is a place so many can just walk to. It currently serves the whole community; your way will mostly serve one segment of the population.</p> <p>Let's not change the Wallingford Park. While I am not versed on other options you may have, I am sure you are. You may not get your first choice. You may have to settle for another option. But hey, isn't that the way it goes sometimes? People I have spoken with universally agree with my perspective. Listen to the neighborhood. Focus on your other options. Do the right thing for our community and let us have our little space.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p>
2024-10-18 17:04:28	<p>I've been a Wallingford resident for more than 20 years, and one of the jewels of the neighborhood is the little grassy park that's open to anyone, any day of the week. There's a playground, tennis courts, a wading pool, a giant field for frisbee. Visit it, and you'll find toddlers chasing bubbles, grandparents taking a slow walk around the loop trail, families enjoying picnics.</p> <p>Under a Seattle Public Schools proposal that the Parks department seems to have already blessed with little public discussion, all of these uses would be lost to a new artificial turf athletic field promised mostly to Lincoln High School. I have school-age children who are athletes. I understand the need for more athletic fields. But taking away a city park and handing it over to SPS is the wrong decision.</p> <p>SPS has had years to pursue other alternatives for its athletic fields. One proposal would have used the parking lot on Lincoln's campus. Another called for a new field at Gas Works Park. Either of these locations would be preferable. Wallingford Park is ringed with mature trees, many of which would be bulldozed in order to put up giant lights. In a city that is trying to add to its green canopy, why would the Parks department consent to an SPS plan that removes it and sets back climate goals? How is it acceptable that the Parks department favors one constituent — Seattle Public Schools — over the diverse needs of the entire community?</p> <p>Please block this plan and save Wallingford Park.</p>



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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-18 18:43:27	<p>Wallingford is a designated Urban Village experiencing and expecting increasing density. The neighborhood is already under the recommended allocation of green space per household from the urban village and city growth plan's guidance. Carpeting 85% of the existing park with an artificial plastic turf removes green space, destroys tree canopy, produces a heat island, and turns a multi-use public play area available to the whole community into a specialized and heavily scheduled facility dominated by student athletes and organized sport activities. I'm dismayed this project seems to be getting rammed through without well-considering the more diverse needs of the neighborhood. Around 5,000 people live within a 10 minute walk from this park, perhaps double that within 15 minutes. Your proposal eliminates scarce accessible green space for many to serve the convenience of a few hundred student athletes.</p> <p>I've heard from members of the community that the question of Lincoln High's athletic field needs came up in the remodel project less than 10 years ago. The community and the project's architect recommended a field where your parking lot is, but the schools declined to implement that and said they'd just use Lower Woodland. They also promised NOT to annex the neighborhood park, yet here you are breaking that promise.</p> <p>There are suitable places to build a new athletic field, that don't destroy a much loved and well used public green space, within walking/jogging distance of LHS. I'm thinking most strongly of the little used gravel parking lot in Woodland Park near 50th &amp; Aurora, and the little used grassy wedge west of the parking lot at Gasworks park (this latter might require moving part of the parking lot to accommodate a full size field). Building athletic fields and one or both of these locations would genuinely enhance the community instead of stealing from many to benefit a few.</p>
2024-10-18 20:41:12	<p>This is an unconscionable plan to deprive this part of Wallingford of its well used park, enjoyed by all people of the neighborhood, old and young. It is very well used park in an area where housing density is increasing rapidly, on account of the daily conversion of single family homes to multiple town houses with no yard space. As a result of this the square footage of open space in the neighborhood has been drastically reduced over the last many years. Preservation therefore of the existing park spaces for unfettered public use is essential for the continued health of the residents.</p> <p>here are further objections to this plan, other than the removal of open access. The idea of replacing the park grasses and old trees with Plastic turf is counter intuitive in this day, and harms the environment.</p> <p>There are alternatives for the football field to be located elsewhere. Even the school's car park could be considered.</p> <p>Please for the sake of most of the community, reconsider this plan and do not take away our park.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-19 00:00:00	<p>Dear Mr.Diaz, Mr. Best, Mr. Graves, Ms. Rivera, Mr.Mizrahi and Mr. Briggs,</p> <p>Seattle Public Schools and Lincoln High School held a public meeting on September 19, 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Lincoln High Schools need for an Athletic Field at either Wallingford Park or possibly another park location to meet their needs for sports.</p> <p>As a result, the community has become very concerned about losing the park and the natural open green space, trees and surrounding amenities which serve the community with health benefits for all ages. The redevelopment plan proposed at the meeting described redeveloping the park and replacing grass for synthetic turf. The Wallingford Park and play field with tennis courts and wading pool is located in the middle of a very densely populated urban village which is only slated for more density in 2024. The One Seattle Plan maps released this week indicate rezoning for even more multi family development throughout the neighborhood making the need for open green space even more necessary.</p> <p>Please read the attached documents as a reminder of agreements made in 2016. We urge SPS and the city to honor these commitments. We encourage you to explore alternative solutions that meet the needs of Lincoln High School while, also, respecting the long standing value of Wallingford Park as a community asset.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.</p>
2024-10-19 00:00:00	<p>Hi Maritza,</p> <p>As a 20 years resident of Wallingford I support the Seattle Public School proposal to repurpose the Wallingford play area into an artificial turf sport field for use by Lincoln HS and Hamilton Middle school. The kids at both these schools deserve a play field and not have to commute to Downtown to use the sport field there. It's not equitable for kids without transportation or means to travel across town for afterschool sports. All high schools in Seattle have sports fields. It is an important part of the high school experience. The current field at Wallingford is practically unusable half the year due to mud and turf conditions. An artificial field would allow year round use by both the school and the community.</p> <p>I feel this is an important project for the benefit of the schools and the community.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-19 11:01:22	<p>Please consider siting a new athletic at the gravel lot at Woodland Park Ave and 50th instead of Wallingford Playfield.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it provides additional field space options for both Lincoln and the city. Lincoln can use the athletic field on 50th and still use Wallingford park for more casual activities. It add desperately-needed field space to the city's parks.</li> <li>- it consolidates many of the schools athletics in one place: tennis, cross country, softball and baseball. A small satellite office could be added for coaches and equipment, if needed.</li> <li>- it may be large enough to accommodate district games and not just a practice field.</li> <li>- it's a short walk/jog that can be a part of warm-ups and cool down for practices.</li> <li>- the lot is underutilized and currently is being used for RV parking and remains largely empty. In the past few years, it has been used as a staging area for SDOT work and as an unofficial encampment for homeless.</li> </ul> <p>Thank you</p>
2024-10-21 00:00:00	<p>Dear Mr. Best,</p> <p>I am writing to let you know that I am vehemently opposed to using the Meridian Playfield as a high school practice field. It is ridiculous to take away a community resource for a "practice" facility for a high school. I realize that Lincoln is the outlier (in that it is the only school without a practice field). And I do care about equity, but re-allocating community resources that are for everyone to provide a practice for high school sports is inappropriate at best. This is especially true considering that they had a practice field and decided to use it for parking instead. Would we pave the Wallingford Playfield to provide parking lot space for the high school? I think not.</p> <p>In addition, the proposal is for synthetic turf. With more and more infill housing, there is less and less green space for the community. This proposal would take one of the few remaining green spaces available and transform it into a sterile and synthetic space (European countries are currently tearing out synthetic fields because of the statistically significant increase in lymphoma in soccer players). This is not suitable for the health and wellbeing of the community as a whole. Please reconsider this "need" (for a very small percentage of the community) and find a more appropriate solution.</p> <p>Best,</p>
2024-10-22 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige,</p> <p>Sent this out to a group of parents this morning who have been distributing the petition and email templates throughout the day. 80 signatures out of the gate and we haven't really put it out there yet. Many parents told me they sent emails to the school board members and AP Diaz.</p> <p>Do you have the contacts of the folks from Hamilton who attended the meeting last week? Or any other contacts at Hamilton you have been in contact with.</p> <p>Here's a link to the petition</p> <p>Feel free to email, text or call if you have any questions or suggestions.</p> <p>Thanks</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-22 23:53:21	<p>I support the proposed new athletic fields at Wallingford Playfield. Currently it is frequently used as an off leash dog park. It is often very muddy a good portion of the year. Kids can slip in the mud or dog poo during PE classes and then have to be dirty for the rest of the school day.</p> <p>The field is in close proximity to both schools and makes the most sense as an athletic field. I hope Hamilton and Lincoln are given equal time and I hope boy and girl sports are given equal time (not priority to Lincoln football).</p> <p>I hope as many trees are preserved in the process. I hope there is a track around the field. I would like there to still be a nice playground and a wading pool, and tennis courts.</p> <p>On a different note, I do think an effort should be made for a dog park in the area. Please consider the west end of Gas Works Park. I know there are challenges to this, but with so many dog owners in the City I'm sure it would be popular.</p>
2024-10-22 23:58:37	<p>I am in full support of putting an athletic field at Wallingford Playfield. I have 2 children in the Seattle Public Schools, one who attends Hamilton International Middle School and one at Lincoln High School. I live in the Wallingford neighborhood, 3 blocks from Wallingford Playfield. Growing up my kids played on the playground, played soccer on the field and we continue to use the tennis courts regularly in the summer. We love Wallingford Playfield and I appreciate the concerns that some people in the Wallingford community have raised about turning it into practice fields. That said, I feel strongly that it needs to happen.</p> <p>Lincoln is the biggest high school in the city yet is doesn't have a dedicated field for PE classes nor does it have a practical practice space for the many sporting activities the children take part in. This is disgraceful. There have been comments from community members that the space would only be used by 200 students, we know that isn't true! All of the 1500+ students at Lincoln take at least one semester of PE, many take 3. In addition Hamilton, a very large middle school, similarly doesn't have any fields and would surely take advantage of a turf playfield, for their PE classes and sports activities as well. Well over 2500 kids would be using this field.</p> <p>Yes, the park will change but there the community will still be able to access the space and can also access greenspaces at Gas Works, Meridian Park and Green Lake. It's unfair for community members to demand that the greenspace immediately adjacent to these two, very large public schools not have upgrades to make it appropriate for year-round outdoor activities for the students.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-23 00:32:59	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is . I'm the mother of two young children, who I hope someday will go to Lincoln High. I'm writing to express my support of Lincoln High and Hamilton Schools having fields, but DO NOT want Wallingford Park turned into a turf field.</p> <p>There are many better options - it seems that turning Lincoln High's parking lot into a new field is the best one. There are many other options to consider here - <a href="https://wallingfordparkalliance.org/better-options-for-lincoln-field/">https://wallingfordparkalliance.org/better-options-for-lincoln-field/</a></p> <p>Aside from removing this park from community use, it's crucial to emphasize the environmental concerns raised by leveling knolls, cutting down long-standing trees and covering the majority of open space with plastic turf. Green spaces absorb heat — plastic turf magnifies it. Plastic turf has also been proven to show higher rates of blood cancers among young athletes than grass. As the climate crisis accelerates, we should all be uniting to conserve existing green spaces.</p> <p>I do hope there can be a win/win scenario where students can have a field but we can retain Wallingford Park as is for young children, community, and environmental reasons.</p>
2024-10-23 13:38:26	<p>Please do not take away our park! Especially as it wouldn't fulfill your needs. I'm sure there are better solutions for an athletic field. The community as a whole deserves a relaxing green space!</p>
2024-10-23 15:18:22	<p>I have two primary concerns about this. This is my POV as the parent of a young toddler:</p> <p>(1) limiting playfield access to outside of school hours is just not practical for most children. My kid goes to bed at 7pm and my understanding is that the playfield would only open up late at night (after sports practice). This is excluding her and her playmates from a public community space.</p> <p>(2) the proposal to move the playground and wading pool would require closing them. Even temporarily, this would be a major disruption and limit access to green age-appropriate playspace in our neighborhood. The Meridian park is slated to be closed for all of 2025 and Gasworks is geared towards older kids (it doesn't even have a swingset). Where should I take my toddler? To Bellevue?</p> <p>Ultimately, this proposal is trading off the access to high schoolers assigned to this school for broader access for everyone in our community. This doesn't make sense to me.</p>
2024-10-23 15:22:57	<p>Hi,</p> <p>As a parent of a toddler, the wading pool was critical for cooling off throughout this past summer. Our parks lack shade and really the only safe place to play outdoors midday was in the wading pool.</p> <p>I'm dismayed to see that construction would close the pool for the entirety of the summer. In an increasingly hot city - without climate-appropriate play infrastructure - this is unacceptable.</p> <p>If you do this please install a wading pool at Gasworks.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-23 16:35:39	<p>As a 20 years resident of Wallingford I support the Seattle Public School proposal to repurpose the Wallingford play area into an artificial turf sport field for use by Lincoln HS and Hamilton Middle school. The kids at these schools deserve a sport field and not have to commute to Downtown or elsewhere for field use. It is not equitable for kids without transportation or means to travel across town for afterschool sports. All high schools in Seattle have sports fields. It is an important part of the high school experience. The current field at Wallingford is unusable half the year due to mud and turf conditions. An artificial field would allow year round use by both the school and the community. This is the best, equitable, and affordable option for the Seattle public school and Seattle Parks.</p>
2024-10-23 17:35:54	<p>Hi, I am all for the Wallingford playing field to be used for more school events. However, I am concerned about the proposal of a turf field and the mature trees being cut down.</p> <p>Turf has toxic environmental impacts and it's being found that it's very bad for kids especially:  <a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749123010965">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749123010965</a></p> <p>I think it's also still important to keep the trees to keep it shady and prevent heat domes in the neighborhood, especially with new constructions going up.</p>
2024-10-23 18:42:21	<p><a href="https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749123010965">https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749123010965</a></p> <p>Any actual work into researching turf fields shows how awful they are for the environment and for public health. Whether rubber or the chemicals themselves, it's hazardous to children and future generations.</p> <p>One day, we'll look back in the same way we negatively view indoor smoking sections at restaurants</p>
2024-10-24 00:00:00	<p>Dear Paige McGehee</p> <p>While I usually support anything for our schools, I am against the use of Wallingford Play Field as a sports field for Lincoln High School.</p> <p>The playfield is a community asset and should not be for the exclusive use of students who play field sports.</p> <p>Thank you for considering the entire Wallingford community in your evaluation of this project.</p>
2024-10-24 00:00:00	<p>Dear Mr. Best, Mr. Misrahi, and Mr. Briggs,</p> <p>At the September 19th public meeting at Lincoln High School, many community members were shocked to hear of SPS's plan to convert Wallingford Playfield from an open-access community park into an athletic turf field for the preferred use of SPS and organized sports leagues. We have formed a community group, Wallingford Park Alliance (WPA), to advocate for 1) keeping the park as a natural greenspace for the community, and 2) finding a better solution for an athletic field to serve Lincoln High and Hamilton International Middle Schools.</p> <p>To address Lincoln's and Hamilton's need for a field, WPA put together a team of volunteers to investigate potential sites. Here are our preliminary recommendations, which we hope SPS will take into consideration when balancing the dual needs of finding an adequate athletic field and being good neighbors to the community which surrounds and supports them.</p> <p>Please keep in mind that Lincoln High School will have access to an amazing, brand new, state-of-the-art field at Memorial Stadium in 2027.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-24 01:54:53	<p>I believe Wallingford Park should be maintained as the playground and park that it is.</p> <p>Some of my concerns are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Displaces current multigenerational neighborhood use. The park is already home to many uses, including picnics, meetings, pickup field games, practice, theater, Frisbee, tai-chi, dance, and more, by people of all ages and backgrounds. The proposed plan narrows usability from a broad demographic to primary use by student athletes.</li> <li>2. Loss of green space. The sizing diagrams for this plan show that the artificial turf field will take up 85% of the existing green space — trees, grass, bushes — gone. Our neighborhood must prioritize preserving green space for a population that is only increasing in density. Not everyone has a backyard or a tree. This would remove what greenspace we have.</li> <li>3. Environmental impact. Artificial turf is not the same as grass, and has environmental impact. We will see a loss of canopy as significant trees are removed. Young trees require decades to provide shade and habitat for local wildlife.</li> <li>4. This park already serves the schools. The schools are already using this park for PE and practice. This proposal gives the m nearly exclusive use of a field designed primarily for athletics rather than open and general use.</li> </ol> <p>Plan prioritizes school athletics. This plan gives nearly all the park other than playground and tennis courts over to Varsity Football, Varsity Soccer, and JV games, displacing community use out of proportion to the community’s presence and need.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Restricted hours, with heavy school use. Schools intend to use the athletic field about 11 hours a day (8am-7pm). Other organized sports and the community will only be able to use the field after 7pm, and before the park closes at 10pm. If they can schedule at all, with all the groups who have been displaced looking for that time.</li> <li>6. Children will lose essential park activities. This proposal favors the needs of student athletes at the expense of other local children. Children use the park now, beyond merely the playground. Kids like to run, to kick and throw balls, to ride their bikes — and they need a safe space to do so. This plan would eliminate the park for the use of children outside the limited playground area. This includes neighborhood daycare and preschools that rely on the park’s open space.</li> <li>7. The community will lose open access, both in time and square footage. Open space for adults and children to play, and enjoyment of greenspace, is appropriate and legitimate use of a park. A toddler walking on grass should not need to schedule time.</li> </ol>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-24 16:27:06	<p>Please keep park for the community -- not prioritized for high school football.</p> <p>Community makes very good use of this park -- always people at park, playground, and tennis courts. And natural green space is hard to come by.</p> <p>If you must have turf fields:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) preserve all of playground and wading park and tennis courts</li> <li>2) Make sure all Hamilton and Lincoln teams (soccer, ultimate, band) get equal access. Not just football</li> <li>3) Make sure community (either Woodland Park soccer or unscheduled) get priority on the weekends -- not organized adult rec leagues -- or even Hamilton/Lincoln</li> </ol> <p>Insisting on turf fields now -- feels like bait and switch. Community has always been told Wallingford Park would remain as is.</p>
2024-10-25 00:00:00	<p>Hello, I'm writing as a neighbor of the Wallingford Park. Our family has two young kids and a minuscule yard, and we depend on the park and playground to get their energy out in healthy ways.</p> <p>The park also serves as an informal community gathering place, where we run into other parents and get a bit of much-needed connection. (I'm sure you've seen the Surgeon General's report that parental stress and loneliness is a genuine health crisis in the US — a safe, convenient, affordable space like Wallingford Park is an irreplaceable bulwark against this all-too-real public health issue.</p> <p>When neighbors first approached us in outrage over the park remodel, I dismissed their concerns; I assumed that the school's plan was a tasteful one to replace the much-abused natural grass with a turf area requiring less maintenance, and while that's unfortunate for dog owners, it's a reasonable compromise for middle and high school kids who would like more a convenient space for sports.</p> <p>Razing the entire park to accommodate a full football field, though, is beyond irresponsible. This park is a beloved, unique space that draws visitors from around the city, and turning the entire area (including the mature trees!) into a football field is myopic.</p> <p>If the parks &amp; schools work together to replace the current grassy area with artificial turf, I'm fully on board. But extending that through the walking path, trees, and playground is absolutely unacceptable.</p> <p>Please keep working to find a solution that supports parents, neighbors, and students alike.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-25 16:55:57	<p>I have several questions that I have not seen addressed in other forums:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Will the proposed football field be fenced and locked, eliminating access to open space when it is not in use by the school?</li> <li>2. Will there be lights on the field?</li> <li>3. What community (not school) activities will be allowed at the field, and which current activities will be prohibited? (half- and quarter-field soccer, pickup soccer, Ultimate practice and play, etc.)</li> <li>4. Will all activities need to be scheduled through Lincoln HS, or will the field remain within the purview of Seattle Parks?</li> <li>5. Is the field to be used for football games (as opposed to just practice), and if so, where is the designated parking for that crowd-drawing activity?</li> </ol>
2024-10-25 17:13:09	<p>The plan to build a field at Wallingford park seems ill conceived. It is a heavily used park and one of the few green spaces in that area of the neighborhood. While the plan states that the existing amenities will be retained - neither of the schematics actually reinforce that as being true. One completely demolishes the playground and the other cuts off the corner. Neither retains some greenspace. This is a dense neighborhood area and the plan for lighting those fields does not seem to be well thought out given the proximity to homes. The park is small but highly valued by the community. Please don't take that resource away. The parking lot area is plenty large and would be even more convenient to Lincoln - that was the originally proposed site. Why is it now not on the table?</p>
2024-10-25 17:15:41	<p>I'm writing in regard to the proposed conversion of Wallingford park into a football field. I have lived six blocks away from the park for 35 years, and currently use it two or three times a week (daily when my daughter was young).</p> <p>I do not support this change, and strongly urge that the parks department and school board consider adding a lid to the existing parking lot at Lincoln High School and placing the field there. To have that huge piece of land used only for parking is wasteful, and contrary to what the city has been trying to do in urban villages - i.e. limit car use. Or simply convert the parking lot at ground level to a field; parking for teachers could be designated elsewhere in the area: at Wallingford Center (where the lot is often under-used; with a permit system at Lower Woodland or on neighborhood streets.</p> <p>Another option is to make better use of the facilities at Lower Woodland park, where there is already extensive parking. A realignment of the baseball diamond at the south end could create space for a field.</p> <p>What the neighborhood needs is for peaceful green space to be preserved. Much of Wallingford is a designated urban village and housing density is increasing rapidly; hundreds of apartments have been added along Stone Way in recent years, and at least four more large apartment buildings are under construction on Stone Way and along N. 45th St., with more planned. In addition, the whole area is being up-zoned and there are several hundred townhomes built (3 units or in some cases 8 to 9 units in the Wallingford neighborhood) and doubtless more coming. All this means that we should not lose precious green space.</p> <p>On a personal note, there are a half-dozen benches with plaques in honor of community residents, including my late husband. These were installed several decades ago, with a then significant donation for each bench going to help fund playground improvements. I hope that whatever happens to the park that these benches will be maintained.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-26 14:51:06	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I love the idea of constructing this turf field. My son goes to Hamilton middle school and rolls his ankle in the holes in the ground at least once a week. Putting in a proper athletic field will really help prevent injuries in the children and teens going to the schools there and the soccer kids who use the field</p>
2024-10-28 00:00:00	<p>We've been looking at the district's concept of converting the Wallingford Playground/Playfield to an athletic field.</p> <p>There are two problems with what the District is trying to do:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Attempting to fit something that's too big into a small space. Putting a football-sized field there would push out too many other vital activities for families and youth.</li> <li>2. Attempting to displacing one geographically localized use with another geographically localized use; in fact, the District is pitting the needs of family's younger kids against the needs of their older kids. We are parents of a child who is tracking to Hamilton and Lincoln</li> </ol> <p>Not surprisingly, you are going to get both lots of push back and lots of confusion.</p> <p>You need to find a place where you can displace and relocate a regional use (which can be moved) to create space for this localized use. For example, the pitch and putt golf course at Green Lake is located in a field that could house a football field, just across from the existing fields. The pitch and putt golf course is a regional amenity that could go elsewhere, such as on top of the Maple Leaf reservoir lid or somewhere in Lower Woodland.</p> <p>Why not offer up Lincoln High School space for displaced park activities: Apparently the District did not consider sacrificing any of their Lincoln High School on campus space to house displaced park activities. This could have set the tone that we value all of the activities and are just trying to find a way to fit it all in. The District shows a plan that takes out a beloved, vital and newly rebuilt playground. The District could have proposed ideas that moved the playground and/or tennis court(s) to the Lincoln campus parking lot or the southwest corner of the Lincoln High School.</p> <p>Is a football field on-campus really necessary for success? The presentation makes the point that Lincoln is the only "public" high school without a football field. The presentation could acknowledge that O'Dea High School (a private school) has managed to win 28 Metro League championships, go to 35 State tournaments and win 4 state championships with no on-site field.</p> <p>There are many ideas out there. The District can find a better one.</p>
2024-10-31 00:00:00	<p>Paige - thank you for this information. I think it's interesting that the project is not also focused on the impacts of displacement of the current users for the spaces chosen. Is SPS weighing those factors or are students the only population of concern for SPS in this project? If yes, then who is responsible for understanding the impacts related to neighborhood users, compliance with growth management act, adherence to city green space metrics, etc....?</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-31 00:00:00	<p>Hi Ms. McGehee,</p> <p>Thank you for this update. Can you let me know when the mailers will be sent out, and who those will be going to?</p> <p>I am particularly concerned with information getting to the many apartment dwellers who live along Stone Way and all the residents in the streets west of Stone Way up to Aurora/99. Some people we have spoken to in that area were unaware of the SPS proposal for Wallingford Park, even though it is their closest green space. It is also the closest park for many people who live south of 45th all the way over to I-5, and I would like to make sure they are included in your outreach.</p> <p>Can you also let me know who the mailing for the September 19th meeting went out to?</p> <p>Thank you for your help, Sincerely,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-10-31 15:02:06</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing you today to express my disapproval with the Seattle Parks and Recreation &amp; Seattle Public School District plan to turn Wallingford Playfield Park into an astroturf field.</p> <p>I have many reasons for disapproving of this project. First, the removal of this park for an astroturf field is inconsistent with the Parks Dept.'s mission statement.</p> <p>Additionally, the construction of an astroturf field will...</p> <p>Displace current multigenerational neighborhood use. The park is already home to many uses, including picnics, meetings, pickup field games, practice, theater, Frisbee, tai-chi, dance, and more, by people of all ages and backgrounds. The proposed plan narrows usability from a broad demographic to primary use by student athletes.</p> <p>Cause a loss of green space. The sizing diagrams for this plan show that the artificial turf field will take up 85% of the existing green space — trees, grass, bushes — gone. Our neighborhood must prioritize preserving green space for a population that is only increasing in density. Not everyone has a backyard or a tree. This would remove what greenspace we have.</p> <p>Have a negative environmental impact. Artificial turf is not the same as grass, and has environmental impact. We will see a loss of canopy as significant trees are removed. Young trees require decades to provide shade and habitat for local wildlife.</p> <p>This park already serves the schools. The schools are already using this park for PE and practice. This proposal gives them nearly exclusive use of a field designed primarily for athletics rather than open and general use.</p> <p>Plan prioritizes school athletics. This plan gives nearly all the park other than playground and tennis courts over to Varsity Football, Varsity Soccer, and JV games, displacing community use out of proportion to the community's presence and need.</p> <p>Restricted hours, with heavy school use. Schools intend to use the athletic field about 11 hours a day (8am-7pm). Other organized sports and the community will only be able to use the field after 7pm, and before the park closes at 10pm. If they can schedule at all, with all the groups who have been displaced looking for that time.</p> <p>Children will lose essential park activities. This proposal favors the needs of student athletes at the expense of other local children. Children use the park now, beyond merely the playground. Kids like to run, to kick and throw balls, to ride their bikes — and they need a safe space to do so. This plan would eliminate the park for the use of children outside the limited playground area. This includes neighborhood daycare and preschools that rely on the park's open space.</p> <p>The community will lose open access, both in time and square footage. Open space for adults and children to play, and enjoyment of greenspace, is appropriate and legitimate use of a park. A toddler walking on grass should not need to schedule time.</p> <p>Sound and light pollution. We are assured that field lighting won't spill out into the neighborhood. (Do neighbors in Greenlake want to weigh in on their experience with Woodland Park Playfield?) Even if true, this position discounts park uses like sunset and star-gazing. Sound pollution from games and</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>evening practices will certainly impact neighbors for blocks around.</p> <p>The Park must be maintained. Could the grassy field be better maintained than it has been these last few years? Yes! We all want that. We ask that Parks &amp; Rec resume maintaining the field properly as it has in times past. But flattening the park – removing grass, trees, and greenspace, then covering it over with plastic – is not the answer.</p> <p>Community trust and buy-in on process and decision. This plan has rolled out very quickly – so quickly that many people who would be affected by it only learned of it in mid-September, mere days before the community meeting on 9/19 – and couldn’t attend. Worse yet, many neighbors report having been notified about the meeting after it had occurred. Many stakeholders felt unheard and uninvolved. SPS’s decision options, and the process of creating the plan, have felt rushed and hidden. In times past, SPS has involved community and business in such impactful decisions. We urge SPS to slow this process so it can engage meaningfully with the community in a way that produces both buy-in and trust.</p> <p>Health risks to cork infill. SPS’s FAQ reads that this plan will “use cork infill to reduce heat gain, as well as other environmentally responsible design elements.” Our children will be exercising on and inhaling the dust from this cork and silicon infill during dry, hot Seattle summers. What is the source of this cork infill? Is it certified pesticide and toxin-free? Is it treated with chemicals prior to use? Find out more about the health risks before saying yes.</p> <p>Keep Wallingford Playfield Park a PARK. Not an astroturf, artificial, plastic field.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-10-31 15:15:37	<p>I own a townhome that directly overlooks Wallingford park - the main windows overlook the trees/park on the west side of the park. I am writing to express my concern and the impact about building a large turf field and lights on this small park.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The surrounding park streets are narrow and those of us who live around the park will have no "buffer" from the noise, traffic, and lights. Our homes are close to the street with not much set back - and we will be negatively impacted by the noise and lights from this field. I do not want my view to change from beautiful trees to big lights and a school field. The field should be built in a place further away from homes such as Meridian or Woodland Park.</li> <li>2. The city has changed the zoning near the park and there are many town-homes (without yards or parking) nearby. There is a 19 unit apartment building permitted across the street at 4118 Densmore Ave N with no parking or green space planned. This park provides a much needed area of green space for us!</li> <li>3. Most of us in the town-home complexes across from the park do not have off-street parking and rely on street parking near the park. We will have a much harder time finding parking in our neighborhood, 7 days a weeks, up to 10 pm at night. Stating that you will open up Lincoln parking will not help - the street parking will be used first - crowding out residents.</li> </ol> <p>Please place this field in a location with less neighborhood impact!</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-01 00:00:00	<p>Hello, Paige,</p> <p>I hope this finds you well.</p> <p>I wanted to write to express my family's strong opposition to the proposed installation of an athletic field over Wallingford Park --and concerns about losing our best neighborhood local park, the heat sink loss, and the additional environmental concerns.</p> <p>My son, a recent Lincoln and Hamilton student, wants to avoid seeing that field covered with turf!</p> <p>This park serves as a crucial green space for our community, offering a place for many activities beyond high school athletics. The proposed plan, which aims to cover 85% of the existing green space with artificial turf, would significantly reduce the area available for non-athletic community use. Our neighborhood is becoming increasingly dense, and such green spaces are vital for environmental and recreational reasons. They not only help in carbon absorption but also provide a communal area for residents of all ages to enjoy diverse activities. I would like you to reconsider the plan and find another solution. A solution to maintain the park's multi-use and natural environment -- which already needs to be improved in our neighborhood.</p> <p>Wallingford Park is where my and other local children play flag football and frisbee and can be in touch with nature. We watch the stars and enjoy the coolness of the earth there.</p> <p>When I'm near artificial turf fields, I notice that the air is hotter, cars and lights pollute, and there is the stink of plastic.</p> <p>Environmental Costs of Synthetic Turf:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It does not cool the environment like natural turf and, therefore, contributes to the "heat island" effect because the synthetic surface undesirably absorbs, retains, and emanates heat at temperatures and rates harmful to the environment.</li> <li>• Artificial fields lose approximately 4,800 lbs. of infill into the environment annually.</li> <li>• Disposal of non-recyclable synthetic turf and infill material is difficult and costly.</li> <li>• Synthetic fields do not filter air or water pollutants.</li> <li>• Synthetic fields do not fix carbon dioxide or release oxygen.</li> <li>• High net carbon loss for a synthetic field, while your organic natural turf fields sequester carbon.</li> </ul> <p>References</p> <p>Newcombe, F. (2023) Artificial Versus Natural Athletic Fields - PJC Organic, PJC Organic - Lawn Care. Available at: <a href="https://pjcorganic.com/2021/02/19/artificial-versus-natural-athletic-fields/">https://pjcorganic.com/2021/02/19/artificial-versus-natural-athletic-fields/</a> (Accessed: 1 November 2024).</p> <p>Alliance, G. B. (no date) Artificial Turf Fields: Health and Environmental Concerns, Green Building Alliance. Available at: <a href="https://gba.org/blog/artificial-turf-fields-health-and-environmental-concerns/">https://gba.org/blog/artificial-turf-fields-health-and-environmental-concerns/</a> (Accessed: 1 November 2024).</p> <p>Can Soil Help Combat Climate Change? (no date) State of the Planet. Available at: <a href="https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2018/02/21/can-soil-help-combat-climate-change/">https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2018/02/21/can-soil-help-combat-climate-change/</a> (Accessed: 1 November 2024).</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-01 00:00:00	<p>Dear Mr Best and Ms McGeHee</p> <p>I ask you to please preserve Wallingford Park. I do not want to see it turned primarily into an artificial turf field displacing so many of the activities that neighbors- including kids, parents, middle and high school students, dog owners currently enjoy.</p> <p>I am the father of a 3 year old, and since our kid was a small toddler we have spent so much time on both the playground and importantly the green space regularly. Our boy learned to walk and run on that grass, he watched older kids in free play outside, and middle and high schoolers hang out when school gets out.</p> <p>The park, and its green space, is a place for connection and socializing with neighbors. It is really one of the one spots where neighbors who do not otherwise interact with each other can share space and relax together.</p> <p>Please preserve this space and find a different solution for Lincoln High's athletic field needs.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Sincerely,</p>



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-01 10:26:54	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing as a local health coach and a regular user of Wallingford Park, where my children and their friends enjoy flag football, frisbee, and the simple joy of connecting with nature. This park serves as a crucial green space for our community, offering a place for many activities beyond high school athletics.</p> <p>My son and his friends, now just 19 and who graduated in 2023, went to Hamilton and Lincoln and he is also firmly against the conversion. He is concerned about the environment.</p> <p>The proposed plan, which aims to cover 85% of the existing green space with artificial turf, would drastically reduce the area available for non-athletic community use. Our neighborhood is becoming increasingly dense, and such green spaces are vital for environmental and recreational reasons. They help in carbon absorption and provide a communal area for residents of all ages to enjoy diverse activities.</p> <p>Environmental and Community Concerns:</p> <p>Heat and Pollution: Near artificial turf fields, the air is noticeably hotter, and the presence of cars and lights contributes to pollution. The synthetic material also emits an unpleasant odor.</p> <p>Environmental Costs of Synthetic Turf:</p> <p>Does not cool the environment, contributing to the “heat island” effect.</p> <p>Loses significant infill to the environment annually.</p> <p>Difficult and costly to dispose of, as it is non-recyclable.</p> <p>Lacks the benefits of natural turf, such as filtering pollutants or sequestering carbon.</p> <p>Given the existing synthetic fields near Greenlake and the underutilized large parking lot at Lincoln that could be considered, I urge you to reconsider the plan and find a solution that maintains the park's multi-use nature and its natural environment.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>Newcombe, F. (2023). Artificial Versus Natural Athletic Fields - PJC Organic</p> <p>Artificial Turf Fields: Health and Environmental Concerns - Green Building Alliance</p> <p>Can Soil Help Combat Climate Change? - State of the Planet</p> <p>Thank you for considering the voices of our community. I am hopeful we can find a way to preserve the invaluable green space at Wallingford Park. I look forward to your response and am available for a discussion at your earliest convenience.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>Warm regards,</p> <p>Holistic Health Strategist</p> <p>"Health is the greatest possession." - Lao Tzu</p> <p>"Our greatest wealth is health." - Hippocrates</p> <p>Join the Holistic Pathways Facebook Group for ongoing tips and support.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-01 12:30:51	<p>As President of the Board of Directors of the Woodland Soccer Club, the youth recreational soccer club serving 1,500 kids in the "center-north" neighborhoods of Seattle (Wallingford, Fremont, Greenlake, Phinney, and Greenwood, I write to support the proposal to site the Lincoln field at Wallingford Playfield.</p> <p>A bit of background, our permits are secured from Parks through the Seattle Youth Soccer Association. Schools are given first preference to SPR facilities under current field use rules, which means that we cannot use Greenlake, Wallingford, or Lower Woodland until 5:45 on any weekday as those fields are typically taken up by schools. Field availability becomes even more restricted in mid-fall because SPR does not offer permits that end after sundown. Combining both school use and sundown means we effectively have just a few weeks to use unlit fields in September. This year, our Wallingford permit ended on 9/20.</p> <p>Now, even if the days were longer and the schools weren't using the fields, Wallingford is not the asset it appears to be based on how much we use it. It is nearly unplayable for soccer and has gotten worse year-after-year despite efforts to aerate, grade, and overseed it by SPR. Not a week goes by when I don't get a call about its conditions, dog poop, unleashed dogs, and of course the dangers presented by all the holes. We used to even have volunteers haul dirt there to fill them, but they would just reappear every week.</p> <p>We use it not because we want to, but because there is no other option.</p> <p>The addition of a new turf, lighted field in our area would be a huge benefit to youth sports clubs like Woodland. I think we can reasonably expect school usage to end at or around the same time it currently does for other turf school facilities (6-ish); and adding lights would extend our potential ability to use it on evenings until our season ends in November. To fully appreciate the impact of these "net new" hours, we can squeeze 6-8 teams on a full soccer field for practices (age-dependent). Adding three more hours of lighted field time would enable us to give practice time on a quality surface to 18-24 more teams per weekday.</p> <p>Of course, I don't think it's reasonable to expect that Woodland will get all, most, or maybe even much of this "new" time, but field space is at such a premium that adding net new hours in one location will relieve pressure on others that are now packed to the gills.</p> <p>Given the exceptionally heavy use of our fields, adding an additional lighted turf field would certainly benefit the adjacent schools and their teams. But in my view, the larger benefit is to the 1,500 kids in our Club who would use it on evenings and weekends.</p> <p>Our one request is that the project consider lines or even just off-color markings for small-sided soccer games; as that is frequently lacking in turf projects across Seattle (Lower Woodland 7, Whitman, e.g.)</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-01 13:44:05	<p>I ask you to please preserve Wallingford Park. I do not want to see it turned primarily into an artificial turf field displacing so many of the activities that neighbors- including kids, parents, middle and high school students, dog owners currently enjoy.</p> <p>I am the father of a 3 year old, and since our kid was a small toddler we have spent so much time on both the playground and importantly the green space regularly. Our boy learned to walk and run on that grass, he watched older kids in free play outside, and middle and high schoolers hang out when school gets out.</p> <p>The park, and its green space, is a place for connection and socializing with neighbors.</p> <p>It is really one of the one spots where neighbors who do not otherwise interact with each other can share space and relax together.</p> <p>Please preserve this space and find a different solution for Lincoln High's athletic field needs.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2024-11-01 14:44:32	<p>As a Lincoln senior, I've often wondered why we didn't have our own practice field. From my experiences on the lacrosse team, I understand the need to have a field of our own. We spent the team's founding year shuttling between fields at distant schools and parks because we didn't have one of our own. During that time, I often wondered why it was that we have a parking lot in such a conveniently close place when we could have an athletic field there, right next to the gym, instead. Now we have the opportunity to make that happen.</p> <p>I think that converting the North Parking Lot into a field would be the best option. It's closer to the Lincoln gym, so gym classes and student athletes wouldn't have to walk as far to access it. This means athletes wouldn't have to leave class as early to get to their games and thus would be able to learn more, and PE classes would be able to teach and do more activities per class period. (The distance might seem small, but in a 50 to 60 minute class, the five minutes of travel to and from the field can be as much as 10 percent of all class time!) It also will deal with the community concerns about changing Wallingford Playfield for worse because this way, the existing playground, wading pool, and other current amenities won't be affected. Students also won't have to cross the street and cause traffic jams in that area when a large number of students go out and return from PE or sports practice there.</p> <p>Although it would reduce the amount of parking available to staff, that could be dealt with in other ways. For example, the parking spaces in front of Lincoln on Interlake Avenue and behind it on Woodlawn Avenue could be reserved for teachers and staff. Additionally, the absence of a parking lot is an (often successful) encouragement for people to use their cars less and carpool, take public transit, or bike instead, which is beneficial to the environment. The current situation also stresses out residents of the retirement home across the street, so removing that would allow for more positive interaction between those people and LHS students/staff. The field could even create the opportunity to make connections between residents and LHS, for example because residents could come watch games and practices. This option wouldn't necessarily be available if the field was at Wallingford Playfield, because retirement home residents often have limited mobility and walking the extra 2.5 blocks to that location instead would be a hardship.</p> <p>In summary, please consider placing Lincoln's new field where the north parking lot currently is instead of at Wallingford Playfield. It's more convenient to students and athletes, less cause for concern within the community, and potential parking issues can be resolved fairly simply.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-02 10:21:59	<p>Given that this whole community that accesses Wallingford Park for adult and child recreation and the zoning changes increasing density lot coverage:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 There are not yards for swings and gathering in these new builds.</li> <li>2 Green space is non existent in new builds</li> <li>3 Failure to enforce the dogs running on the turf currently demonstrated in Lower Woodland makes this a waste of funds.</li> <li>4 Wasted money on the latest improvement in the play area.</li> <li>5 The wading pool is heavily used in the summer with the nearest one Greenlake, and no parking for families with little one</li> </ol> <p>Please take this project to Meridian which is not as far as track, soccer and base ball students are able to walk from the high school (and do so). Meridian Park would only be partially impacted on its west side and still retain the play area. The current apple trees produce pest-ridden apples and serve the purpose only of a pet project of a few people. This location would take little from Meridian and retain a small but valuable asset to our area.</p>
2024-11-04 00:00:00	<p>Why is the Seattle School district trying to attack the Wallingford community? What makes the district think that field sports, particularly football, are so important that a neighborhood park should be sacrificed? Yes, the park needs money put into it. What it needs is</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Enforcement of leash laws and dog waste removal</li> <li>2. Removal of homeless encampments</li> <li>3. Designation of the center of the park as a wetland/rain garden</li> </ol> <p>Preservation of current plantings</p> <p>Then LEAVE IT ALONE! No artificial turf!!! No closing the park to community use!</p>
2024-11-04 18:08:26	<p>Hi, I am a Wallingford resident and parent of two SPS students. I support the plan to turn Wallingford Park into a practice field for Lincoln High School. Seattle needs more athletic fields and the Lincoln students should have somewhere to practice. Also, a turf field would use less water and not get so damaged by recreational teams who use the field on the weekends.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
2024-11-04 19:23:21	<p>What? Artificial turf and bleachers at our park? No way!</p> <p>We need that park. It's a community park. The school district can't just take it over. The school district knew this when they paved over Lincoln's original field and the school district knew that Lincoln would not have a field when they reopened the high school.</p> <p>My son went to Seattle Public schools K-123. Hge played sports. Nevertheless, sports are NOT core education. They are NOT necessary. Parks are necessary. Besides, Lincoln students can reserve the West Woodland fields.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-04 23:04:28	<p>I am concerned about the loss of a public space that is shared by the community. Building a football field takes away from many people who will no longer be able to enjoy nature in this space. You are taking away from the community to serve a small population and negatively impacting the environment. Pleas reconsider this project.</p>
	<p>I am appalled that Seattle parks and Seattle schools would propose to change Wallingford Park to a football field for Lincoln High School.</p> <p>We regularly use this park for exercise and respite.</p> <p>Younger children use and need this park regularly for non-contact sports such as ultimate frisbee and soccer.</p> <p>Football is a fairly non inclusive high end sport.</p> <p>This change would add more congestion to an already busy street and neighborhood.</p> <p>Both Seattle Parks and Seattle schools are constantly short on funding. This is evident by the lower level of maintenance Seattle parks provides to all parks and the school buildings Seattle schools want to close because of budgetary constraints. Seattle schools needs to focus on basic education and not extra circular activities.</p> <p>Fake grass is not a substitute for a field that did not get adequate slope and drainage since the last time Seattle Parks tried to fix the perennially flooded and poorly maintained field.</p> <p>This change request is supported primarily by the current parents and students of Lincoln High School, and does not reflect the needs of the larger community.</p> <p>Funds for this project could be to better used for actual educational programs.</p> <p>Additional lighting will disturb urban wildlife in the area.</p>
2024-11-04 23:14:47	<p>Wallingford play field was set up to be a play field and not a football field.</p>
2024-11-05 12:36:02	<p>I agree to choose the closest option for Lincoln High School athletics. It is much better to not have students need a bus to do athletic activities.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-11-05 14:29:03</p>	<p>I am writing on behalf of Atoma, a local restaurant behind Lincoln High Schools current parking lot. We understand there is a proposal to transform the north end of the parking lot into a football field. While we support the school’s goals to enhance its facilities, we are concerned about the substantial impact this change may have on our business, given the lot’s close proximity to our location.</p> <p>Specifically, we’d like to bring to your attention the following points:</p> <p><b>Parking Overflow and Accessibility</b></p> <p>While our guests do not use the school’s parking lot directly, game nights would likely create substantial overflow into surrounding street parking. This will severely limit parking availability for our patrons, especially on our busiest and most important nights—Fridays and Saturdays—potentially deterring them from dining with us due to the added challenge of finding nearby parking.</p> <p><b>Noise and Disruptions to Our Guests</b></p> <p>Football games bring tremendous energy and excitement, which is wonderful for school spirit, yet the accompanying noise from crowds, announcements, and other game-related activities would carry directly over to our restaurant during peak dining hours. This could compromise the atmosphere and comfort we strive to provide for our guests who come to enjoy a relaxing meal.</p> <p><b>Economic Impact on Our Business</b></p> <p>Restaurants operate within slim profit margins, and disruptions like limited parking and heightened noise can impact guest turnout and satisfaction. Reduced guest attendance on busy nights, or if the dining experience is compromised, would pose a significant threat to our financial stability as a business.</p> <p><b>Alternative Locations for the Field</b></p> <p>We would strongly encourage exploring the alternative options available - Wallingford Playfield, Queen Anne Bowl, Woodland Park or Gas Works Park. A site that allows for the school’s expansion without encroaching on local businesses’ ability to serve their patrons would help the school and community thrive in harmony.</p> <p>We are committed to being a supportive part of this community and to collaborating with the school whenever possible. We hope to find a solution that takes into account the needs of both the school and local businesses.</p> <p>Thank you for considering our concerns. We appreciate your attention and support for the success of all local stakeholders.</p> <p>Warm regards,</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-05 15:10:04	<p>Hello,</p> <p>Our family is very opposed to the Lincoln High School Athletic Field potential plan to destroy Wallingford playfield and playground to make room for an athletic field. We go to this playground 3-4 times a week and it is an essential community meeting spot for Wallingford. We fully utilize the bathrooms, playground, wading pool, and field. I live in the school zone for my daughters to attend Lincoln High School when the time comes and I don't believe that the addition of this playfield benefits a broad category of students or people in the neighborhood in the way that the existing park already does. Please don't destroy our park.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2024-11-05 19:16:03	<p>I am very concerned that the Wallingford Playfield Playground may be inaccessible during the summer of 2025. I have heard about the proposed full-sized turf field and how it will require the playground to be relocated. The next-nearest public playground, at Meridian Park, is scheduled to be remodeled in the summer of 2025. So if this plan goes through then my 4 year old will not have an accessible local public playground available for him to play and socialize for an entire summer.</p> <p>This cohort of kids were born during Covid, the opportunity to socialize like normal times was taken from them. If this plan goes through as proposed, this entire neighborhood of kids will not have a local public playground to go play and make friends and meet friends for an entire summer. An entire summer missed out on, taken from them.</p> <p>I plan to send my child to public school. Since I own a house within a block from Wallingford Playfield we are zoned for Hamilton and Lincoln. We play at Wallingford playground multiple times a week. We have met neighbors and made friends there. I will be very disappointed to see the playground moved or inaccessible for any length of time.</p>
2024-11-06 13:38:43	<p>The SPS meeting notes say that the location at Woodland Park (Aurora &amp; 50th) has been eliminated because the zoo uses it a handful of times a year for "revenue-producing parking". This is in stark contrast to SPS carbon emissions goals, and it's frankly incongruous for the ostensibly environmentally-focused zoo to demand space for single cars to drive and park for this event. The zoo should be divesting from parking, not forcing Seattle Parks to turf existing green space so they can make money from more carbon emissions.</p> <p>As a neighbor of Wallingford Field and parent of future Hamilton and Lincoln students, I'm absolutely opposed to a full-sized (meaning: football sized, because soccer fields are variable!) athletic field at Wallingford Park. We can do better for our long-term community and environmental needs.</p>
2024-11-06 14:25:27	<p>I am a resident of the Wallingford community. I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed changes to Wallingford Playfield, particularly the installation of turf and the allocation of a portion of the park for Lincoln School's sports use.</p> <p>While I understand the need for sports facilities for local schools, I strongly believe that this park serves a vital role as a community space for families and residents. The playfield is a much-loved public asset, and altering it in this way would significantly reduce the available space for general public use. Moreover, there are many other options that can be explored to meet the needs of Lincoln School without compromising the park's accessibility and value to the broader community.</p> <p>Additionally, it's important to note that under Seattle's Parks and Recreation policies, park spaces like Wallingford Playfield are protected, and any significant alterations to them—such as reducing the space for public use or installing turf—must undergo a comprehensive public review process. Changes of this magnitude should not move forward without the approval of the community and a full evaluation of the long-term impact on residents who rely on the park for recreational and social purposes.</p>



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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-06 16:40:07	As a longtime Wallingford resident I would like to provide my strong recommendation that the new Lincoln field be built on the existing Wallingford Park and Playfield. I know there has been concerted pushback from a group of locals but just know there are many other locals that see this as the best and most sensible option
2024-11-08 00:00:00	<p>Thank you for your note, Paige. I appreciate hearing from you. There is one priority missing from your list: ensuring the site selected is appropriate and non-disruptive to the surrounding neighborhood.</p> <p>Again, thank you for responding to my letter.</p>
2024-11-08 13:41:32	<p>Transforming a beloved neighborhood park into a football field for a high school team is a terrible idea, not supported by common sense or the citizens of Wallingford or greater Seattle.</p> <p>City parks and play fields belong to all of us, not to specific school's sports teams. We take our children there to play on the grass, walk our dogs, chat with our neighbors and enjoy the unsullied beauty of natural environments that are not ruined by the installation of AstroTurf and the decimation of public lands.</p> <p>Seattle prides itself on being an ecologically friendly city with sustainable programs for our natural resources, which means that we should keep our parks as they are--accessible, open, green spaces for families and visitors to enjoy.</p> <p>In addition to the ecological damage the installation of Astro Turf would do to Wallingford Park, it would also render the high school football team more susceptible to injury since synthetic turf is more apt to cause harm if someone falls or is pushed on to it than playing on grass--which, of course, happens frequently during football games.</p> <p>Everyone I've spoken to in the Wallingford neighborhood, and many others folks city-wide, do not support locating a man-made sports field at Wallingford Play Field or any other city park--and are, in fact, offended at the very idea of turning a neighborhood gathering place into a venue for high school sports.</p> <p>I will be contacting my city council representatives to voice my thoughts on this matter and hope that the Seattle School District will heed the voices of people like me who want city parks to be free and available to all. If you want to install a sports field in the Lincoln High School Parking lot, go right ahead, but please consider constructing it with sod rather than synthetic turf, for ecological reasons as well as safety's sake.</p>

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2024-11-09 00:00:00	<p>All,</p> <p>In the minutes from a recent Hamilton PTSA meeting, Paige McGehee told those in attendance that there would be one minute public testimonies at the Nov. 20 community meeting about the Lincoln field. Can you please confirm if this is the case since it isn't mentioned in the public announcements of this event?</p> <p>If this is true, can you please also let me know how you will ensure a fair balance of view points? Will there be a sign in pro/con list so you can assure both sides are equally heard? A random, or first come, first served approach might mean that you are not able to hear the breadth and depth of community feedback, which I take to be the primary point of the meeting.</p> <p>If it would be helpful to have a point person to provide the names of speakers who will be speaking against the field being a t Wallingford Playfield, I am happy to serve in that role. Since you have been in very direct contact with school parents through these PTSA meetings, but not the neighborhood, I would like to be that point of contact.</p> <p>When I have given public testimony at the state legislature, the legislator sponsoring the bill (or their aide) often helps orchestrate the pro/con testimony especially when there are a lot of speakers and a limited amount of time to hear them. I hope that will be the case here.</p> <p>Thanks for any information you can provide that will help you hear the voices of the 5,000 people who will lose access to their 5 minute walk-shed park and the only green space in the Wallingford Urban Village.</p> <p>Best,</p>
2024-11-09 00:00:00	<p>Dear Ms. McGehee,</p> <p>I am attaching a copy of my letter to AP Diaz at Seattle Parks and Recreation. I strenuously object to the proposed plan by Seattle Parks &amp; Recreation and Seattle Public Schools to put a turf field over Wallingford Park, and I urge you to not pursue this proposal.</p> <p>As we consider the needs of student athletes, we must also consider the wider implications for healthy neighborhoods in our city, for all residents. The Mayor's proposed One Seattle Plan designates Wallingford as a "Residential Urban Village" and includes only one park: Wallingford Park. (<a href="https://seattlecitygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=5a18de8626a643889625309e8f8bcbcf">https://seattlecitygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=5a18de8626a643889625309e8f8bcbcf</a>). If Seattle Public Schools puts turf on 85% of this park, the open space envisioned to serve our upzoned community would nearly be eliminated.</p> <p>I am very well aware of the difficulty of finding practice space for school sports, having served in leadership on school boards for many years; however, it is not appropriate for SPS to subsume a neighborhood park for this purpose. I encourage you to please pursue an alternate location.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

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2024-11-09 00:00:00	<p>I graduated from Lincoln in 1972. I still live in the neighborhood at . I walk by the park nearly every day. It is used by people of all ages including Hamilton and Lincoln students. Day care children and caregivers have great access as well as elementary school students that play organized soccer and older folks that are just out for exercise walks. With the increasing population related to all the condos and apartments being built in the area, it is important to preserve the multi-use aspect and not just limit it to school use. Additionally, the homes around the park will be negatively impacted by noise and parking problems, and lights that conversion to a field would bring..</p> <p>In 1972 we utilized Lower Woodland fields for baseball, track and field, soccer and football. The fields are much nicer now than they were then. The parking, noise and lights are much more well handled there than they would be at Wallingford park. The schools would need some priority in scheduling at Lower Woodland. It is a much better venue than the Wallingford park neighborhood.</p> <p>Preserve Wallingford Park for the multi-use site that it is.</p> <p>Alternatively, convert the Lincoln High North Parking lot into a field. It would negatively affect fewer homes, and the local businesses might be positively impacted.</p>
2024-11-09 16:19:02	<p>If Wallingford Playfield is chosen for the athletic field, I suggest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Locate the turf field on the southern aspect of the field to avoid having to move the playground and surrounding trees. The field at the SW corner is higher than the street and will impact homes less than if it were at the NW end of the park where street and playfield are level.</li> <li>2. I live across the street on Woodlawn Ave and parking is already a nightmare during school hours. Having to hunt for parking until 10 pm every night will be much worse. I urge mandatory use of Lincoln parking lot for organized sports use of the field.</li> <li>3. I prefer an alternate site for the athletic field because no matter what, if the Playfield is chosen, the community will lose access and open space. It will become overscheduled with organized sports and overused just like Woodland Park field. So many of us, old and young, enjoy the access to throw balls with our children, have impromptu volley ball games, picnics and stroll around the paths. Very few of us will ever participate in the organized sports.</li> </ol>
2024-11-09 17:58:54	<p>I cannot believe that once again SPS is trying to take the one very small green space in the Wallingford community for a very limited and very selfish use. The park is used by all age groups for a lot of things. Green space is essential for neighborhood health. The density of the neighborhood is increasing. The neighborhood cannot lose the only green space we have - a green space essential to development of the young children in the neighborhood. Please look elsewhere - the parking lot at Lincoln is a viable solution. Wallingford Playfield is not.</p>
2024-11-10 00:00:00	<p>Hello Ms. McGehee—</p> <p>I am a resident of Wallingford and have sent the below message to our local representatives, council members, Seattle Public Schools and Seattle Parks. I wanted you to have the communication as well. The main message is this:</p> <p>“I am writing to ask that you please not move forward with plans to have the Lincoln Athletic Field located at the Wallingford Playfield.”</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-10 00:54:01	<p>Hi, regarding whether to convert Wallingford Playfield to a practice field for Lincoln and Hamilton schools, my first preference would be to use Lincoln's parking lot, instead. Specifically, I would suggest an elevated lid over the north parking lot. Yes, obviously that is more expensive, but given the scarcity of open space in this city, I think future generations of Seattleites will thank us. If the Seattle Parks decides to convert this field, please don't fence it in, as this needs to be open and inviting to the public. I am assuming that people (in wet and muddy footwear at times) can walk on it without restrictions, and that dogs won't damage it. So, yes, I think it is ok to make this the proposed practice field.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2024-11-10 15:31:02	<p>I hope that you are giving much more weight to Wallingford community members' feedback than to that of parents and student athletes who do not live within walking distance of the park. Wallingford Playfield is designated by SPR as a Neighborhood Park, and you should be seeking feedback primarily from the local neighborhood, who you are asking to give up our park.</p> <p>Many of the members of the school community have nothing to lose here — of course they want a brand new turf athletic field, because they do not use the field for the infinite other activities that it is meant for. Most do not live near enough to the park to be impacted by the nighttime lighting, the increased traffic and parking issues, and the decreased public safety. To many in the school community, converting our park into a turf field is a free gift with no downside. At least half of Lincoln's families go home to Queen Anne, which has numerous large, natural spaces where they can hang out after school or on the weekends. If *their* neighborhood green spaces were going to be obliterated, they'd be just as unhappy as we are.</p>
2024-11-10 23:57:56	<p>I am concerned and object to the plans for a Lincoln Athletic field to be built and replace Wallingford Playfield</p>
2024-11-11 00:00:00	<p>As an eight year resident of University House, who has walked the neighborhood, delighting in its Historic aspect, picnicking with my family, enjoying respite after a long walk and watching children at play, I was repulsed with the idea that this "Gem" of a park in the middle of "Historic Wallingford" would be gone forever. Knowing that the grass would be gone and that the huge area would be covered with Artificial Turf (AT), I want to share with you online research as to the toxic dangers of using AT instead of keeping the grass.</p> <p>I have read the complaints about using AT on athletic fields, and I also know about the dangers of phthalates (PAHS) and per-polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) known as toxic 'forever chemicals' that are found in artificial turf. "Studies have linked PFAS to cancer, immune system deficiencies, liver and kidney disease, and endocrine problems to name a few. PFAS can also leach into the soil and water around AT, potentially contaminating drinking water. These mobile chemicals can be absorbed through the skin, inhaled or ingested."</p> <p>"Recent studies done by the Los Angeles town council concluded no benefits financially or environmentally, and for health benefits, AT is being phased out. It did impact the environment, the carbon in the soil, and the microbes, insects, and others that live below the grass and the birds that feed upon them. Along with all of that, AT is expensive, short lived, non-recyclable, and is currently listed as a public health concern.</p> <p>I personally feel that turning Wallingford's Beautiful Healthy Historic Community Park into a practice football field would destroy the character of not only Wallingford, but the neighboring communities surrounding it.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-11-11 00:00:00</p>	<p>Dear Superintendent Diaz,</p> <p>I am concerned with the way the feedback is being handled for the public comment on the potential conversion of Wallingford Park into a turf athletic field for Lincoln High School.</p> <p>Wallingford Park is designated by SPR as a Neighborhood Park. Lincoln High School is asking us to give up our park for the preferred use of their student athletes. The only feedback that matters in this situation is that of the community members who live in the Wallingford neighborhood, which includes a number of Lincoln families and their students.</p> <p>Members of the school community who do not live in Wallingford have nothing to lose — of course they want a brand new artificially turfed athletic field instead of an open-access green space, because they do not use the field for the infinite other activities that the neighborhood does (and that the park was originally established for). To at least half the families at Lincoln, converting Wallingford Park into an athletic field for the priority use of their students is a free gift with no downside. Many of Lincoln's students go home to Queen Anne, which has a variety of open-access parks where they can hang out after school or on the weekends.</p> <p>Lincoln families from outside Wallingford will not be giving up anything— they'll just be gaining a convenience for their student athletes, who will quickly move on. They do not live near enough to the park to be impacted by the nighttime lighting, the increased traffic and parking issues, and the decreased public safety.</p> <p>But for many of us in the neighborhood, Wallingford is our permanent home, not just a place we're passing through. This small gem of a park was important to my parents, it has been a huge part of my life and my children's lives, and soon it will be an important part of my grandchildren's lives. That's four generations, not just four years of high school.</p> <p>Please let me know how SPR is identifying and prioritizing the feedback they are getting from Wallingford residents, not from school families who live elsewhere.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Wallingford resident</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-11 20:18:45	<p>Your FAQs regarding Wallingford Playfield are extremely misleading. You are, essentially, lying to the community to get what you want with the field. Here are two examples. You claim that “the field will be integrated into the existing layout without compromising access to other amenities.” Let me first list the current amenities that we observe at Wallingford Park: Playground area Wading pool Natural rockery and trees for climbing and free play Walking, biking path Trees for climbing and shade Grassy areas for picnicking, playing games We believe that is a misleading statement for several reasons. It is not feasible to have a field that takes up a substantial footprint of the park (around 85%) and maintain all of the amenities. I have looked closely at the SPS suggested designs and I think, if you look closely, you will see it is not possible to have all of the amenities. In the one image that Seattle Public Schools provides that preserves the playground, the field is actually IN the playground area right up against the current merry go round. No young children could be on the playground while teenagers are throwing lacrosse balls or kicking soccer balls. It's an absolute hazard and there needs to be a buffer zone. So that would either mean erecting a fence or drastically cutting back the size of the playground or both. SPS has also said there would be no fence, but it would only take one child to be hit by a ball for that to change. Further, the playground is currently elevated from the playfield, in this design they would need to be at the same level (you can't have a field that runs uphill), so even if the playground stays in some reduced form, it will first be razed to level the field and then rebuilt in any remaining space. This design also doesn't show where the stanchions for the lights will go. They will also take up significant space and likely one will have to be placed in the area of the playground so that corner of the field is lit. Another big amenity of the park is the natural walking and jogging path. You can see a similar problem with the path. While it is retained in certain sections, it directly abuts the field, which creates safety issues. The path is completely usurped by the field on the south side of the park. Again the need for a fence and lights takes up even more space than is suggested here. The design also shows the removal of many trees that kids use for climbing. It doesn't suggest the removal of the rockery that kids use for hide and seek and free play by the playground but it's unclear how, in leveling the space to accommodate the field, such natural landscape elements will be maintained. The other SPS design clearly shows the elimination of all the amenities. Why then does your FAQ say that no amenities will be eliminated? Second, your FAQs say “the field itself will be available for both organized sports and casual community use during non-school hours.” This is another misleading comment or outright lie. Casual community use - which is the primary way Wallingford neighbors can use the park - will be virtually unavailable. Essentially it will be available about 18 minutes of daylight hours a day for community. How dare you tell us that is the same as being "available" for casual community use. Currently, use of the park is not restricted because it is not a “scheduled athletic field.” That means it does not show up in the Seattle Park's list of fields that organized teams can rent out for a fee. The fields are used on occasion by Hamilton physical education classes during the school days, some Hamilton teams and by Woodland Soccer on some evenings and fall weekend mornings. When those teams are on the fields, use to other community members is somewhat restricted. Since there is no record of the amount of time they use the field, it's challenging to calculate the degree of restriction, but if we estimate it to be three hours a day (which is very generous), that means the grassy field is available to anyone who wants to use it for 21 hours out of 24 (we'll leave daylight out of the calculation for now). Once this field becomes a turf field, it will also be put into the Parks' field scheduling system. The School District has said “the field itself will be available for both organized sports and casual community use during non-school hours.” So, first, we must take school hours away from public access. That is approximately 8:00-3:30. Next, since the athletic field is being built for Lincoln teams to practice, we can assume that field will be used by Lincoln teams (or Hamilton teams) during the traditional time allowed for schools to use fields based on their current Joint Use Agreement which would be 3:45-7:00. Since it will now be a scheduled field, it will also be available to be rented to other organized teams from 7:00-10:00pm. SPR reports that its athletic fields are rented approximately 90% of their available hours. (I can not add a link or a graphic but this information is available in a power point from SPR titled 2023 Athletic Field Report). So from 7-10pm, there may be an average of 18 minutes available to the community. Using this language and data from SPS and SPR, we learn that the average availability in a 24 hour period goes from 21 hours to just over 13 hours, the majority of which are between the hours of 10 at night and 8 in the morning. And given that the park is "closed" from 11:30 at night to 4 in the morning, the community can use it casually, in the dark, from 10-11:30 and 4-8 in the morning. Thanks!! PLEASE STOP LYING ABOUT THIS. I'll also add that the Project Manager is having meetings with the Hamilton and Lincoln folks trying to rallying them for the Wallingford Park option (I can't link the meeting notes from the Hamilton PTSA meeting but if you read them you will see the meeting was essentially a "get out the vote" rally for the pro turf Wallingford Park crowd. Is she supposed to be running a community engagement process that hears all voices or railroading the community by advocating for a particular choice and getting non Wallingford</p>

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	<p>residents to sign petitions, make signs and show up to press forward your (and her) agenda? That doesn't seem like a very fair, just or (potentially) legal process for the conversion of a city asset to a school asset.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-11 20:42:15	<p>I am writing as a neighbor of Lincoln High School and a frequent user of Wallingford Playfield to express my concerns about the proposed athletic field at the park. While I support the need for athletic facilities for Lincoln High, I am deeply concerned about the significant impact this project would have on the park and the surrounding community.</p> <p>The proposed field would occupy approximately 85% of the park's green space, displacing a wide range of community activities. Although it has been stated that the playground and wading pool areas will remain, this proposal fails to address the extensive elimination of open green space currently used for picnics, Frisbee, children's free play, and general community gatherings. This open, accessible space is essential to the multigenerational use of the park. The replacement of grass with artificial turf, which would primarily serve scheduled and reserved school activities, limits casual and spontaneous public use of the park. School use is prioritized during school hours, extending into the evening until 7 p.m., leaving only limited time for other organized teams and community activities, often as late as 7-10 p.m.</p> <p>In addition, the removal of mature, likely Exceptional trees will drastically change the park's character and environmental quality. Replacing these trees with saplings will not immediately offset the loss of canopy or habitat.</p> <p>Given these concerns, I strongly encourage Seattle Public Schools and Parks &amp; Rec to explore alternative locations. The north parking area of Lincoln High School could accommodate a field, either in place of or on a lid over the parking lot, preserving the park's open space for the community. Alternatively, the unused area at Lower Woodland Park offers ample space for a full-sized athletic field without sacrificing valuable community resources at Wallingford Playfield.</p> <p>I hope these alternatives will be seriously considered to meet both the school's needs and preserve the essential recreational and environmental benefits of Wallingford Playfield.</p>
2024-11-11 20:48:07	<p>I am writing to oppose the idea of making the Wallingford Playfield into a football field for Lincoln High School.</p> <p>Me and my family use the park as a way to enjoy nature and observe other neighbors using it for soccer, ultimate frisbee, general exercise, dog play, etc... Greenspace is too precious to give up in this city. There is not enough as it is. Wallingford Playfield is a central part for all of Wallingford and should be maintained.</p> <p>I think there are other candidates that can better serve Lincoln High School's need. I am partial to the gravel parking lot site on 50th NE near the Zoo.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2024-11-11 20:55:03	<p>This is the only unstructured, open, green space in the Wallingford residential urban village. With the increasing density, we need to protect our open spaces. Covering 85% of this park with artificial turf that will be scheduled for organized athletics is the antithesis of the Seattle Parks mission to preserve and protect its parks. Please use an alternate location for Lincoln's athletic field.</p>
2024-11-11 21:13:59	<p>I strongly object to SPS's proposed plan to convert Wallingford park to a turf field for Lincoln High School.</p> <p>Without Wallingford park, children in this neighborhood who live in homes without yards will have NO green space to freely play in anytime of day and without fear of interruption or injury from high school athletes practicing their sports. I'm similarly concerned about having high intensity athletic practice next to a playground where many young children play.</p> <p>SPS is not above the law. As a SPS graduate, I'm ashamed to see my Alma mater attempting to take advantage of this community.</p>



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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-11 22:01:20	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I previously sent a comment with suggested alternatives to Wallingford Playfield for a new turf field. I would like to amend my comment to put my full support behind turfing the underutilized parking area at N 50th St and Aurora. I understand the zoo would like to retain this space for overflow parking, specifically during Zoo Tunes concerts. It seems to me that this reserved time could still be accommodated on top of the turf field during the dozen nights of the year when it might be needed for additional zoo parking. I hope you can work with the zoo to negotiate for this space. It's the best location for a turf field as it does not take away green space, adds valuable additional field space in a park that is already a destination for field spaces, and is within walking distance from Lincoln High School and Hamilton Middle School.</p> <p>The next best option would be to move the tennis courts along the north side of N 50th to a different location within the park.</p> <p>Regards,</p>
2024-11-11 22:26:14	<p>I'd like to say as a parent of a future LHS student and neighbor of the park (live on the block), I am troubled by the possibility that the playfield and park will turn into a pure athletics field.</p> <p>My concerns range from danger (the drastic reduction in hours I'd feel safe walking my toddler to the playground due to increased traffic, especially during night fall-spring months), environmental concerns (noise, light pollution, reduction in natural space), and infrastructure (lack of parking, inevitability that the entire space will be turfed or set up for organized activities).</p> <p>Additionally, I find it'd be a huge miss to not rectify the parking abomination that is the school lot, which becomes an unused blighted heat sink for the majority of the prime useage months. It completely subverts the LHS building as 'historical' to have that parking lot next to it.</p> <p>There are obviously no clear solutions, but the proposed solution in Woodland does utilize existing infrastructure and high traffic streets to absorb the booked times, is near enough to the school, and brings the LHS teams needed capacity. I'd also be understanding of a smaller turf field for the middle school taking up the West end of the playfield (30% of total area), or at the library parking lot.</p>
2024-11-11 23:05:14	<p>Wallingford Park is a much needed, immeasurably valuable community space. I walked there with my daughter when she was a baby so she could sit on the grass and look at the leaves in the trees (our townhome didn't have space for a lawn or trees). I've spent hours there while she played in the playground; watched her day care and preschool run around the grass in the middle of the day; played in the snow there; held and attended birthday gatherings there; picnicked with friends there. Our community needs a green space and a gathering space. Please seek alternatives to your plan.</p>
2024-11-12 00:06:27	<p>Our family is strongly opposed to Wallingford playfield being converted into a turf field. We have enjoyed this park for years, as a place to picnic and walk before having kids and now as a place where we visit multiple times a week for our kids to play on the playground and with friends in the grassy field. This park is a cornerstone of our community and is enjoyed by thousands of people, from tiny babies to elderly and everyone in between. There are many other great options for where the field could go, such as the parking lot behind Lincoln, in Woodland park, near gasworks or in Queen Anne Bowl. As parents whose kids will go to Hamilton and Lincoln we would much rather utilize one of the other options which would be a win win for the schools AND the Wallingford community without losing this special park. Please please find a different location for the school field and do not take away this wonderful park.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-12 00:17:47	<p>I walk through or around the playfield frequently. I never find the park empty. In the summer there are kids there in all daylight hours, playing catch with dad or running around with other kids or playing in the playground. But the rest of the year I always find people there. Parents with young kids using it while older kids are in school. Older kids when school is out. If you take this playfield away there is NO WHERE in Wallingford for those kids to play. If they cannot have some green space to run and play freely, unstructured, then what do they do? That fun, active creative time is channeled to ... playing more video games? We need free play, we need interactive spaces we need Wallingford Playfield. Other neighborhoods have far more; it would be lovely to have a park as large as Volunteer Park for example. But this little patch of green works very hard for our neighborhood, is valued and is well used.</p> <p>It is remarkably selfish to take it for the exclusive use of a small age band. You have other options - use the parking lot if you have to. But don't take away the playfield.</p>
2024-11-12 01:28:37	<p>This greenspace is important to me and my neighbors and losing access to a local park is devastating.</p> <p>I visit the park regularly year round and see the diversity of those that use the park for a variety of things. Prioritizing a small over the inclusion of the community feels wrong.</p>
2024-11-12 01:56:35	<p>My family and I are strongly opposed to Lincoln High School converting the Wallingford Playfield into a turf sports field. We frequent the nearby playground and love to play, ride, and run around the green space. We're worried about the reduction in usable community green space, the risk to my small child's safety while using the nearby playground, and the overall influx of unwanted vehicular and visitor traffic. Please do the right thing and find an alternative site for this monstrosity - no one in the community wants this! Our understanding is that there may be a viable option elsewhere at 50th and Aurora, please do this instead. It's ridiculous that the zoo opposes the use of this alternative site because of a few days of overflow parking each year for zoo tunes when the sports field would get significantly more use there. And most importantly, it would allow continued use of the playfield in its current state. Do the right thing for our neighborhood!</p>
2024-11-12 11:23:41	<p>I want the HS athletes to have a field but just not a green space in Wallingford when there are alternatives!</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
2024-11-12 11:46:37	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I'm writing in support of saving Wallingford Playfield. We love this park – frisbee, wiffle ball, friendly pooches.</p> <p>But I also have two athletes at Lincoln High School – my boy just graduated and my daughter is a junior. They play(ed) football/lacrosse and flag football/soccer respectively.</p> <p>It's actually kinda cool to be in an urban school where your practices and games are offsite. My son loved practicing and having his home football field at Memorial. My daughter as well. My kids we're born in Brooklyn NY and we nearly stayed there, where every high school has their sports offsite (save for basketball). O'Dea is of course a football powerhouse yet they don't have a home field.</p> <p>Let's not remove an historic and beautiful piece of nature. So much of the city is being carved up and paved over with synthetics. I think the gravel parking lot near the zoo is better option. Let's keep this little oasis.</p> <p>Thanks for reading/listening,</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-12 13:48:23	<p>Dear Seattle Public Schools,</p> <p>I received notification of the proposed new synthetic turf athletic field to be situated in the neighborhood Wallingford Park . This feels incredibly irresponsible to propose a new construction project for an athletic field on multiple accounts.</p> <p>How can the district justify this expenditure when there are five schools scheduled to be closed to mitigate the budget deficit? Isn't the expenditure on the Seattle Memorial Stadium renovations enough athletic spending? Furthermore, there are "temporary" classrooms at almost every school I have seen in and around my neighborhood. To be frank, there is nothing more permanent than a temporary solution. It feels duplicitous on behalf of the school district to have sub standard classrooms for children and ask for a new athletic field.</p> <p>I understand that this is a convenient location for both the middle and high schools, but it is also a treasured location for the neighborhood. I would be distraught if the neighborhood defining features, a public park, was co-opted to a single use, school athletics.</p> <p>Has lower woodland park been assessed as a potential location for a new athletic field? When I say "new" I mean repurposing of the quad of baseball fields into a multi-use area similar to that at Robert Eagle Staff Middle School? The baseball fields are chronically underused compared to the synthetic turf fields to the left and right of it.</p>
2024-11-12 15:08:51	<p>Wallingford playfield/park is heavily used by the entire neighborhood. Seniors use it for walking and enjoy watching young kids play. Preschool kids and their parent use the space to run and fly kites and throw balls. This park is the only open space in the Wallingford urban village. With all the up zoning, open space will be even more important for the neighborhood. The small park should not be taken by the school district for their use. It was built in the 70's for the neighborhood, not to be assimilated into the school district property.</p> <p>The school district should convert their parking lot at Lincoln back to a play field. That way they can have a practice field and possibly Hamilton can use this field in the winter months when the grass field at Wallingford park is closed.</p> <p>As an alternative, the school district should be looking at spaces that are underutilized like the parking lot at 50th and aurora (woodland park) . Seattle parks need more fields, they should not take a well-used small neighborhood park for this use.</p>
2024-11-12 16:06:31	<p>This community park must remain a public park and not turned into a sports field for Lincoln High School. This park is essential to the neighborhood. In addition the increased traffic and lack of parking in the area will create chaos on game days. Not a good idea.</p>
2024-11-12 16:06:38	<p>This community park must remain a public park and not turned into a sports field for Lincoln High School. This park is essential to the neighborhood. In addition the increased traffic and lack of parking in the area will create chaos on game days. Not a good idea.</p>
2024-11-12 17:18:16	<p>SPS is considering turning the Wallingford Playfield into an artificial turn football field for Lincoln High. It would then be intensely used by the school district, and essentially off limits to the neighborhood.</p> <p>Please do not do this! This playfield is one of the few bits of green left in this part of Wallingford, and, as such is heavily used by children and adults for all sorts of activities, from picnicking to practicing music, to watching Shakespeare in the Park. As Wallingford becomes increasingly densely populated we are losing individual yards, and need our open areas.</p> <p>Thank you for being willing to reconsider this plan.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-12 19:44:28	<p><a href="https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article-abstract/144/5/e20192180/38225/Concussion-Incidence-and-Trends-in-20-High-School?redirectedFrom=fulltext">https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article-abstract/144/5/e20192180/38225/Concussion-Incidence-and-Trends-in-20-High-School?redirectedFrom=fulltext</a></p> <p>This article highlights the great concussion risk for hs football players.</p> <p>Given the risks involved as well as costs why not just highlight other sports and build a smaller field in the parking lot space and leave Wallingford playground intact?</p> <p>Staying anonymous as feelings are strong about this park issue.</p> <p>Thanks for listening.</p>
2024-11-12 20:45:38	<p>I have lived 3 houses up from the Wallingford Neighborhood Park over over 30 years. I am adamantly opposed to the SPS proposal to build an athletic field facility for Lincoln High School in this park.</p> <p>This is a park that is highly utilized by the neighborhood. There are always people of all generations in the park; playing, learning, running, discovering, sky gazing and getting fresh air. All of this would not be possible if SPS is allowed to limit access and change the park to an artificial environment.</p> <p>The increased density that is being placed in the Wallingford neighborhood make Open Natural Green Spaces all the more important to retain and maintain. With the SPS plan, we will loose our natural grass, our trees, and access to our open space. Who wants to relax on artificial turf? NOT ME or my neighbors!</p> <p>Parks should be for the neighborhoods and NOT for SPS. This plan prioritizes the needs of the fewer student athletes over the needs of the larger community.</p> <p>The SPS plan also will bring increased parking congestion, and light and noise pollution. There are also questions about environmental impact of the artificial turf. This plan is TOO BIG for a one block park.</p> <p>The SPS has been less than forthcoming with the neighborhood with this plan. We only had couple days notice before the first meeting at which it seemed to be a “done deal”. SPS should be well aware of this community’s concern and attachment to the Wallingford Neighborhood Park. It was a major point of discussion when SPS was remodeling both Hamilton Middle School and and Lincoln High School.</p> <p>There are a couple better options available:</p> <p>The underutilized north parking lot at Lincoln High School. This keeps the facilities on SPS property.</p> <p>The Queen Anne Bowl. Even though this is Seattle park, it already has turf field, track and parking. It is less than 2 miles away from the high school.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.</p> <p>Sincerely yours,</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>Your neighbor</p>
<p>2024-11-12 21:37:17</p>	<p>Hello! Our kids attend McClure Middle School, one of Lincoln’s feeder middle schools. The only thing my son likes about McClure is Track, and McClure uses the Queen Anne Bowl for their practices. If Lincoln takes over, can they work with the McClure track team to allow them to continue their practices? The field next to McClure is often filled with dog poop and mud when it rains. There is no place else for McClure kids to practice other than the QA Bowl.</p> <p>Thanks!</p>
<p>2024-11-13 00:00:00</p>	<p>Hello - Word is circulating that the meeting on Nov 20th about Wallingford Playfield is going to be held in the Lincoln High School library. Is this true? The library only hold 193 people. It is likely that the turnout will be greater for this meeting and it will not look very good if neighbor's voices cannot be heard because of a capacity issue. I hope this rumor is inaccurate and that the meeting will be held in the auditorium again. Please reply.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

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2024-11-13 00:00:00	<p>Thank you for your quick response.</p> <p>I do have concerns that the capacity of the library won't be sufficient for the interest in the meeting. Is there no way to move it to the auditorium? There is ample seating and terrific acoustics for making sure everyone can be seen and heard.</p> <p>Thank you - my great aunt and friends won't be able to stand for long, but thankfully aren't in wheelchairs yet. Ample seating is important.</p>
2024-11-13 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige,</p> <p>There is a very active debate in the Wallingford community about turning the Wallingford Playfield into a turf field. I know a meeting is scheduled for next week in the library, but I am concerned that it may not accommodate all the voices that want to be heard. Is there any way this meeting can be moved to a larger location or delayed until a larger venue is found? Without a change, I worry that voices will be excluded.</p>
2024-11-13 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige,</p> <p>You might have already seen this, one of the parents passed this to Kathy and me this morning. They queued up a completely misleading survey and posted it in the Wallyhood post.</p>
2024-11-13 12:39:38	<p>I support Wallingford Park as the location for the new Lincoln High School Practice Field. I live in Wallingford and have used Wallingford Park for years. My kids go to Lincoln.</p> <p>Wallingford Park is the closest field to Lincoln. There should be a full-sized athletic field by the school, not a half mile or more walk away.</p>
2024-11-13 12:42:00	<p>I am fully in favor of updating Wallingford Playfield so it can accommodate Lincoln High School practice facilities. I trust that Seattle Parks and Recreation will consider the adjacent neighbor's (NIMBY) comments, move forward with improvements, and the community will realize that by keeping a playground, tennis courts, and other existing amenities, the updates can be an amenity for all.</p>
2024-11-13 18:19:44	<p>2 public meetings is not enough.</p>
2024-11-13 21:54:57	<p>I and every neighbors and friends believe that Lincoln needs a believe that Lincoln needs an appropriate practice field, but we are adamantly opposed to losing any portion of our beloved Wallingford Park to SPS and Lincoln High School. We use the park daily! It is well utilized for small kids in the playground area, several daycare centers, nearby, many parents near and farther away who drive to the park for that particular playground. It is widely utilized for pick up games after work and on weekends, volleyball, soccer, frisbee, etc. It is walkable for our senior citizens at the nearby university house and in the homes near the park. It is a huge community builder.</p> <p>Wallingford is woefully under service. We do not have a community center and have the second smallest library in the city. This part is critical to Neighbors within the 5 to 10 minute walk shed to have some green space and some recreational opportunities. It needs to stay a natural green space and not an athletic turf! We do not want lights or artificial turf at our beloved park! Please do not let SPS take over SPR land and our beloved community park!</p>
2024-11-13 22:50:37	<p>Please don't take away our park spaces.</p>
2024-11-13 22:57:28	<p>I am supporting the construction of an athletic field at Wallingford playfield. My sophomore is playing Ultimate Frisbee at Lincoln, and practices have been a nightmare. Practice locations are all over the city and often very late in the day. A lot of time is spent in the car or on the bus. What a waste of time and resources. The location at Wallingford playfield would be ideal for Lincoln HS students. Lincoln students need access to the same athletic opportunities as those of other high schools. And adding another turf field to the supply of sports fields will help with scheduling challenges of any sports team.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-14 00:00:00	<p>We are opposed to letting the public schools take over the only playground in Wallingford that is suitable for kids and families. For 50 years we have taken our children and grandkids to play on the equipment and use the wading pool. During Covid when we walked to the park every day we would see 3 different pre school entities using the park equipment. The tennis courts are busy and the fields are used by different groups for sports. We have picnics at the park, and where else can you have a family outing with a playfield for the kids. The current equipment was installed by the community and is truly a community park.</p> <p>We understand that the neighboring schools need practice fields that are not available now. Turning over the park to the schools for their exclusive use is not in the best interest of the community. The schools need to learn how to cooperate with the community and make concessions for community time and access.</p>
2024-11-14 08:21:49	<p>Please respect the neighborhood and keep the park within the community. While this may be a convenient solution for students playing sports while in high school - this impacts the community and those that have homes in the area for years! It is a local resource and our green space that is used by everyone. With more and more families moving to the area (apartment and townhomes) -- this an area that is needed for all.</p> <p>Please respect our area</p> <p>thank you</p>
2024-11-14 13:30:50	<p>It seems fiscally irresponsible to propose a project like this given the shortage in budget and shrinking enrollment. This project was created "behind closed doors" between the Parks Department and SPS. Before LHS opened and during the planning meetings the committee went out of their way to say Wallingford park would not be used for after school athletics. SPS prides itself on equity for all students, but this somehow this only benefits a small amount of the school's population.</p> <p>The demolition of a neighborhood park to make an athletic field to cater to exclusive HS athletes is wrong.</p>
2024-11-14 16:55:13	<p>Hi, the news is spreading thru Wallingford that the second, and final, public meeting about Wallingford Playfield will be held in the Lincoln Library on Nov 20th. Is this true? The library capacity is 193 and we expect there to be more people than that at the meeting. The venue needs to allow all interested parties to attend or the public process will look skewed and biased. This entire process has been flawed since the start...with the first meeting notice arriving to many Wallingford residents after the meeting occurred. Since then, the only people to hear updates of the process have been the schools in private meetings with SPD. This looks like SPS is not acting in good faith in this process. Please confirm that the location of the Nov 20th meeting will be moved to the gym or the auditorium. If that isn't possible, then the meeting needs to be rescheduled for another date. Thank you.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-14 19:29:56	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I've recently become aware of the proposed athletic field to be built on Wallingford field for the schools. I've been a resident of Wallingford for 6 years, and my family and I use this park regularly. My young daughter especially loves the playground and swings. I highly value this public space for our family.</p> <p>I very much oppose the proposed changes to the current Wallingford park in order to place an athletic field. This park as it stands now is an asset to the community, especially those without other options for outdoor play spaces for our children. I understand that the schools need an athletic field, and my child will attend both Hamilton and Lincoln schools in the future. She will need an athletic field, but please do not limit the options for her to play on Wallingford field in the years before she attends those schools.</p> <p>I would encourage you to look for other options that would not so negatively impact the neighborhood's access to public green space.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2024-11-14 23:20:55	<p>I writing in strong support for creating an athletic field for Lincoln HS in Wallingford Park!!! It will be a huge upgrade to the current park serving the youth of our community. Thousands of youth attending Hamilton and Lincoln. It is shortsighted for local families with small children to want to keep things just as they are - their kids will grow up and appreciate all of the uses of a proper athletic field - whether those kids are directly using those fields or cheering on their classmates. Please move this forward. Don't make those students walk or bus across town to participate in athletics. There are so many benefits to kids participating in sports and many inclusive, no-cut options. Invest in our students please. The surrounding neighbors already got their play streets/barricades. Thank you, Kimberly</p>
2024-11-15 00:00:00	<p>Paige,</p> <p>Thank you so much for the update. I'm disappointed that the proposal moved away from the option presented at the first meeting. Lincoln and Hamilton students deserve a full size field with lights, they are members of the community too. At the first meeting there was no way to register our support for the option presented beyond written comments. I sat near many community members who didn't have a way, during the session, to voice their support in the midst of the questions expressing skepticism. I strongly encourage you to ensure that the meeting format allows those who support a full size field and lights on Wallingford playfield to counter the vocal minority that opposes any changes to the space despite the clear need from the students.</p> <p>I think SPS did an incredibly thorough job investigating options to present to the community and it was clear that a full size, lighted field on Wallingford Playfield was the best option. Yes, it is change within the community, but one that benefits thousands of young people and their families.</p> <p>Since I'm unable to attend this next meeting I want to make sure to again register my support for the first option. Will there be a way to comment virtually?</p> <p>Thank you, and the SPS team, for the work to meet the needs of our Hamilton and Lincoln school communities.</p> <p>Best,</p>



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-15 00:00:00	<p>Thanks Paige.</p> <p>Can I submit feedback for the revised plan somewhere?</p> <p>The revised plan seems like you guys are just giving into the those community members that are dog owners and want to allow t heir dogs to continue to run around, off-leash, at Wallingford Playfield, and have some grass to destroy, and kids to frighten.</p> <p>The half-size turf field seems kinda like a waste of time, money and resources. It’s a half-hearted solution to a problem that needs a proper solution.</p> <p>And not lighting the revised proposal means that nobody at all will be able to use it after 4pm n the dark fall and winter months.</p> <p>The only community members that have concerns about over-activation (whatever that is) and changes to the parks character, are dog owners.</p> <p>I highly suggest someone from Seattle Parks &amp; Recreation sit at Wallingford Playfields on a nice spring, summer or fall day and watch all of these ‘community members’ completely ignore the rules and all their dogs destroy the grass that P&amp;R put so much effort into maintaining. And because of those dogs, who again, are off-leash, parents of young kids will not allow their kids to play on the grass, because of (a) dog excrement, and (b) dogs running at them (which is usually met by a frightened child and an owner saying “oh, don’t worry, he’s friendly”).</p> <p>Regards,</p>
2024-11-15 00:00:00	<p>I think revising is not acceptable! This is a community focal point for the Wallingford neighborhood which should take presid ent over using it in this Manor! Also the 4 th of July will totally destroy the plastic field because it is always overwhelmed with fire works and fires. We should not have to loose our park because the schools want to remake the park for their benefit!</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Sent from my iPhone</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-15 00:00:00	<p>"Dear Paige (cc'ing others at SOJ if you can forward to leadership there to address complaints on the mismanagement of this project),</p> <p>I read the recent updated proposal for Lincoln to use the levy to build a half-turf field instead at Wallingford Playfield. I have serious concerns with how you have managed this process including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Simple due diligence would have shown this land cannot belong to SPS, and it belongs to the community where it has been an important *public* green space for over a 100 years.</li> <li>- You have shown clear bias by urging people to put up pro-turf signs. How is that acceptable in your position here where you are supposedly meant to balance the needs of the community here as well?</li> <li>- Your new proposal of a half-field at Wallingford Playfield undermines your credibility in terms of evaluating other sites and the actual needs of Lincoln. Didn't you say other sites, such as the Lincoln old field/parking lot etc were not considered based on size? If you're saying a half-field is now on the table - are other sites back on the table?</li> <li>- How does a 1/2 field correctly utilize the levy, when this isn't even what Lincoln needs or wants? Even if it meets the needs for Hamilton, this levy is not actually for Hamilton, correct?</li> <li>- Inaccurate and contradictory information on your FAQ during the whole process - the website states that any removed green space will be added elsewhere in the park. How is that even possible? Website also contradicts itself by saying that all community access will be maintained, but elsewhere saying that it will be removed during school hours - which is correct?</li> <li>- Mismanagement of the community process: not sending out mailers in time, providing inaccurate information to the principals and community members on timing/size, not doing actual due diligence on size/viability of goal posts etc. Unprepared to answer these questions at the meeting when saying the park was the best solution. Claiming the 2nd meeting would be a meeting to work out design solutions, when community agreement was not yet aligned.</li> <li>- Not having it clarified for community members at the first meeting if and what current features would be maintained. Not being prepared to answer this question thoroughly.</li> <li>- Suggesting that a giant new playground that was recently built at considerable expense to taxpayers could be moved to another part of the park, when people complained about keeping the playground. How is this remotely an appropriate use of millions of tax dollars to basically tear down and rebuild a brand new playground?</li> </ul> <p>I hope that there is further investigation into how this evaluation process was mismanaged, because this seems like a total waste of tax dollars.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>"</p>
2024-11-15 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige,</p> <p>Will a possible outcome of this meeting be to go back to a full sized field with lights?</p> <p>This proposal seems like a compromise, but I'd argue does not accomplish the goal of either side of the argument. The benefits for a full sized field are so huge, not just for these school but the community at large—including youth and adult sports, and year-round utilization. There are great grass parks at Gas Works and Meridian and Woodland Park that dog walkers and picnickers can use if they are unhappy about a Wallingford Park conversion. The conversion keeps the play structures intact for young kids as well, making it a great community solution.</p> <p>Thanks for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Best,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-15 00:00:00	<p>Hi, Paige – I just wanted to send along a note as a parent whose child attended Hamilton for middle school – this field will be a game changer for so many of the students at Hamilton and Lincoln – a health, accessible gathering place for many sports and the community. I am sure there will be some change resistant feedback from certain members of the community but please keep the 3000 students that will benefit top of mind. Having a sports field provides a healthy outlet that helps mitigate adolescent depression, anxiety, and substance abuse issues – we need more of this to keep the kids healthy and safe. Thank you for your leadership and courage helping get this field built and make much better use of Wallingford Park! A turf field can be used year round by so many. Best, Kimberly Decker</p>
2024-11-15 00:00:00	<p>Could you please respond and let me know if there will be opportunity for public comment at Wednesday's community meeting regarding the Lincoln Athletic Field?</p> <p>Here is where I saw the information about that, which seems to have come from Paige.</p> <p>However, in correspondence with the "Let's Talk" feature on the SPS website we were told this is "a community meeting, not a public hearing." Please advise.</p> <p>Also, I know you are in correspondence with others on the location, but if it remains at the library, could you let us know what time the doors will open since it seems early arrival may be the only way to secure seating given the anticipated attendance numbers. We also have a good number of elderly residents of University House planning to attend and they will need to be seated. Thank you.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-15 13:17:18	<p>I do not think making Wallingford park into an athletic field is a good idea. My concerns:</p> <p>1) This is a peaceful natural oasis for the neighborhood. We come here often, and it is enjoyed by families, neighbors, dog walkers, etc. It is one of the few grassy open areas in the neighborhood.</p> <p>2) Traffic and parking on Wallingford Ave. is already high enough. An athletic field would bring more traffic and make parking more difficult for residents.</p> <p>3) Artificial turf is controversial and poses an environmental threat to the soil and people's health</p> <p>Thank you for considering our concerns.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Wallingford Family</p>
2024-11-15 13:55:22	Please add me to the Lincoln Field email list
2024-11-16 00:00:00	<p>My interest is that The field, park, that is in wallingford, nit be altered at all, which means none. As natural as is possible. Look anywhere else.</p>
2024-11-16 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige,</p> <p>Thanks for the update. At the next community meeting, will the audience be reminded that Wallingford Playfield is NOT an off-leash dog park?</p> <p>Best,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-16 00:00:00	<p>Hello, I recently saw the announcement for the next neighborhood meeting for the Lincoln HS playfield project stating that the current front-running option is to provide only an unlit half a playfield for student athletic use. As a parent and PTSA board member, I can see that this would not be sufficient for actually practicing for football, marching band or soccer, for example, which are some of the top uses proposed for this field. Without lights, no one (except maybe off-leash dog walkers) can effectively use the park for about 1000 hours a year between sunset and 10pm, when lights would presumably be turned off. The community approved the levy including the field, and refusing to add that many hours of park usage above the currently-available level seems a disservice to citizens. It would be better to provide a full-size field with lights pretty much anywhere than to provide only half a field.</p> <p>I find it frustrating that the school district and the city are capitulating to a neighborhood group comprised primarily of single-family homeowners that has been spreading misinformation since the first meeting on this proposal. Uproar about removing trees, the playground and wading pool continues despite reassurances that they would remain, and complaints about artificial turf ignore the very-Seattle reality that grass fields are not usable by anyone (and require extensive, costly maintenance) for at least half of the year. This opposition seems motivated by selfishness and an anti-communal spirit characteristic of the Wallingford neighborhood in particular, as evidenced by their highly organized effort to derail HALA and any suggestion of density (or any kind of change) in their predominantly white, upper-middle-class single-family neighborhood. SPS claims they are committed to eliminating opportunity gaps and are striving for equity, especially for young men of color. Taking away opportunities for non-academic pathways to secondary education (football, soccer and marching band scholarships as a few examples) by shorting the facilities needed for success seems to unfairly penalize young non-traditional learners to the benefit of NIMBY neighbors that have more time to protest and organize than families with school-age children. I believe that their best choice by far is to provide the lit, full-size field in Wallingford Park with the playground, wading pool and tennis courts remaining and a perimeter path with new trees and landscaping. I am confident that the great landscape architects on this project can balance all those needs and make the best use of this currently underutilized space. There IS room for all these things in this location – it is the duty of urban parks to do a lot in a small area, and there are many great examples of this. Thank you for your consideration, and I hope it is not too late to make a good decision for our students and the diverse community that coexists with the Wallingford single-family homeowners.</p> <p>Regards,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-16 00:00:00	<p>Dear Mr. Best and Ms. McGehee,</p> <p>I am writing in response to SPS's updated plan to convert a large portion of Wallingford Playfield (WPP) into a half-size synthetic turf field, rather than the full-size field SPS originally proposed.</p> <p>Any change to WPP that would violate its designation as an open space for free-access public use by all community members is illegal. Conversion of any portion of the park to a synthetic field of any size for primary use by SPS students is illegal.</p> <p>It is clear that at the time it made it's original proposal to takeover Wallingford Playfield, SPS knew or should have know that any attempt to convert WPP into a turf field for student use is in violation of: 1) the terms of Seattle's 1968 contract with HUD and 1969 contract with IAC to fund expansion of the park; 2) conditions in the deeds of former homeowners whose land was bought to expand the park; 3) Seattle's 1972 "Deed of Right to Use Land for Public Recreation purposes and 4) Seattle Ordinance 118477. SPS knew or should have known its proposed plan was illegal.</p> <p>Given that SPS knew or should have known its plan was illegal, the money you have spent planning the conversion of WPP into a turf field constitutes a gross misuse of public funds. In light of SPS's vast budget shortfall, I find this misspending particularly egregious.</p> <p>Once again, I find it imperative to express that SPS is not above the law. It is disheartening to see that public officials are misusing our funds and blantly attempting to mislead the public.</p> <p>See you at the community meeting on Tuesday.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2024-11-16 12:34:12	<p>The revised proposal seems to be an excellent compromise. The comprehensive education of kids is our kids is our most important job as a city. After school activities including athletics is an important anchor for may adolescents. I favored the full field option though it had its costs and limits- including very limited space around the field. This revised proposal by SPS should be widely endorsed by the Wallingford community.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-16 13:16:56	<p>Hello, I recently saw the announcement for the next neighborhood meeting for the Lincoln HS playfield project stating that the current front-running option is to provide only an unlit half a playfield for student athletic use. As a parent and PTSA board member, I can see that this would not be sufficient for actually practicing for football, marching band or soccer, for example, which are some of the top uses proposed for this field. Without lights, no one (except maybe off-leash dog walkers) can effectively use the park for about 1000 hours a year between sunset and 10pm, when lights would presumably be turned off. The community approved the levy including the field, and refusing to add that many hours of park usage above the currently-available level seems a disservice to citizens. It would be better to provide a full-size field with lights pretty much anywhere than to provide only half a field.</p> <p>I find it frustrating that the school district and the city are capitulating to a neighborhood group comprised primarily of single-family homeowners that has been spreading misinformation since the first meeting on this proposal. Uproar about removing trees, the playground and wading pool continues despite reassurances that they would remain, and complaints about artificial turf ignore the very-Seattle reality that grass fields are not usable by anyone (and require extensive, costly maintenance) for at least half of the year. This opposition seems motivated by selfishness and an anti-communal spirit characteristic of the Wallingford neighborhood in particular, as evidenced by their highly organized effort to derail HALA and any suggestion of density (or any kind of change) in their predominantly white, upper-middle-class single-family neighborhood. SPS claims they are committed to eliminating opportunity gaps and are striving for equity, especially for young men of color. Taking away opportunities for non-academic pathways to secondary education (football, soccer and marching band scholarships as a few examples) by shorting the facilities needed for success seems to unfairly penalize young non-traditional learners to the benefit of NIMBY neighbors that have more time to protest and organize than families with school-age children. I believe that their best choice by far is to provide the lit, full-size field in Wallingford Park with the playground, wading pool and tennis courts remaining and a perimeter path with new trees and landscaping. I am confident that the great landscape architects on this project can balance all those needs and make the best use of this currently underutilized space. There is room for all these things in this location – it is the duty of urban parks to do a lot in a small area, and there are many great examples of this. Thank you for your consideration, and I hope it is not too late to make a good decision for our students and the diverse community that coexists with the Wallingford single-family homeowners.</p>
2024-11-16 15:38:00	<p>Hello, I am writing to ask that you not create a full size synthetic turf athletic playfield (with priority use by SPS and other sports teams) at Wallingford Park. With the increased density in the area, residents need open green spaces. In particular, please consider the needs of people living in the many nearby apartments and townhomes -- existing structures, those in the planning process, and those recommended in the city rezoning proposals. All members of the community deserve to have green spaces for play, gatherings, and other informal uses. I ask you to please seriously consider the alternative options at Woodland park, the zoo overflow lot, and Queen Anne bowl. I would also ask that you consider alternatives to synthetic turf if the recent proposal for a smaller field at Wallingford park moves forward. Thank you.</p>
2024-11-17 00:00:00	<p>Yes, but that doesn't address the concerns about plastics - microplastics and cleaning plastic of the inevitable dog poop. And, really sounds like mission-creep.</p>
2024-11-17 00:00:00	<p>Hello,</p> <p>There's a growing body of research demonstrating that access to open space and even viewing open space and greenery have important health effects. Wallingford is planning for more people and demographics indicate that more and more of us will be elderly with limited mobility and needing reasonably close open space. Wallingford Park is our only nearby option.</p> <p>Please help assure that Wallingford park remains as open space readily available to Wallingford's growing population. It's our only such space.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-17 00:00:00	<p>Dear School Board/Lincoln,</p> <p>I was surprised to see that SPS/SOJ is now considering utilizing the Lincoln athletic field levy to build 1/2 of a field at Wallingford park for Hamilton middle school. I have several questions about the legality of this:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How is Lincoln/SPS legally allowed to utilize public taxpayer dollars for a purpose other than what voters approved? This levy was for a Lincoln athletic field, not Hamilton. The FAQ has repeatedly called out that the levy can't be used for anything other than what it was approved for by voters/taxpayers.</li> <li>2. How can Lincoln justify additional use of taxpayer dollars to build something they acknowledge doesn't meet their actual needs? While also saying they will be building the full field elsewhere? This seems like a gross mismanagement of tax dollars on many levels.</li> </ol> <p>Thank you,</p>
2024-11-17 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige, thank you. Have been watching the online chatter among Hamilton families this weekend, and here are some topics and questions that have risen to the top. In the spirit of "facts, not feelings" -- I think these would be beneficial for the team to address at the Nov 20 meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Topics around "a half field is better than nothing" vs "a half field may not be worth it": <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What Lincoln, Hamilton and larger-community sports and activities, exactly, can make use of the 1/2 size field, and which cannot?</li> <li>• What percentage of the levy budget is being used for the 1/2 size field, and is that within budget? What is the risk it will take away too much money from the main task?</li> <li>• What is the legal action, exactly, and from whom, that has presented a barrier to creating a full size field at Wallingford Park? What are the legal arguments that have been presented?</li> <li>• Would those same legal arguments and actions apply to creating a 1/2 size field?</li> </ul> </li> <li>2) Topics around the exploration of full size field locations and what happens in the meantime: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the potential plans for the sports and activities that cannot make use of the 1/2 size field and need to go elsewhere? Would be helpful for the whole community to understand the implications of this in time and dollars for them.</li> <li>• For the full size locations you will plan to explore -- the gravel parking lot at 50th &amp; Aurora and the tennis courts on 50th -- can you list out the stakeholders that will need to weigh in, so people can understand who all the players will be?</li> <li>• Can you talk through the anticipated timing and what is driving that. What are the factors that will speed up or slow down the process?</li> </ul> <p>Thank you -- much appreciated.</p> <p>Best,</p> </li> </ol>



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-17 00:00:00	<p>Greetings,</p> <p>I was dismayed at the new proposal for a half field at Wallingford Park - this doesn't meet the intent of the project based on what I can find on the project website. A half field with no lighting doesn't support any athletic opportunities outside of school hours for half of the winter months (and the limited field space will not support efficient field scheduling with the multiple teams -JVC, JV and varsity during non winter months). Please revisit the intent of the project and expedite a solution that will work. The current proposal would only seem to support PE use, which already occurs at the field. With limited funding, I oppose a solution does not meet the needs of Lincoln High School. Please revisit the intent of the project and expedite a solution that will work.</p> <p>I also would like to request the official project charter. (Let me know if a public disclosure request is needed.) I am very concerned about the current proposal not meeting the school district needs. The funding for transportation will be still be required, students at Seattle's largest public high school will not have equitable opportunities and the field would not meet athletic needs.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
2024-11-17 00:00:00	<p>We should also mention of course that we read the announcement on Friday and really appreciate your thoughtful, creative approach to providing Lincoln some additional practice space while planning a walkable, full football field in the future. Thanks for all the work you've done on this!</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-17 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige,</p> <p>We hope you had a nice weekend! We wanted to share with you the results of a survey we created a couple weeks ago. In our effort to seek out the opinions of diverse stakeholders regarding placement of a Lincoln field, we created an anonymous survey describing multiple potential sites, including Wallingford Playfield (full and half field), Queen Anne Bowl and the Lower Woodland gravel lot and tennis area. We sent it anonymously through community channels, including the Wallingford neighborhood blog, Facebook group, and the Lincoln Facebook group. We asked survey-takers to designate options as "best," "good," "okay," "bad," or "worst," and also indicate whether they live in Wallingford, have students at Lincoln and use Wallingford Park, among other questions. Our intent was to better understand which potential field locations people prefer, and how their use of the park or whether they have students at Hamilton/Lincoln (among other factors) affected that decision.</p> <p>We received over 450 responses as of November 16, and are continuing to receive new responses. We compiled the data into pie charts and included a summary to the right of each description/pie chart summarizing the findings. We've also included the raw data (emails and identities have been removed). We don't know if this data will be useful to you at this point, but we wanted to make sure you had it. Most of the responses were received before Friday's announcement that SPS would no longer consider a full football field at Wallingford Park.</p> <p>Here's a brief summary of the findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gravel Lot Replacement: This option received the most votes for "best option." It appears to be the most supported option.</li> <li>• Tennis Court Relocation West (gravel lot adjacent): This option is close to the gravel lot option in being acceptable (it received mostly "good" and "okay" support, and the least votes for "worst" option).</li> <li>• Tennis Court Relocation East (grass field): This option that would move the tennis courts to the grass field at 50th/Greenlake Way is less popular than moving the tennis courts to the west. Based on the comments, that is likely because people appreciate the use of unscheduled greenspace.</li> <li>• Queen Anne Bowl: This option received the fewest votes for the "best" or "good" options. People are lukewarm on this option, though it got fewer "worst" votes than the partial field.</li> <li>• Partial Practice Field: The partial practice field was not presented as an option in conjunction with a future full field elsewhere, and the survey was conducted before the 11/15 announcement regarding a potential half field at Wallingford Park. A partial field was not a popular option, receiving the most votes for the "okay" or "bad" options.</li> <li>• Full Football Field at Wallingford Park: This option received significantly more votes for the "worst" option over any other option. It also received the second highest number of votes for the best option. There were strong opinions and this option received the least votes for middle options. Finally, when asked "Do you prefer Wallingford Park for a full athletic field or another option above?", there are more than twice the number of people who do not want a full field at Wallingford Park versus those who do (60.5% say it's the "worst" option, and 21% say it's the "best" option). Most people expressed a strong opinion for or against the Wallingford Park location.</li> </ul> <p>We hope this data helps inform SPS's decision about placement of the Lincoln field. Although the survey results are not scientific, they represent a broad sample of how diverse stakeholders feel about the various options.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-17 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige,            Sorry to email you again. The lawyer's letter has been circulating. Someone in the Future of Seattle Public Schools group asked about how it relates to SPS's "share use agreement with the city, in which SPS can use parks dept fields and vice versa."</p> <p>Will SPS have time before Nov 20 to have its own legal team review the letter and determine if it has any legal merit?</p> <p>Thanks,</p>
2024-11-17 14:17:46	<p>I am very disappointed that SPS is no longer pursuing the turf field in Wallingford Playfield. This is a loss for students at Lincoln, Hamilton and the community overall. I understand there is a few dozen vocal people against this option, but they are misguided and wrong. Is there any way this can be voted on?</p>
2024-11-17 17:10:08	<p>I'm writing to let you know that I strongly oppose the conversion of Wallingford Park into an artificial turf athletic field.</p> <p>I understand that Lincoln High School needs to provide athletic space for students, but the field is already available and in use by high school students. Also, given the fact that the students are young people who will be dealing with the effects of climate change far into the future, I consider it deeply irresponsible for adults in decision-making positions to remove a huge amount of plant life, only to replace it with literal plastic, as a supposed "for youth" maneuver.</p> <p>Wallingford Park is for EVERYONE, including people who, like myself, don't have a hard or easy access to green space. And no, artificial turf isn't "green space." It is plastic space, expressly designed for a small segment of the community.</p>
2024-11-17 19:50:16	<p>If you're exploring "longer-term possibilities for a full-size field, including Woodland Park, which provides opportunities for a more comprehensive and thoughtful solution", then invest in that instead of replacing grass in Wallingford Playfield with synthetic turf for a sub-par short-term solution.</p>
2024-11-17 21:51:37	<p>I am pleased to see that SPS has decided not to propose the construction of a turf field over all of Wallingford Park. However, I also object to the current proposal for a 'half field' of turf to be operated by SPS. The surrounding neighborhood, like all of Seattle, is slated to have an increase in housing density at the same time that SPS is proposing a reduction in an already small public community green open space. The preservation of neighborhood green open space that is accessible to all ages is necessary as the city grows. I believe that SPS should find ways to develop athletic fields on its own property. Densify along with the neighborhood.</p>
2024-11-18 00:00:00	<p>Here you go ---</p> <p><a href="https://wallingfordparkalliance.org/nov-15-attorney-letter-to-spr/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGoXChleHRuA2F1bQ1xMQABHWNvbNIaysb5YgMVS1x8o-7ECJT0EkvPqoBdFl6613r6mOj_PRW2vIXOhA_aem_CWuBuAU0FY08tohxozrA8g">https://wallingfordparkalliance.org/nov-15-attorney-letter-to-spr/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGoXChleHRuA2F1bQ1xMQABHWNvbNIaysb5YgMVS1x8o-7ECJT0EkvPqoBdFl6613r6mOj_PRW2vIXOhA_aem_CWuBuAU0FY08tohxozrA8g</a></p> <p>Haven't read it, but like I say, someone was questioning its merit based on SPS's "share use agreement with the city, in which SPS can use parks dept fields and vice versa."</p> <p>thanks!</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-18 00:00:00	<p>Hi Paige,</p> <p>Really appreciate you and the team incorporating feedback from the community. I think this proposed smaller field is an excellent compromise, and gives much needed rec space to the students during the day. From a current user standpoint, the avoidance of lights and preservation of trees is a major win for the community.</p> <p>Additionally, adding athletics capacity in the Woodland Park area will hopefully be accretive to that area as well. Look forward to the discussion Wednesday.</p> <p>Thanks again, I understand this isn't an easy process with the Wallingford neighbors.</p>
2024-11-18 15:50:05	<p>Paige and the team went into a largely 'hostile' environment a month or two ago to solicit feedback on the wallingford playground &amp; athletic field conversion from the community. I thought the way they've responded, by leaning into the process, shows their expertise and care.</p> <p>I feel the proposed solution of a partial turfing of the playfield + full-sized nearby (hopefully in Woodland for students' sake) is a great compromise for the community including the students. All students in the district deserve a reasonable outdoor recreation area, all athletes deserve nearby or onsite practice facilities, and all neighborhoods deserve safe, walkable, open places to enjoy nature and relaxation.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing improved PE time for students, and the playfield's new and old trees people continue to have opportunity for growth in the space for decades to come.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-18 18:13:29	<p>Infants and children play at this playfield daily!! They are at higher risk than adolescents and adults for exposure to environmental toxins via ingestion for a number of reasons: their smaller size (and proportionately larger dose of ingested toxins), their closer proximity to the ground, their boundless curiosity and oral exploratory behaviors that include putting nonfood objects, including new toys, dirt/turf, etc in their mouths. Children breathe more air, drink more water, and eat more food per kilogram of body weight than adults. This results in greater exposures per kilogram of body weight to any contaminants in the air, water, or food compared with adults.</p> <p>Children depend on adults to protect them and keep their home environment safe.</p> <p>The plastic carpet itself is treated with toxic chemicals like flame retardants. The infills used are also hazardous. The Environmental Protection Agency states that, "existing studies do not comprehensively evaluate the concerns about health risks from exposure to tire crumb."</p> <p>Tire crumb or crumb rubber, the most common infill, contains at least 92 chemicals, 11 of which are known carcinogens, and heavy metals like lead, sometimes at high levels. The CDC has concluded that there is no reliable evidence for a safe level of lead. Lead has been found in numerous samples of synthetic turf fields—even after the industry promised to stop using lead to dye the plastic grass. Lead is known to reduce IQ points in children.</p> <p>The backing and plastic carpet have also been found to contain PFAS, a highly persistent class of chemicals linked to cancer, birth defects, and other illnesses.</p> <p>Players absorb chemicals they come in contact with through their skin, and by accidental ingestion. Chemicals are inhaled through dust or volatilization. Because athletes' respiration rates are faster, they intake more of these chemicals. Often, small children sit on the sidelines of these fields where they can put their hands, infill, or plastic pieces in their mouths.</p> <p>This is not a less expensive alternative. One grass professional has put the difference in playable hours at 2,000 for grass and 2,500 for synthetic fields when they are maintained for high-intensity use. Natural grass fields are estimated to cost about 1/3 the amount of synthetic over a 20-year period due to the periodic need for replacement and disposal of artificial fields. (Source: Sustainable Fields &amp; Playgrounds Parks and Recreation Commission   City of Stamford, Connecticut   October 6th, 2022)</p> <p>PLEASE KEEP WASHINGTON WATERS AND CHILDREN HEALTHY!! STOP ALLOWING TURF TO REPLACE GRASS!!</p>
2024-11-19 16:36:15	<p>I think a half field is a great compromise. I live near the park and also have a student at LHS. The neighborhood needs the trees, playground and tennis courts, and the schools need an outdoor field for practice and PE so I totally agree with having a smaller school field.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-19 16:59:38	<p>I wanted to write you today as a neighbor to Wallingford Playfield (Wallingford Park as we call it) and a parent of Lincoln High School students and former parents of Hamilton International Middle School Students.</p> <p>I want you to stop proposals of any "turf" (where "Turf" is synthetic plastic "grass" as a playing surface) installation in the Wallingford Park.</p> <p>Installing plastic turf will absolutely change for the worse the site and the surrounding neighborhood. Seattle Public Schools has consistently minimized the extent of permanent negative change their proposals will have. Even your current proposal states a proposal "half-size synthetic turf field that maintains current community use". NO. You can't plastic-pave over half a grassy open space and claim that it maintains current use.</p> <p>An additional untruth "This approach ensures the parks character remains intact, balancing current community use with minor additional school-related use." NO. Plastic turf paving on half the open space radically changes the character of the park and is detrimental to the larger public that the park serves. (Grammatical note: "parks" should be the possessive "park's" in the SPS statement. Please spend more time on proofreading than publishing misleading proposals.) (<a href="https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/capital-projects-and-planning/school-construction/projects/lincoln-field/">https://www.seattleschools.org/departments/capital-projects-and-planning/school-construction/projects/lincoln-field/</a>)</p> <p>As a PARENT of students at Lincoln (and recently of Hamilton) I frankly do not want additional athletic space at the expense of green space at or adjacent to the school. Lincoln has the rare distinction of having comparatively little athletic field space and resultantly defocuses athletics and lifts up academics. Adding athletic facilities will alter that ratio and do so, in my opinion, detrimentally.</p> <p>SPS has proposed alternative sites that are far superior in meeting community needs balanced with SPS's desire to increase athletic field space. Wallingford Park is the wrong space. Look elsewhere on your list.</p>
2024-11-19 17:57:19	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am a parent of an SPS student at Lincoln HS and a Wallingford resident. I've seen a lot of community discussion surrounding the proposal for a turf field at Wallingford Park and I want to express my support for this project. My kids both played soccer in that muddy pit for many years, and it always felt unsafe and unclean (due to significant dog waste mixed in with the mud). I know that Seattle Parks has tried over the years to help mitigate the damage to the grass, but it really doesn't work, and a thoughtfully done turf field with cork infill is a welcome improvement.</p> <p>I'd love to see the full-size field happen, too, and am glad to hear that it is still on the table. Woodland Park options seem like the very best option, and could be thoughtfully done to meet all shareholder needs.</p> <p>Thanks for working on this. I know the anti-turf field voices are many, and I wanted to chime in to let you know that there are many of us in support of this project, too, for the kids at Hamilton and Lincoln, and for all members of the Wallingford community.</p>
2024-11-19 18:16:41	<p>Please place an athletic field at Wallingford playfield. The current muddy pit is unusable for most of the year. Little kids play soccer there and twist their little ankles because the field is full of dog-dug holes.</p> <p>Encourage the city to ticket dog owners in order to help fund the field conversion. Most evenings there are 3-10 off leash dogs that could pull in \$400 each of ticket fees.</p> <p>The neighbors who have hired a lawyer to protect their backyards should not win against the community needs for a usable sports field.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-19 22:27:41	<p>Siting the playfield at Wallingford Playfield was, and remains, the most logical choice for the public schools, the students of Lincoln high school, and indeed the neighborhood. Turf fields are a wonderful community resource for the city, not just the public schools. Just ask any of the children's and adult sports teams that play games and practice on them. I've lived in the same neighborhood as turf fields and users are polite and respectful -- the negatives "stray balls may roll off the field" are far outweighed by the benefits to community by providing a safer and on-site option for students, as well as for the neighborhood. Wading pools? I'm sympathetic, but the proposed use benefits a larger number of people for a longer length of time. They're arguing for preserving a luxury for a small number of people, used for only a few years, at the expense of what is an essential school feature for thousands of students for 4 years of their school experience. Environmental impacts? What about the CO2 and tailpipe emissions from all the extra car and bus travel for band, football, cross country, track that occurs when remote fields are used?</p> <p>Seattle needs to learn that we can't be progressive only when progress for the community doesn't require even minor changes to our own our neighborhood. The decision-making board needs to stop trying to please all the people all the time, stop letting the most vocal neighborhood activists ruin improvements that are the result of thoughtful and logical planning, and make the best decision that maximizes the overall long term benefit to the community, including our public school students, not just minimizes the amount of immediate noise and protest.</p> <p>Please spend the levy money to build a field for the school without an infinite community input death spiral. Please do it as close to the school as possible. Please don't let loud neighbors derail what seems to be a logical choice.</p> <p>No solution will be a perfect solution, but the one that maximizes community benefit seems to be the original preferred Wallingford site. We shouldn't only pick sites that no one has time to organize protests over.</p>
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Green space is essential to mental health; and as our streets become denser and denser with taller buildings (both commercial and residential), the imperative is increased. As well, the environment needs green trees to help combat ever-rising pollution. Thank you
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Wallingford Park is a heavily used park. Please change Lincoln parking space to your athletic field.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Fully support our neighborhood + students by fulfilling the need for a full size practice field @ Wally Park. The 1/2 field compromise doesn't meet SPS stated goal of providing a close practice field that eliminates busing + wasted time by students.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I think it is bad because it should not turn the park into a school field.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I am glad that SPS took a full-size field @ Wallingford Playfield off the table, however I think a small turf field would serve everyone well. I wasn't in favor @ the time of the Hamilton remodel but have since changed my mind: the Hamilton & Lincoln students need a place close to their other classes & the mucky field for 6 months a year is not it. My kids went to Roosevelt after Hamilton (graduated from RHS 2012 & 2015) and they did have to relocate their sports (soccer -> Magnuson, lacrosse -> Woodland) so I imagine that may be true for Lincoln students. I don't know enough to know which option is best for actual full football / soccer / lacrosse games
2024-11-20 00:00:00	A full field for Lincoln high school is critical. If no full field at Wallingford Playfield, then a legit full field at Lower Woodland must be identified and built. DO NOT WATER THIS DOWN BECAUSE OF NIMBYs.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	With a smaller footprint for a turf field at Wallingford Park - would that free up funds for enhanced cross walks across 50th and Green Lake Way?
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I am a member of the community with a small child (toddler age). Why are the needs of high school students more important than those of the rest of the community? The park is a place where our kids go to play and socialize, where parents meet other parents, where our kids go to experience nature - stomp in puddles, run through piles of leaves and, yes - also experience what it's like when it's dark. Adding artificial turf and floodlights would completely destroy the natural atmosphere of the park. A lot of the arguments also quietly suppose that organized athletics is the only way for kids to get exercise. That completely ignores the benefits from spontaneous outings to the park.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Yes for year-round usable fields! Thanks for helping make it happen! Don't listen to neighbors who don't want any change for the better!

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Why bother having parks and green spaces if any government department can cut corner, and take it over for expansion. Also, I find it troubling that SPS is filtering comments from citizens to the parks dept. SPR needs to step up and engage directly or else put this to rest. Don't sell out!
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I do not want a full size field. I'm ok with half size turf or grass but don't want existing use to substantially change. This park belongs to the community
2024-11-20 00:00:00	THE WESTERN SUNSET CAN ACTUALLY BE SEEN ACROSS THE OPEN SPACE WITHOUT TALL BLDGS OR LIGHTS TO BLOCK OR INTERFERE.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Please reconsider the full field option at Hamilton. Please find another way to get feedback from the Lincoln/Hamilton community. There is WAY more support than you know.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	My position is Neutral. My concern is the drainage + would this problem be truly addressed with a synthetic turf Current use as an unofficial Dog Park + the Preschool groups of kids who are allowed to dig in the field is a problem I have personally witnessed both children + dogs causing divots in the field. How can this be addressed for either solution. * What has been the cost to replant and regrade the field to date? That fact could be shared because the well drained field has never been achieved for more than a couple seasons
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I have lived in Wallingford for many years. I have 4 sons. Two @ Hamilton. Two @ Lincoln. They play sports. We need to prioritize building a functional field for the benefit of the community and health and wellness of an entire generation of kids. We need a Full Turf Field @ Wallingford. This would be an asset and a benefit to the community.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Seems like Lincoln was placed there knowing there was no turf field. We need nature and rough terrain and we need dark, natural places at night. Not everyone needs constant sports. People and kids, and your grand kids need natural places too. More plastic turf is not good for us. The schedules of football moms should be take our nature away. If people want convenient sports, go to Roosevelt or Ingraham!
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Lincoln does not own the park. Just because they give up a lot, and make us feel bad for them, it does not mean that they get to change the landscape and structure of Wallingford park
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Wallingford needs its Playfield!! Little kids use it Everyday Elderly need it - everyone uses it Youth have multiple other options for school fields
2024-11-20 00:00:00	The park does not legally belong to SPS. Lincoln has no joint use argument. This limits use to organized sports.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I am a 7th grader at Hamilton International. I strongly support building a full size field at Wallingford Playfield. I watch kids everyday get on long buses just to go to practice. A field would help with practices, P.E., and many other things. The students of Hamilton and Lincoln deserve a full-size, lighted field. The track should also definitely be done. We deserve to have a track within walking distance. We need to have a full-size field to be able to run a adequate practice in any sport. As a student of Hamilton and a future Lincoln athlete, I am begging for a full size field and a track for the Lincoln/Hamilton Community.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Where have they practiced in the past?
2024-11-20 00:00:00	The half-field plan is a better plan but seems like a poor spending of money + space. How can we move past half-way options and on to long-lasting solutions like woodland park?
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Can QA bowl be used? Lots of students from QA attend Lincoln High.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I'm strongly in support of moving forward with both the field & track. Thousands of students move through these two buildings and would benefit from NOT bussing all over the city. Please let those students access this public infrastructure. THANK YOU!
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Gravel lot @ Aurora + 50th. WIN - WIN !!!
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Taking over Wallingford Park has been tried before. Park dept tried to turn the park into a city-wide baseball field w/o properly informing citizens. Nice try, but you failed to inform.



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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>I am a Wallingford resident for 15 years                      Kids went to Hamilton, Lincoln. Coached soccer for the community and believe that organized sports are a crucial need for our youth for learning so many things - teamwork, competition, how to be part of a team and work together. Please give our youth a safe place to play sports. I'm for converting Wallingford to a turf field for the community - both the students at the schools and people of the community.                      Thank you for giving us this forum to hear the voices of ALL our Neighbors! Thank you.</p>
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>Where is AP Diaz?                      There is no agnostic moderator. City agencies decided to put this in our zip code and it is enriching nothing. Your decisions take away land and do not add more park access. It is a park. What made/who made Parks believe it was school property?                      Kids need a field. Get them a field.</p>
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>Is the Friends of Olmstead Park on board with work at Woodland Park?                      Is a proposal compatible with its landmark status?                      Is the money there to do a half field and a full field?                      Is there a way to vacate a street (43rd between Interlake &amp; Woodlawn) for a senior promenade?</p>
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>As a thirty year Wallingford resident, I have used this park, coached in it, celebrated in it and played in it.                      With the upzoning - I feel maintaining the Park as open space is essential. I see and have met my neighborhood here over the years - to see senior citizens beside young families watching games + civic events.                      Many schools in many places in this city have children going distances to practice their sports -                      There are compromising solutions that could be workable - I support that gravel field in Wallingford Park as a site for L.H.S. sports.                      Keep the park, negotiate Woodland Park for a full field -</p>
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>The city needs to prioritize the presentation of green space. It will never get it back. It is shortsighted</p>
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>I support the full-field option. In the absence of that, I support a half-turf field @ Wallingford Playfield.                      We are hearing opposition b/c opposition (NIMBYism) is often louder than support or neutral voices.                      I think it is possible to create a beautiful nature space adjacent to any field.                      Also, I've used the playground play structures since my children were toddlers.                      The play structure has not been updated in those 18+ years. Please upgrade the playground in a new space.</p>
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>Presenter project manager (Paige) keeps saying "full size field" carefully not adding the word football." I don't appreciate the "softening" language used by Paige.                      Maintain the park please, so that ankle busting holes are evened out.                      Equal rights for full size field and full-stage concert halls, too. 0</p>
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>Unfortunately, SPS and SPR have taken an approach in their presentation of field options that pits neighbors vs. athletics. I'd say most of us want Lincoln + Hamilton to have a field. We don't want to lose our green space / park to make that happen. Especially since there are other options nearby in Woodland Park. While Lincoln was being renovated did SPS do nothing to address this issue of access to an athletic field? And now they are trying to jam this down our throats. SPR should be held accountable for allowing the current field to remain in disrepair. Shame on SPS + SPR. I thought you were supposed to serve our community.</p>
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>DON'T TAKE AWAY THE PARK it is important to me and I am at Hamilton International Middle Schools (HIMS) I have lots of fun memories going to the park with my friends and the preschool in the wallingford center goes to THAT PARK almost every day. It is a big part of everyones lifes.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Please keep Wallingford Park intact & maintain the field for all! Stop dividing the community & pitting community against children - this is a false dichotomy. We are a community with children & we support them. Provide ALL children & adults in our community with places to gather & explore & use for unstructured play. Save our Park please!
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Please clarify that the field @ Wallingford would still be available for community use. People are spreading myths that community wouldn't be able to use it, but they can.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I live in an apartment in Wallingford, and I strongly oppose the conversion of the park into a full-sized, turf field. Turf contains forever chemicals and puts microplastics in local waterways. I grew up playing on a grass field, and it is obvious that grass fields which are maintained properly are an option. I would be less opposed to a half-sized field, but again, I strongly oppose the use of artificial turf.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I think SPS should build a half field on Lincoln property Figure out the parking or work w/ the city to use street space for the field. Please don't take away the neighborhood back yard for another use. Why does SPS keep trying to take away our park? We have fought this battle before, over decades. Students need proximal sports space. Why wasn't that considered when Hamilton was not remodeled at Lincoln? Why was that not considered in deciding to remodel Lincoln for a high school? Why does the neighborhood need to pay for SPS poor decisions over decades??
2024-11-20 00:00:00	REMOVE THE STORES + HOUSES ADJACENT TO LINCOLN PARKING LOT FOR A FULL SIZE FIELD. I REALIZE THIS WOULD BE EXPENSIVE BUT DEMOLITION CAN HAPPEN QUICKLY.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I have lived 2 blocks from the park for 25 years. This problem must have been anticipated and still not prepared for. How was Lincoln re-built without considering the need for an athletic field. The problem was mismanaged and now the community is being asked to sacrifice much of the already-limited open green space. Lincoln students absolutely deserve a practice space and the SPS district must provide it. But not at Wallingford Playfield.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I am a huge playfield advocate BUT SPS knew this was an issue when they built out Lincoln HS. SPS should have addressed this a long time ago and not be looking to pressure the local community to change the character of their local park.* This need is a practice field - it doesn't need to be full size. Build a smaller field on the parking lot north of the HS and build a parking garage to accommodate school parking. * and to go back on all previous agreements to not take over Wallingford PF.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I AM A NEIGHBOR + FREQUENT USER OF THE PARK. I DO NOT SUPPORT TAKING ANY PART OF WALLINGFORD PLAYFIELD FOR A TURF ATHLETIC FIELD. I LIVE IN A CONDO + THE PARK IS THE ONLY WALKABLE GREENSPACE WITHIN A 7 MIN WALK OF MY HOME. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE AWAY THIS NEEDED GREENSPACE.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Regular user of Wallingford Park. Disappointed that it's being considered to exclude the use of all for the use of few. Turf instead of grass is a big step in the wrong direction.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I have lived in Wallingford my whole life and am a student at Hamilton. I think that this, turning the Park into astroturf is an awful idea and this park needs to stay green, astro turf field attracts heat and is awful for the environment, why turn this into a football field when we have 4 football fields just a couple blocks away at Woodland Park? This is so stupid. However, I am open to editing one of the fields at woodlawn park to accommodate a track loop.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Theres no logical reason to not make Wallingford Park a full lighted football field. Traffic will be the same, as the same people who use the field go to Lincoln and park everyday. The 4 trees that get chopped down are not a big deal, we live in a city. The people who oppose the field are all 60+ years old and will not be in the community much longer. I am a student athlete who gets home at 9:30 every night with no time to do homework. There are 1600 neighborhood citizens who feel the same. This field BUILD community and be the heart of Wallingford. No more wasting money and polluting our city with big diesel busses everyday, for no reason. There is NO Reason to be against this field. - Unhappy Lincoln Student Athlete

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-20 00:00:00	LIVED IN WALLINGFORD SINCE 1975 MAINTAINING PARK/GREENSPACE FUNCTION IS IMPORTANT TO COMMUNITY ESP. IN CONTEXT OF INCREASED DEVELOPMENT & DENSITY IMPROVING OVERALL FUNCTIONALITY & USEFULNESS IS ALSO IMPORTANT ACCOMMODATING BOTH SHOULD BE GOAL.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	As a parent of 2 student athletes - we need a field. The kids are THIS community. They are community & they need access to organized sports for health & longevity. We do not have enough fields - they are maxed out. We need a full size field!
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I would like to know if the half field at Wallingford Park would be used by SPS sports until 7pm or until 5:45 pm. When does the field open up to community use?
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Wallingford park and Woodland park are as historic as Meridian. No one is suggesting to touch the Good Sheperd Center, the pavillion/gazebo or pea patch/gardens. A field could fit in the SW corner & still have room on the North side for the Farmers market. I used to occasionally use that space for ultimate frisbee practice as a coach for the JSIS teams. As a playfield the surface was a bit dangerous for ankles and trip hazards (holes from dogs digging, rotting apples, etc.) I run around Meridian Park mainly because it is usually empty, except for the farmers market and few other events that use some (but generally not all) of the park. It is under utilized and we need maximum utility for the future history of Seattle. It cannot be off limits.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	This proposal seems like theft. To take a public space & limit it for private use is the opposite of equitable. This is a gre en space I've used daily for decades & my kids use now. Strongly oppose.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	PARKS PLAN TO BASICALLY GRANT USE OF MULTI-USE NEIGHBORHOOD SPACE TO NARROW SPECIAL-INTEREST GROUPS IS AN OUTRAGE!
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Here are my concerns: the Wallingford Community will lose access to a park that is the heart of the neighborhood: old people sitting on benches, walking the perimeter, children running and chasing each other, people reading books. LIFE - the notion that the Lincoln Athletic Field at our park serves athletics community needs is offensive and highly erroneous. Also, 4th of July: all the kids start their firecrackers. They will set your Field on fire with all the plastics used.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	it is not good because it has a bunch of kids play there
2024-11-20 00:00:00	I live within 250' from the footprint of this awesome "green" park -- use it almost everyday with kids & grandkids We live here because of this park & some other things here
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Meeting + choices not very inclusive to seniors ... Acoustics terrible. Change of location for this meeting not well marked. It looks like Wallingford Park is saved. Good! We very much need nature + open space in this growing populated neighborhood. Overcrowding without relief is a recipe for disaster.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Why have the coaches involved been a key part here. Let them speak regarding their challenges.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Comment: These kids/all kids deserve the Field. If you are not moving forward, pls pls find them a place NOT at 6:30 PM. And, the track at LW should get expedited. You cannot keep doing this to the kids.
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Can Wallingford Park be turfed at current configuration and modify Lower Woodland Park #2 for football then Wallingford could take some of displaced capacity
2024-11-20 00:00:00	Please turn the field into usable space. Currently a mud pit for illicit drug users. Kids need more field space. Best use for the athletic field is as a usable athletic field. Yes to turf.

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>The parks + fields are for the people, and as such, should be used to benefit the most people. Right now this space is not being used to its maximum potential. The field is not used to its fullest potential because it's too dark, muddy and filled with dogs and wet 6 months a year. Adding a turf field would help students and the community by using the space all year long, for longer each day. This can be used jointly by students, neighbors and families. PNW weather requires additional help for fields to be used year-round. Adding turf @ other field locations (e.x. Loyal Heights, Washington Park) brings families together, makes kids active and builds community. Without turf, the field only serves a moderate number of people, due to limited hours used. However, adding turf would enable a significant number more people to use. As such, it is not equitable to expect students @ Lincoln/Hamilton to drive to other fields.</p>
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>My kid does soccer at hamilton and I worry for her having to walk to Woodland Park for practice. I hope all parties can come to a compromise. Maybe a schedule of when fields will be available for neighbors to use? Pls look into their concerns &amp; work things out. Thank you!</p>
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>If the school district were to be allowed to use a public park like Wallingford Park, what would be the process for ending the relationship if it stopped working for other users of the park? Would there be a way to terminate the relationships + what would that be?            Also, what specific times + dates would the school be using the park? Would they have first priority on all evenings? Weekends? Summers? When would the field be open to the general public? Specifics would be really helpful. P.S. I don't believe in bending heaven + earth for boys' football.</p>
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>Hey Paige!</p> <p>While I am opposed to all of the options involved with Wallingford Park, I appreciate your presentation and standing in front of a tough crowd looked difficult, but I'm glad that people are willing to do it.</p>
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>"Thank you for listening to comments.            I 100% support the proposal for turf at Wallingford Park. It is essential for students to receive equitable spaces and for the park to have durable spaces that will last.            My thought is that people mostly speak up against, but stay quiet when they are neutral, in support, or simply busy.            "</p>
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>Paige,</p> <p>A couple details I was hoping to hear more about in the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the new proposal include lighting?</li> <li>• Does the new proposal require astroturf or is regular turf acceptable? If not, why?</li> </ul>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-20 00:00:00	<p>Hello,</p> <p>The plan to destroy Wallingford Playfield to replace with a turf football field is shortsighted and horrifying. Having access to open green space, mature trees, and free public spaces is critical to the health of our children and our community.</p> <p>There is no excuse for stripping a community of their free access open space: a place to gather and get to know one another, to have birthday parties, play frisbee, and just run freely. But even worse is planning to destroy that free public space in order to cover it with plastic. Turf is bad for athletes and bad for the earth, evidence is abundant.</p> <p>There are other options for our schools' athletes.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kisha Clune, neighbor</p>
2024-11-20 11:59:14	<p>Hello,</p> <p>It's a horror to imagine flattening a critical piece of greenery in our neighborhood, with open access for free public use, and cover it in plastic. Having open green space, mature trees, is critical to the health of our community and our children. There are alternatives for the athletes at Lincoln High school.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
2024-11-20 13:35:16	<p>I live near Woodland park, and during some of the year many school &amp; private running clubs use the park. Theatre groups use it in the summer. "Nature" early learning schools use this park as their classroom. Tree tours of Seattle come her....the list goes on &amp; on....This park is old and has been threatened with development before.</p> <p>Our city has cut back it's tree saving policies and we have lost many acres of large trees (due to the construction industry in the city councils pocket.)</p> <p>Please leave this park alone.....</p>
2024-11-20 14:44:46	<p>It is disappointing that a full size field at Wallingford Playfield is not under further consideration. Lincoln is the only Seattle HS without full size field on or directly adjacent to its campus and is currently the largest school in the system by enrollment.</p> <p>While maintaining wide community use and historic character is important, the proximity to this reopened and very popular HS merits special consideration. I'm a former board member of the Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks and was familiar with other shared design and planning such as Hiawatha, which is adjacent and shared with West Seattle HS. With careful planning and creative design the Wallingford Playfield should be able to accommodate a full size field and existing community uses. I've used that park for over 40 years (close friends live a block away) and is a very large space that can accommodate greater use with well-considered, thoughtful design, programming, and a long-term vision.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-20 17:10:12	<p>A new synthetic turf field at Woodland Park is better than in a small park like Wallingford PF. It seems excessive to have both a half-field at Wallingford and a full size field at another, given the number of turf fields already located in this part of the city. They represent a loss of use for the greater public during prime times, which is not equitable. Also, this is an Olmsted Park and that should be considered in the decision-making.</p> <p>How are the maintenance costs, including future replacements and periodic cork infill installations going to be divided?</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
2024-11-20 19:27:16	<p>I want to express my support for the half-field concept. I have been a homeowner on Corliss Avenue N in Wallingford for 37 years and watched my son grow up playing with his friends in the park. At this point in my life, I walk my dog there and practice fly casting on the lawn. I believe it would be unconscionable to deprive future families of that same opportunity, but in the spirit of compromise I can support the decision to limit the damage by building a smaller field provided that a half field has some genuine utility.</p>
2024-11-20 21:50:13	<p>The half field option for Wallingford playfield frankly sounds like a bad idea. Soccer, Football, and Lacrosse for example all need full fields. It would get much less use. At that point why even spend the money. The community would have half the park and the field portion would be under utilized. Either do a full field which will get full use, or don't do anything and save the money. I'll also note that the full field had already been approved so not sure why this is being rehashed and changed. The only real value for the expense is in a full field. Note that I'm also currently the president of Emerald City FC, and we are always looking for field space, but a half field is just too small. Salmon Bay elementary for instance is way under used because it is too small. That is due to space restrictions though.</p> <p>Sincerely</p>
2024-11-20 21:53:06	<p>I am in favor of building the turf field - full field and lighting - at Wallingford Park. I grew up in Seattle, went to Seattle Public Schools, was in marching band and watched sports - my parents both lived in Wallingford prior to my childhood.</p> <p>This is also my neighborhood, and the park that my son has grown up playing in -- on the playground and on the muddy, dog-business-filled field -- and the park connected with his schools.</p> <p>The field, which is already used for soccer and other sports by both community organizations, would be more functional, safer, cleaner (easier to spot and clean up drug paraphernalia and filth).</p> <p>Our schools need the fields to be functional.</p> <p>I do not believe Woodland Park #7 is a good alternative. That field is already heavily used, and the impact on availability for the schools and community sports organizations that already use that field would be significant. Additionally, to get to Woodland Park, the students walk - or in the case of the track team, run - across major traffic and side roads. This makes me very uncomfortable as a mother.</p> <p>I do not believe that a half-field at Wallingford Park, especially without lighting, is functional. The park is already a sports field, but with the mud and the fact that people feel free to let their dogs run free and do their business, it is not a clean field for families and children. Lack of lighting would significantly limit the use of these fields. It already limits my use of and comfort with the park that is in my neighborhood. Done well, the lighting would have minimal impact on the neighborhood.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>Sports are incredibly important to our children's health and wellbeing -- physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, and social-emotional wellbeing, through team experiences.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-11-21 00:00:00</p>	<p>I previously wrote a letter in favor of a practice field at Wallingford Playfield. This has changed since I took more into account what impact this would have on the neighborhood. I am now opposing this location, because I think it is wrong to basically take away a park that is currently valued and enjoyed by the neighbors, and that has environmental value. I think we should find a location that is currently not used for recreation, such as the overflow parking lot at the zoo. In this time of densification in the city, recreational space should be added in the form of additional parks (pocket parks at least). Different recreation seeking groups should not be played off against one another.</p> <p>In addition I am opposed to installing a turf field, because it is dead space: there is no soil life underneath it, and obviously there is no habitat for insects above ground either. The material heats up in the sun and lacks the ability to actively cool down the surroundings through photosynthesis. It is a bunch of mineral oil based plastic and it stinks.</p> <p>Nobody ever talks about the option of investing more in the upkeep of grass fields. One example of well maintained grass fields is the Skagit River Park in Burlington where the Ultimate Frisbee tournament Spring Reign takes place every year.</p> <p>Furthermore, I think that even though there is no lighting planned at the moment, in a few years there will be asked for it, arguing that it is a waste to have a full field with no lighting. I really feel with the neighbors who don't want flood light systems right in front of their windows. And it's light pollution.</p> <p>One other thought that gets more to the root of the issue: why not limit practice times to 3 times a week. To me it seems crazy how much commitment coaches expect from their students. Those kids are not seeking to become professional players, they just want to do some healthy exercise, and besides playing sports they might also want to learn an instrument, have a job, do well in school, spend time with their family... If we would only allow each team a certain amount of time on Seattle's fields, that would take a lot of pressure off the system.</p> <p>Thank you very much for taking the time to read my comment. I hope it added something to the discussion. I would be happy to talk with a planner in more depth.</p>



**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-21 00:00:00	<p>I spoke last night, but also wanted to write to you to let you know that there are more people out there who are FOR this project than that room implied. Doing a half turf field should be off the table. It will not actually solve any issues facing Seattle youth sports and the athletic departments at either of these schools.</p> <p>While I would love to see a real stadium field built and used, we all have to acknowledge that we live in a dense, city environment. That just isn't going to happen for us at this point.</p> <p>I spend most of my nights driving in circles around town and have been to probably every field that is available for use (something I know, I brought upon myself). If the opposition would take time to do this, they would see the huge benefit that a turf field has in on a neighborhood. I have been to magnuson, Loyal Heights, Cal Anderson, Genessee, Montlake Playfield (which was semi-recently converted in connection with private schools for their use, I believe), Jane Addams, Nathan Hale, you name it, I've been there, and probably this month. All Of these parks are used year round and into the evening, beaming with kids and adults playing and hanging out.</p> <p>I happen to live across the street from Meridian park, which is also unusable in the evenings, but which we spend a lot of time in during the lighter months. Even this park is sparsely used, aside from the awesome farmers market (yay) and... you guessed it... kids playing sports. We won't talk about off-leash dogs, because that seems to just be something that we just deal with here in Seattle with no consequences.</p> <p>I hope you reconsider the full turf field and work with the neighbors would are adamantly against this for reasons that are not clear to me. SPR and SPS need to be very clear that the walking path, playground, wading pool (which is barely maintained and dangerous, but that's neither here nor there...), bathrooms, tennis courts... everything stays. People are viewing this as destroying an amenity, when in reality it should be viewed as an upgrade.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>Thanks again for your presence. I hope you get all nice emails and don't think too poorly about the Wallingford community...</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-11-21 00:00:00</p>	<p>I am a lifetime resident of Seattle, and a long time resident of Wallingford. My husband and I are raising our four boys here. They attend Hamilton International Middle School and Lincoln High School, and they play sports.</p> <p>I am writing to express 100% support for a Wallingford Field upgrade to cork turf. I believe this would be an important community asset and improve the park in a way to benefit the greatest number of people. A turf field would remove barriers and improve access to athletics for hundreds of our young athletes at Lincoln and Hamilton, who also belong to the Wallingford community. While at the same time, the space would serve the broader community with an improved field &amp; walking path and no loss of existing amenities</p> <p>I am a Physical Therapist and know there is sound science behind the benefit of exercise and sports for all people, to improve their physical and mental well being. Having a functional field that could be used year round would serve a great need. For this reason, I specifically support a full sized field with lights, to provide the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people.</p> <p>I played frisbee in Wallingford Field in college in the 1990s, and my kids all played rec soccer there. The field has been a sorry, sloppy mess for 6 months of the year as far as I have ever known. Additionally, I live near Wallingford Field and visit it often. It is largely empty over 80% of the time and is primarily used for illegal off-leash dogs, which contribute to the poor state of the field. To preferentially keep it empty and unusable is not responsible use of community space in this time of increasing urban density, especially as it sits between two schools in desperate need of field space.</p> <p>The Wallingford Park Association does not represent the preference of the majority of the Wallingford community. I object to their manipulative tactics, dissemination of misinformation, solutions that have no basis in reality, and litigious intimidation to serve a singular personal interest.</p> <p>There will be environmental concerns around a turf field in any location. Bussing hundreds of kids out of their own neighborhood is also an environmental concern, with an increased cost to the students' time and school's resources. There will be supporters and detractors for a turf field in any location. And thus, it comes down to selecting a</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	<p>location that can provide the greatest good in the most logical location, and that location is Wallingford Park.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-21 00:00:00	<p>I am 12 years old and live in Wallingford. I am a student at Hamilton International Middle School. I like to play sports. At school I have noticed that it is not very fun to play sports inside and would rather be outside. Currently all the things we do outside are running while we could be playing soccer, frisbee and other sports. Sadly, a lot of days we are getting announcements over the intercom that say frisbee and soccer practices have been canceled. This is due to the condition of the field which is usually very muddy and is not playable. If we improve the field to turf, we could be helping thousands of kids in sports and with other extracurricular activities.</p>
2024-11-21 00:00:00	<p>Thank you for taking the time last night to listen to the community.</p> <p>I'm a parent of a sophomore soccer player at Lincoln. When my wife and I were talking about going, my daughter knew where we were going because it was announced at the school.</p> <p>My take... my daughter needs to learn to care. To stand up for what she believes in. She didn't want to go. In fact, if the kids care d where were they? I saw 3?</p> <p>Look at the election... people need to learn to go vote. To do research. To care.</p> <p>I was opposed to the idea, but open to listening. When I saw no attendance for the benefactors of this, it solidified my position.</p> <p>I use the park. I care. I showed up.</p> <p>Put down the phone. Care. Show up. Maybe the students will learn if we don't hand them everything on a silver platter. Please don't show my daughter she'll get what she wants by doing nothing.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-11-21 00:00:00</p>	<p>Hi Paige,</p> <p>I was one of the parents who saw your presentation at Hamilton on Wednesday. I think you are doing a solid job and managed the meeting very well.</p> <p>To be transparent I am supportive of adding a turf field in Wallingford as my kids are soccer players and I am one of Hamilton's soccer coaches.</p> <p>I would much rather a full field at the park. I wasn't at the first meeting so not sure how much of what is there would have to be taken away.</p> <p>I do appreciate the folks who spoke against the project as change can be scary. I empathize with the fact that it would replace part of nature and that is not ideal, but Seattle overall has a lot of natural green areas and the Wallingford Park would still have some. We do live in a city after all.</p> <p>I think hours of access to the field and when lights are on can be negotiated to further reduce any impact a turf field may have. I also suggest making clear which type of turf would be used as that may appease some environmental concerns.</p> <p>I thought it was pretty disingenuous to suggest SPS is taking a park away when the proposal is to improve one. Admittedly SPS has made mistakes in the past, but this wouldn't be one of them.</p> <p>If all that can happen for now is a half a field, I will take it. It would not be enough for the athletic and marching band needs of the schools and I think with time, many of the folks who oppose any use of turf will regret not having gotten more easier to maintain space when the opportunity presented itself.</p> <p>Yes, traffic and parking will get worse probably, but that will happen regardless to some degree of more people move to the neighborhood. Another way to look at it is that people park and drive close to desirable locations. Meaning this would make the park more desirable 😊.</p> <p>Thanks for the good work and let me know if I can help in any way. I am happy to have a cordial talk with anyone from any side on this matter.</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-21 00:00:00	<p>Dear Paige McGehee,</p> <p>Thank you for hosting the fun party at Wallingford last night. I appreciate your bravery and composure.</p> <p>My name is Laurette Loera. I am a lifetime resident of Seattle, and a long time resident of Wallingford. My husband and I are raising our four boys here. They attend Hamilton International Middle School and Lincoln High School, and they play sports.</p> <p>I am writing to express 100% support for a Wallingford Field upgrade to cork turf. I believe this would be an important community asset and improve the park in a way to benefit a great number more people. A turf field would remove barriers and improve access to athletics for hundreds and our young athletes at Lincoln and Hamilton, who also belong to the Wallingford community.</p> <p>I am a Physical Therapist and know there is sound science behind the benefit of exercise and sports for all people, to improve their physical and mental well being. Having a functional field that could be used year round would serve a great need. For this reason, I specifically support a full sized field with lights, to provide the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people.</p> <p>I played frisbee in Wallingford Field in college in the 1990s, and my kids all played rec soccer there. The field has been a sorry, sloppy mess for 6 months of the year as far as I have ever known. Additionally, I live near Wallingford Field and visit it often. It is largely empty over 80% of the time and is primarily used for illegal off-leash dogs, which contribute to the sorry state of the field. To preferentially keep it empty and unusable is not responsible use of community space in this time of increasing urban density, especially as it sits between two schools in desperate need of field space.</p> <p>The WPA does not represent the preference of the majority of the Wallingford community and I object to their manipulative tactics, dissemination of misinformation, solutions that have no basis in reality, and litigious intimidation to serve a singular personal interest.</p> <p>There will be environmental concerns around a turf field in any location. Bussing hundreds of kids out of their own neighborhood is also an environmental concern, with an increased cost to the students time and school's resources. There will be supporters and detractors for a turf field in any location. And thus it comes down to selecting a location that can provide the greatest good in the most logical location, and that location is Wallingford Park.</p> <p>Thank you, LL</p>
2024-11-21 00:00:00	<p>Dear Page McGehee,</p> <p>I am 12 years old and live in Wallingford. I am a student at Hamilton International Middle School. I like to play sports. At school I have noticed that it is not very fun to play sports inside and would rather be outside. Currently all the things we do outside are running while we could be playing soccer, frisbee and other sports. Sadly, a lot of days we are getting announcements over the intercom that say frisbee and soccer practices have been canceled. This is due to the condition of the field which is usually very muddy and is not playable. If we improve the field to turf, we could be helping thousands of kids in sports and with other extracurricular activities.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
2024-11-21 00:00:00	<p>Hello Paige,</p> <p>I wasn't able to make it to the public meeting this week so I wanted to send a note to express my support of adding a turf practice field in Wallingford Park. We have used Wallingford park for many years with and without our kids, and are in full support of converting the grass area to either a full or half sized turf play field for Hamilton and Lincoln to use. For a large part of the year that area is too muddy and dark to use, so I think it would also benefit the greater community.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

**LINCOLN FIELD - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK (MTG. #1 9/19, MTG. #2 11/20, LET'S TALK, AND EMAILS)**

DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-21 00:00:00	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I was at the community meeting yesterday but was not able to line up to share my comment. I would like to register my opinion as a frequent park user, neighbor and parent of 3 children who graduated from SPS, and who participated in multiple sports teams during their time as SPS students.</p> <p>I appreciate the need for equity and a better option for the kids, but I strongly oppose converting the park to a full play field. The character of the park as a natural setting is a critical asset in our neighborhood. The park is really well used by folks, from tots to seniors. I have met and gotten to know neighbors while at the park, and often use the walking path. Adding a full turf field with lighting would destroy the feel of the park and would be a major loss.</p> <p>I appreciate the compromise option of a half turf field and would support this as long as the walking path and some natural grass are retained. I am opposed to high overhead lighting as it will contribute to light pollution and negatively affect the character of the park and neighborhood.</p> <p>I am supportive of SPS pursuing the Woodland Park options, especially repurposing the existed under-utilized gravel lot at 50th and Aurora. The travel time by foot would be reasonable for LHS students. The woodland park options are also consistent with that area being an existing hub for sports.</p> <p>The half turf option in our neighborhood gem of a park is not my preference - I would prefer for Wallingford park to stay as-is — but I do recognize it would be helpful for daytime uses for PE for Hamilton as well as for practice area for LHS teams.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>



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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
<p>2024-11-21 00:00:00</p>	<p>Hi Paige,</p> <p>I was at the community meeting at Hamilton Middle School tonight about taking a large part of Wallingford Park for a practice field. I didn't speak there, but wanted to be sure to share my strong opposition to taking any portion of the park for a school field. I was at the event until the very last speaker, and didn't hear any compelling arguments from the parents of Lincoln students and Lincoln employees for taking more natural, green space away from this community. It was notable that there were exactly 3 students there last night out of hundreds of people. I live in the neighborhood on 37th and Burke. We have visited that park frequently and used all parts, including the field.</p> <p>My step daughter is a sophomore at Lincoln, who also didn't attend last night. She plays soccer in club and school, but tore her ACL last year playing on turf in a high school game. So the arguments that grass is unsafe and turf is the answer aren't convincing. Children getting muddy as a reason for taking the field and covering it in artificial turf is absurd. Having to take a bus and getting home late for 2.5 months of the year also don't sway me. Those are the costs of participation and 2.5 months is a blink of the eye vs taking green space from a community forever.</p> <p>When I first heard about this issue I wondered why SPS hadn't planned for this when they reopened Lincoln. That is one of my biggest issues here and it was echoed by several people last night. Poor planning should not cost the community. And your report included other locations that weren't an option because of neighborhood opposition - count me in for neighbor opposition.</p> <p>The other thing that alarmed me last night, and I had heard pieces of this from neighbors, is that SPS has made assurances and commitments they haven't kept before in this community. So what is to make us believe half a field without lights is all that will go in? Your drawings showed one orientation of the field where you could decide a full field was needed and take the rest of the park for it in the future. Unfortunately, I don't believe that won't happen. I strongly oppose taking Wallingford park.</p> <p>Thanks, Franni</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-21 00:00:00	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I have been a Seattle resident for the last 25 years. Our family lives in Fremont. I am a parent of SPS Lincoln High School students.</p> <p>I was very happy to hear this fall that SPS/Parks were working on putting in a full-sized athletic field at Wallingford Playfield.</p> <p>The kids who go to Hamilton MS and Lincoln HS do not currently have an athletic field to use, and desperately need one.</p> <p>Moving them from school - to training fields (like Lower Woodland) for sports practice is inefficient and presents real safety risks. The kids who use Lower Woodland have to walk over half a mile, crossing several busy arterial intersections (45th, 50th). These kids are riled up because they just got out of school, they are rushing to get to the fields on time, and I suspect there are regular "close calls" in terms of them getting across these fast-traffic streets safely. I understand that some teams have to be bussed for practice and I imagine that is costly and also risky. The absence of a "home" field also complicates student travel home and takes away from a sense of community their peers at other SPS schools have.</p> <p>Our family accesses Seattle parks and playfields throughout the city and have for years. I am familiar with Wallingford and spend a lot of time there. I am writing to respond to some of the complaints about the proposed field installation made by this group: Wallingford Park Alliance which appears to be supported only by about 40 families. Their complaints are not well-reasoned and do not represent the views of the community. SPS should go ahead and install the full field as originally planned.</p> <p>First, the students of Hamilton MS and Lincoln HS who need the field are the neighborhood. They grew up and live here. The "Park Alliance" group's claims that "children will lose essential park activities" or that the "public will lose access" are disingenuous. These students who need the field are not interlopers coming to change the neighborhood. The students (and their families) are themselves the public.</p> <p>A turf field does not displace neighborhood use. People who are not SPS sports participants will still be able to use the public space. If the muddy grass mess is improved on, they may even use it more. The shared use thing works out organically. For example, the turf field by Salmon Bay school is at times in use by organized sports team and at others by kids, or kids and adults, playing there. The sky is not going to fall if SPS/Parks install the turf field at Wallingford Playfield as planned.</p> <p>Wallingford has significant green space, which is partly what makes the neighborhood attractive. There are literally acres of common greenspace to the North (Meridian Park) and South (Gas Works) of the proposed turf field. It is nonsense to claim that putting in a turf field over decrepit grass removes "what greenspace we have" or negatively affects "habitat for local wildlife."</p> <p>The "Park Alliance" group claims putting in a turf field "displaces community use out of proportion of the community's presence and need." Again, the students are the community. "Student athletes" are "local children." And younger local children will someday be middle and high school aged children who will want to use the field for sports. "Kids like to run, to kick and throw balls," and they will still be able to do that on the turf field at days and times when there is no school sports practice.</p> <p>Between Hamilton MS and Lincoln HS you have some 3,000 students who do not have a sports field to train on. Please go ahead and fix this for their benefit and for the benefit of our community - which they certainly constitute.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
	Yours, Mick Woynarowski

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-21 10:31:20	<p>I am a parent of SPS students, who have gone to McDonald, Hamilton, and are now at Lincoln HS. I have lived in Seattle for the last 25 years.</p> <p>I strongly support SPS/Parks putting in a full sized turf field at Wallingford Playfield.</p> <p>The kids need it. The absence of a sports field is a safety/cost issue. The kids should not have to walk over half a mile, crossing busy arterials, to get to Lower Woodland and those who get bussed to their practices should not have to do that.</p> <p>The kids (and their families) are the community and need the sports field. No one is getting "displaced" by the installation of a turf field in the one school that doesn't have one. There is Meridian Park to the North and there is Gas Works Park to the South.</p> <p>Please do not change the plans; stick with the full sized field.</p> <p>Yours,</p>
2024-11-21 11:20:12	<p>My husband and i sincerely want LHS to have a practice field, but Wallingford Park is off limits! Given planned density development in the area, this small but precious green space NEEDS to be preserved for unscheduled community use.</p> <p>Please be respectful of the community consensus!</p>

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<p>2024-11-21 11:25:19</p>	<p>November 15, 2024</p> <p>Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation</p> <p>c/o Anthony-Paul Diaz</p> <p>100 Dexter Ave N.</p> <p>Seattle, WA 98109</p> <p>By Delivery to Email: XX</p> <p>Re: Wallingford Playfield Park: Proposed Illegal use by Seattle Public Schools</p> <p>Dear Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation:</p> <p>This office has been retained by the Wallingford Park Alliance to address a proposal by Seattle Public Schools (SPS or District) to potentially use the Wallingford Playfield Park (WPP) for athletic programs at Lincoln High School. The Wallingford Park Alliance is a recently formed community organization of residents and local business members in the Wallingford area seeking to preserve and protect the recreational, natural, community open-space and aesthetic values of the park and the open public access to its use. The Alliance currently has 172 members, with more joining each day; it has submitted petitions with 876 signatures and 364 comments to date. The petition and comments oppose SPS plans to convert WPP to an athletic field for District athletic programs.</p> <p>In particular, I have been asked to review the legality of a proposal by SPS to take over WPP for its athletic programs. When the District decided to spend significant sums to renovate and modernize Lincoln High School, SPS knew it did not have space for</p>

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	<p>practice facilities for its athletic program. It further knew that WPP was owned by the City of Seattle and had been a public park for more than 100 years. Due diligence by the District would have informed it that multiple deeds, contracts, ordinances and regulations require that the Park be used only for permanent public open space, park and community recreational purposes and that it could not be used for school athletic facilities. While the Alliance does not oppose minor use for physical education classes covered by the 1970 Joint Use Agreement with Hamilton Middle School, the current proposal goes far beyond use of the existing grass field for occasional classes and would essentially usurp the community's enjoyment of this public open space.</p> <p>From my review of the circumstances, it is clear that use of the park by Lincoln High School as a practice field for school athletics is improper and illegal based on prior agreements, representations and contracts made by the City of Seattle over many</p> <p>November 15, 2024</p> <p>Page 2</p> <p>years. Both SPS and the Parks Department (SPR) should immediately cease any further review or discussion of the District's proposed use of Wallingford Playfield. The District should be encouraged to seek solutions that are consistent with all local, state and Federal laws.</p> <p>The basis for our position is as follows.</p> <p>1. HISTORY OF WALLINGFORD PLAYFIELD PARK.</p>

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	<p>The property for WPP was purchased in 1924, 100 years ago. A Parks’ Board memo supported the purchase, stating that “said location is a very necessary and fine place for a Community Play Field for small children.” Exhibit 5. Community members noted the increasing urbanization of the Wallingford community had eliminated places for children to play: “The vacant lots that once afforded a chance for unorganized play have all been built upon until there is nothing left but the streets.”</p> <p>In the intervening years, there were various proposals to use a portion of the Playfield for a community center or other building proposals, but none were supported by the community and none were adopted.</p> <p>However, in 1968, the City secured federal funding from the department of U.S. Housing &amp; Urban Development (HUD) for expansion of the playfield, along with funding from the state Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). As a part of the HUD contract, the City of Seattle agreed to “retain said land, as developed for permanent open space purposes.”</p> <p>The 1970 Forward Thrust bond issue also included funds to expand the park one block west along N. 43rd to Woodlawn Avenue N. “as permanent open space for recreational and scenic purposes.” These plans were implemented by construction of park facilities on the additional land acquired with the HUD and IAC funding.</p> <p>Lincoln High School is northwest of the Park and was opened in 1907. The school site included a large field for athletics north of the school buildings. See Exhibit 1, an aerial photograph of the school in the 1960s. However, that field was removed in</p>

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	<p>the 1980s and replaced with a large parking lot.</p> <p>In 1988, Wallingford Playfield was one of a limited number of Seattle parks that were included in the policy of the City under SEPA to protect public views of significant natural features from public places. See SMC 25.05.675.P.2.a.1 (Exhibit 2).</p> <p>In 1997, community leaders and residents concerned with preservation of Seattle’s public parks filed Initiative 42 with the City Clerk. That Initiative provided that “All lands and facilities held now or in the future by The City of Seattle for park and</p> <p>November 15, 2024</p> <p>Page 3</p> <p>2. recreation purposes, whether designated as park, park boulevard, or open space, shall be preserved for such use; . . .” (Emphasis supplied). Petitions were circulated and sufficient validated signatures were gathered to place Initiative 42 on the ballot.</p> <p>However, recognizing that Initiative 42 would likely be approved by the voters, the City Council adopted Ordinance 118477 into law by a 9-0 vote on January 27, 1997, which ordinance was approved by Mayor Rice on February 4, 1997. The ordinance remains in effect. Exhibit 3.</p> <p>Today, WPP continues its one-hundred-year legacy to provide open space and areas for outdoor recreation to the Wallingford community and beyond.</p> <p>PROPOSED USE OF WALLINGFORD PLAYFIELD BY SPS.</p> <p>Recently, Seattle Public Schools has proposed to convert Wallingford Playfield</p>



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	<p>Park into a full-size, artificially-turfed football and soccer field for use by Lincoln High School for athletic practices and games. SPS plans to line and mark the field with standard football markings in bright white on the green artificial turf. A drawing of that plan is Exhibit 4. The plan proposes to remove soil and grass and cover about 85% of the existing grassy open space with artificial turf, and includes the removal of many mature trees and the leveling of natural topographic features beloved by neighborhood children. Additionally, the plan includes field lighting for night-time use and construction of a building for storing equipment.</p> <p>3. SEATTLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROPOSAL FOR CONVERSION OF WALLINGFORD PLAYFIELD IS ILLEGAL.</p> <p>As described above, since 1924, Wallingford Playfield Park has served the community as a park for community recreation and open space. During its 100-year existence, the City has made multiple binding contracts and commitments that prohibit the approval of Seattle Public School’s athletic field plans for the site. The City, through SPR, should send Seattle Public Schools a clear, unequivocal written notice that it cannot and will not consider a proposal to convert the Park to SPS athletic uses. As described below, continued consideration of SPS’s proposal is a waste of public funds, a waste of public resources and a waste of the time for interested members of the public.</p> <p>a) Terms and Circumstances of the 2024 Deed.</p> <p>The genesis of WPP is traced to 1924. Parents of the community, noting the</p>

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	<p>lack of a playfield in the growing Wallingford Community, suggest the acquisition of the block between Wallingford and Densmore Avenues and 42nd and 43rd Streets North to the Seattle City Council. See Exhibit 5. The letter (dated June 9, 1924) requested the Council to “take the necessary steps to purchase this property for a playfield for the November 15, 2024</p> <p>Page 4</p> <p>younger children of this district.” This letter followed the May 28, 1924 recommendation of the Parks Board to establish the park as a “very necessary and fine place for a Community Play Field for small children.” Id.</p> <p>The City Council followed the recommendation of the Parks Board and community and acquired the property.</p> <p>b) The Terms of the 1968 Contract with HUD Prohibit Use of Wallingford Playfield for Seattle Public Schools Athletic Purposes.</p> <p>In 1968, the City decided to increase the size of Wallingford Playfield by 1.06 acres. The funding for the acquisition came from open space funds from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) and the State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (“IAC”) (the contract with IAC will be discussed in the next section of this letter).</p> <p>The City and HUD entered into a “Contract for Grant to Acquire and/or Develop Land for Open-Space Purposes” (hereinafter, HUD Contract). That contract is Exhibit 6</p>

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	<p>to this letter and was executed on June 28, 1968.</p> <p>The HUD Contract provided the City with funding for 50% of the cost of the project, or \$166,326 (1968 dollars). That contract obligated the City to clear the site of existing homes “for the development of the land for open-space uses, as set forth in this Section.” Section 2(b) goes on to say:</p> <p>The Public Body agrees to retain said land, as developed, for permanent open space purposes and the open-space use or uses of said land shall be for park and recreational purposes, conservation of land and other natural resources, or historic or scenic purposes.</p> <p>(Emphasis supplied). Part II of the HUD Contract contains “Terms and Conditions.” Section 104, “Land Provisions” included at Subsection (C) that if the City proposes to “lease or sell all or part of the land” the City must first obtain “written approval” from HUD. That approval:</p> <p>will be given only if such leasing or sale is consistent with the project and adequate controls are embodied in the lease or deed to assure the preservation of the open-space use or uses of such land as set out in Section 2(b) of Part I of this contract.</p> <p>Subsection D(1) provides that “no change in the use of the land to a use other than the open-space uses set out in Section 2(b) of Part I of this Contract will be permitted without the prior written approval of the Secretary (of HUD).”</p> <p>November 15, 2024</p>

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	<p>Page 5</p> <p>As described, when the City accepted Federal funds for park expansion, it agreed to maintain the preservation of open-space uses permanently. The proposal advanced by SPS is not an open-space public use, but a use dedicated to school athletics. It would convert natural green, treed park space to a synthetic surface to be installed over 85% of the Park. Given the clear prohibition against the anticipated uses by SPS, the City should immediately terminate further discussion with SPS concerning its proposal, which is a breach of the City's contract with HUD.</p> <p>c) The Terms of the 1969 Contract with IAC Prohibit Use of Wallingford Playfield for Seattle Public Schools Athletic Purposes.</p> <p>Another 25% of the funds for acquisition of land for park expansion in the late 1960s came from the Interagency Commission on Outdoor Recreation, the "IAC." The "Project Agreement" between the City and IAC is Exhibit 7 to this letter. At page 2, it describes the project as purchasing "1.06 acres for an addition to the existing playground." IAC agreed to provide \$77,000 (1969 dollars).<sup>1</sup> Section 13.a of the IAC contract provides that the City cannot "convert any property or facility acquired or developed pursuant to this agreement of other than public outdoor recreation use without approval of the Secretary (of HUD) and the Chairman (of the IAC)." Section 13.b.1 provides that: "The property or facilities shall be maintained so as to appear attractive and inviting to the public." Section 13.b.5 states: "The facility shall be kept</p>

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	<p>open for public use at reasonable hours and times of the year, according to the type of area or facility.” The conversion of the park to a synthetic football field is not attractive or inviting to the public, and under the scheduling proposed, public use of 85% of the park will be prohibited during school and after-school hours, weekend practices and events.</p> <p>Section 9 of the IAC Contract set forth remedies for breach. Significantly, that section provides that the “benefit” from the agreement is “the preservation, protection, and net increase in the quantity and quality of public outdoor recreation facilities and resources which are available to the people of the state and of the United States, . . .” (underline emphasis added). A simple return of funds by the City in the event of breach of the agreement “would be inadequate compensation for any failure to comply with the terms of this agreement;” thus the “only appropriate remedy in the event of a breach by the Contractor of this agreement shall be the specific performance of this agreement.”</p> <p>Once again, any agreement to allow SPS to use Wallingford Playfield for Lincoln High School athletic facilities, and any removal of natural features, including topographic features, trees and natural vegetation, is an obvious breach of the IAC</p> <p>1 A dollar in 1969 is equivalent to \$8.64 in 2024 dollars, making this 25% of the purchase price equivalent to \$665,000 today.</p> <p>November 15, 2024</p> <p>Page 6</p> <p>agreement.</p>

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	<p>As with the breach of the HUD Contract, the City should immediately inform the SPS that its proposed use is contrary to long-term city obligations and the City should cease further discussion of the subject with the District.</p> <p>d) Conditions in Deeds to The City for the Park Do Not Allow School Athletic Uses on WPP.</p> <p>When the City acquired the property for the WPP expansion in the late 1960s, it received individual deeds from seventeen separate property owners. All of the deeds to the City stated that the deed was “subject to” certain obligations the City made to the IAC in its contract of January 15, 1969. An example of the conveyance of the property owners is that for Lot 5, a Statutory Warranty Deed from Robert E. Corning and Corlee C. Corning signed on February 2, 1969; see Exhibit 8. Each of the 17 statutory warranty deeds for the park expansion properties states “...the purchaser shall not at any time convert this property to uses other than for which state assistance was originally granted...”.</p> <p>Conditions or covenants in a statutory warranty deed are enforceable by the Grantors. See e.g. Johnson v. Mt. Baker Park Presbyterian Church, 113 Washington. 458, 459-60 (1920). Any plan for use of WPP other than for a park would be a violation of the Grantors’ conditions and subject to specific performance. The City should not continue negotiations with SPS that violate the grantors’ express conditions.</p> <p>e) The 1972 “Deed of Right to Use Land for Public Recreation Purposes” to “all</p>

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	<p>of the people of the state” Prohibits School Athletic Facilities on WPP.</p> <p>On June 20, 1972, Mayor Wes Uhlman executed a “Deed of Right to Use Land for Public Recreation Purposes.” See Exhibit 9. That deed was not only to the state of Washington as a governmental entity, but also “as the representative of all the people of the state.” The land conveyed by the deed was the area of expansion of the WPP as described above. In the deed, Mayor Uhlman committed that the City “will not make or permit to be made any use of the real property described in this deed, or any part of it, which is inconsistent with the right to use for public outdoor recreation herein granted . . .”</p> <p>My clients are surprised that SPS’s due diligence in advance of making its proposal did not disclose these restrictions in the deed for the property. Moreover, apparently SPS was also not mindful that “all the people of the state” are beneficiaries of the deed, which could result in class action litigation in the event the terms of that deed are violated. Again, the City must cease any further consideration of the SPS request to use WPP as athletic facilities in violation of the City deed.</p> <p>November 15, 2024</p> <p>Page 7</p> <p>f) The Terms of Seattle Ordinance 118477 Prohibit Use of Wallingford Playfield for Seattle Public Schools’ Athletic Purposes.</p> <p>In 1996, a large number of Seattle residents were concerned about a City plan to sell city parklands to private developers. These residents then drafted and circulated</p>

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	<p>petitions for a new city law to preserve parks and to prohibit existing parks from being “changed from park use to another usage.” The citizens’ Initiative 42 was circulated and received sufficient signatures to be placed on the next City of Seattle election ballot.</p> <p>The City Council, knowing Initiative 42 would likely pass by a substantial margin, took the preemptive step of enacting it into law by a (unanimous) Council vote. Accordingly, Initiative 42 became Seattle Ordinance 118477 on January 22, 1997. See Exhibit 3.</p> <p>a transaction. . . .”</p> <p>As described in Section 1, the Ordinance provided that park and open space: shall be preserved for such use; and no such land or facility shall be sold, transferred, or changed from park use to another usage . . .</p> <p>Any transfer was specifically conditioned on three requirements:</p> <p>First, that a public hearing would be held “regarding the necessity of such</p> <p>Second, that the City Council adopt an ordinance finding that “the transaction is necessary because there is no reasonable and practical alternative. . . .” Keep in mind that the terms “necessity” and “reasonable and practical alternative” relate to City of Seattle needs and actions, not that of the potential user, here SPS.</p> <p>Similar language to that in Ordinance 118477 is found in federal statutes</p>



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	<p>that protect public parks. Washington courts have applied similar standards in such cases as Defense Fund v Metro Seattle, 59 Wn App 613, 618-19 (1990):</p> <p>The pertinent language appeared in section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 and it related to construction projects on public lands. It provided, in part, that:</p> <p>the Secretary [of Transportation] shall not approve any program or project which requires the use of any publicly owned land from a public park . . . unless (1) there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of such land . . . .</p> <p>November 15, 2024</p> <p>Page 8</p> <p>(Italics ours.) 49 U.S.C. § 1653(f) (Supp. 5 1965-1969) (repealed 1983).</p> <p>The Defense Fund court applied the Supreme Court case of Citizens To Preserve Overton Park, Inc. v. Volpe, 401 U.S. 402, 28 L.Ed.2d 136, 91 S.Ct. 814 (1971). As noted in Defense Fund:</p> <p>The federal government argued in Overton Park that under the language of the act, the Secretary could, in making his decision, balance cost, safety and other factors associated with alternative construction plans against the obvious detriment that would result from construction of a highway in a park. The Court rejected that argument and remanded the matter to the District Court for a</p>

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	<p>review of the entire administrative record and in doing so, it stated:</p> <p>Congress clearly did not intend that cost and disruption of the community were to be ignored by the Secretary. But the very existence of the statutes indicates that protection of parkland was to be given paramount importance. The few green havens that are public parks were not to be lost unless there were truly unusual factors present in a particular case or the cost or community disruption resulting from alternative routes reached extraordinary magnitudes. If the statutes are to have any meaning, the Secretary cannot approve the destruction of parkland unless he finds that alternative routes present unique problems.</p> <p>(Italics ours.) Overton Park, at 412-13.</p> <p>Defense Fund v Metro Seattle, 59 at 619 (1990) (underline supplied).</p> <p>As applied to the present situation, if the City seeks to lease or convey portions of a Seattle park, such as WPP, the criteria of Overton Park apply, and there must be a demonstration that alternatives to park use reach “extraordinary magnitudes” and that such alternatives “present unique problems.”<sup>2</sup></p> <p>Third, that the City must receive “land or a facility of equivalent or better size, value, location and usefulness in the vicinity, serving the same community</p>

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	<p>and same park purposes.” Significantly, the ordinance does not include the payment of money for such a transfer.</p> <p>2 In any statutory construction of Ordinance 118477, it will be important to note that the language of the Ordinance came from private citizens seeking park protection, not from the Seattle City Council that simply adopted Initiative 42.</p> <p>November 15, 2024</p> <p>Page 9</p> <p>As with the HUD and IAC Contracts, the City cannot show the lack of a reasonable and practical alternative and SPS has not offered, or even identified, equivalent land or an equivalent facility in the Wallingford community that might be an adequate replacement. The cost of purchasing equivalent land in the Wallingford community would likely curtail SPS efforts to usurp this public park.</p> <p>Once again, the City should inform SPS that it has not, and cannot, meet the requirements of Ordinance 118477 and cease further discussions on the subject. To do otherwise is to engage in a waste of public resources and the time and energies of the community that has already spoken on the loss of parkland.</p> <p>g) The 2016 “Reminder” Letter from RCO Confirms the City’s Obligation to Maintain WPP as Originally Funded.</p> <p>On October 25, 2016, Kaleen Cottingham, Director of the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) wrote the City Parks and Recreational Superintendent concerning “Long-term Obligations for Grants” from the RCO, formerly</p>

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	<p>the IAC. Exhibit 10.</p> <p>In her letter Ms. Cottingham referenced proposed Seattle legislation that might allow public areas, including parks, to be used for temporary housing for the homeless.</p> <p>In light of this possible legislation, she stated:</p> <p>this letter serves as a reminder that RCO grants come with a long-term obligation to maintain the project area as originally funded. None of the grants include homeless encampments as an allowable use of park or conservation lands.</p> <p>Attached to her letter was a list of the more than 130 grants to the City that helped Seattle to acquire and develop parks. The Wallingford Playfield was item 7 on her list, referencing Project Number 68-088A.</p> <p>Ms. Cottingham’s letter also was a “reminder” to the City of the City’s obligations:</p> <p>Failure to comply with the long-term obligations of an RCO grant has certain consequences for your organization to mitigate for the loss of grant-assisted land or facilities. This may require the appraisal of the property and the purchase of similar replacement property or development of replacement facilities equal to the grant expended. It also may jeopardize future RCO grant funding for the city.</p> <p>(Emphasis supplied).</p> <p>November 15, 2024</p>

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	<p>Page 10</p> <p>The proposed use of WPP for school athletic fields is wholly inconsistent with the use of “the project area as originally funded.” The City should tell SPS it will not consider a proposal that would “jeopardize” an important source of funding for other city parks.</p> <p>h) Commitments in 2017 Environmental Checklist for Lincoln High School Modernization that All Athletic Programs will be Required to Use Off-site Fields and that WPP would Not Be Used are Binding on the District.</p> <p>On January 9, 2017, SPS prepared an Environmental Checklist for the Modernization of Lincoln High School. The Checklist was signed by the “Responsible Official” for SPS, its “Assistant Superintendent for Operations” Pegi McEvoy. On the same day, Ms. McEvoy issued a “Determination of Nonsignificance” (DNS) for the proposal, indicating that no environmental impact statement would be prepared for the action. See Exhibit 11. The Environmental Checklist was not changed or modified during the SEPA or City review processes.</p> <p>At page 22, the Environmental Checklist poses the following question under the “Recreation” category of the checklist:</p> <p>b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.</p> <p>Ms. McEvoy answered the question as follows:</p> <p>Reopening the Lincoln site as a high school would likely increase the use</p>

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	<p>of Wallingford Playfield by students, especially after school. The Playfield would not be used for Lincoln High School athletic programs. Athletic programs at Lincoln High School would be required to use off-site fields for practice and games. Programs would likely use the fields at Woodland Park for practice and games and Memorial Stadium for games.<sup>3</sup></p> <p>(Emphasis supplied). See Exhibit 11 hereto. One of the comments on the proposal by the public was that:</p> <p>“The Lincoln site currently does not comply with the District standards for use as a high school, . . . .”</p> <p>See Comment No. 41 at page 20 of Appendix D, SEPA Public Comments and SPS</p> <p><sup>3</sup>This statement, by senior management at SPS, plainly acknowledges the existence of a “reasonable and practical alternative” for purposes of Ordinance 118477.</p> <p>November 15, 2024</p> <p>Page 11</p> <p>Responses (page 8 of Exhibit 11). However, the response by the Responsible Official was that:</p> <p>At approximately 6.7 acres, the Lincoln school site is small for a high school in comparison to traditional national standards of 15 -20 acres. School sites in Seattle are generally smaller than the national average because available land is scarce and prices are high.</p>

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	<p>SPS has evaluated the Lincoln site and determined that it meets the standards for use as a high school.</p> <p>Id. Page 33 of the Environmental Checklist indicates that:</p> <p>The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.</p> <p>In this case, both the Checklist and DNS were prepared by an employee of the District, not a representative of the City of Seattle or any other public agency.</p> <p>The statement that athletic programs would use off-site fields and the WPP will not be used for Lincoln athletic programs defines the scope of the proposal for SEPA purposes and for review by the City of Seattle. As the SEPA Rules caution:</p> <p>Agencies shall make certain that the proposal that is the subject of environmental review is properly defined.</p> <p>WAC 197-11-060(3)(a). The proposal did not include athletic facilities at Wallingford Playfield. The only mention of athletic fields was in Paragraph 7 of the Environmental Checklist (page 1), which stated:</p> <p>The master plan could also include replacement of a portion of the parking lot at the north end of the site with an athletic practice field.<sup>4</sup></p> <p>Public agencies, local residents and the general public understood that any new athletic fields for students at renovated Lincoln High School would not be at Wallingford Playfield and all fields for athletics would be off-site, but could be at the existing parking lot.</p>

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	<p>As a follow-up, the SPS Facilities Master Plan Update published in 2021 for the Planning Horizon 2021-2026 did not include acquisition of property rights for athletic</p> <p>4 The alternative of the practice field on the Lincoln parking lot acknowledges the existence of another “reasonable and practical alternative” for purposes of Ordinance 118477. See Footnote 3 above.</p> <p>November 15, 2024</p> <p>Page 12</p> <p>facilities at Wallingford Playfield.</p> <p>Neither the Environmental Checklist nor the proposal presented to the City in 2017 have ever been modified to include on-site athletic programs or athletic uses at WPP. The Environmental Checklist has never been revised or modified.</p> <p>In direct contradiction of its representation in the Environmental Checklist, SPS is now requesting use of the Wallingford Playfield for athletic purposes, with the construction of a full-size football/soccer field for Lincoln High School. As a result of the misrepresentation, there was no consideration of the impacts of use of the Wallingford Playfield during zoning and environmental review by the City of Seattle. The misrepresentation was particularly egregious because SPS does not own or control that facility and reviewers may be misled by taking the District up on its word.</p> <p>SPS maintains a current website for its proposal to use the WPP for athletic practice fields. In that website is the following entry:</p> <p>Why does Lincoln High School need an athletics practice field?</p>



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	<p>Lincoln High School is the only high school in the district without an athletic field, which limits opportunities for Lincoln’s students.</p> <p>For many students, after-school sports such as soccer, football, and track are a big part of their high school experience. The lack of facilities requires Lincoln students to travel to distant fields, disproportionately affecting students without access to reliable transportation.</p> <p>Without a field, Lincoln students are limited to physical education (PE) within the gymnasium or at Wallingford Playfield, which is largely unusable during the winter months due to rain, snow, and lack of lighting.</p> <p>None of the factors described in this statement constitute new information not available when the Environmental Checklist was prepared in 2017. However, SPS’s Responsible Official stated:</p> <p>Athletic programs at Lincoln High School would be required to use off-site fields for practice and games.</p> <p>This was a clear misrepresentation of the requirements for Lincoln that was known and understood by the District when the Environmental Checklist was prepared.</p> <p>In ordinary course, the SEPA lead agency “shall withdraw a DNS” if:</p> <p>iii. The DNS was procured by misrepresentation or lack of material disclosure.</p> <p>November 15, 2024</p> <p>Page 13</p>

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	<p>WAC 197-11-340(3(a)(iii).</p> <p>But in the present case, the SEPA responsible official is also the officer of the applicant. As such, the District is bound by the representation of its operating officer and cannot proceed with plans and projects not included in the Environmental Checklist and not in the plans approved by the City.</p> <p>The City should inform the District that it will not review the proposal for use of WPP because of the lack of disclosure and the misrepresentation described above.</p> <p>i) The District Cannot Construct a Project that is Not Included in the Facilities Master Plan Update.</p> <p>On September 9, 2021 the SPS Board approved its “2021 Facilities Master Plan Update” (FMPU). The FMPU lists information about SPS facilities and plans from 2021 to 2026, with the following purpose:</p> <p>The purpose of this 2021 update to the facilities master plan is to evaluate the adequacy of existing educational facilities with current data and to support planning for future facility needs.</p> <p>The Update includes consideration of needs for its school buildings, including its 13 high schools.</p> <p>Nowhere in the plan is the construction of new athletic facilities at Lincoln High School. In particular, there is no reference of any kind to the construction of a large new athletic field at the WPP site or any other site.</p>

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	<p>The District is not authorized to pursue plans that are not included in its Capital Facilities plan.</p> <p>j) The City is Not Authorized to Eliminate Park Facilities Inconsistent with its Parks and Recreation Plan.</p> <p>The Washington State Growth Management Act requires that local governments adopt comprehensive plans in RCW 36.70A.070. These plans are required to include certain “elements,” including land use, housing and transportation. One of those “elements” is a park and recreation element, requiring the following:</p> <p>(8) A park and recreation element that implements, and is consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to park and recreation facilities. The element shall include: (a) Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year period; (b) an evaluation of facilities and</p> <p>November 15, 2024</p> <p>Page 14</p> <p>service needs; (c) an evaluation of tree canopy coverage within the urban growth area; and (d) an evaluation of intergovernmenta</p>
2024-11-21 11:39:00	<p>I'm concerned that the latest proposal to convert Wallingford playfield into a 1/2 turf field, where the Lincoln principal has stated will 80% benefit Hamilton does not legally meet the requirements for the voter approved BTA V funding specifications. This money was approved for resources for Lincoln, not Hamilton and this is an illegal use of tax dollars to funnel this to a different school. Not only this, but the property does not legally belong to SPS to begin with.</p>

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DATE	COMMENT AND / OR QUESTION(S)
2024-11-21 12:45:55	<p>We have used Wallingford park for many years with and without our kids, and are in full support of converting the grass area to either a full or half sized turf play field for Hamilton and Lincoln to use. For a large part of the year that area is too muddy and dark to use, so I think it would also benefit the greater community.</p>
2024-11-21 14:20:11	<p>Hi - thank you for the public meeting last night. I am concerned about the misinformation that is circulating about the proposals by the Wallingford Park Alliance, particularly about the "toxicity of turf."</p> <p>Can you please aggressively set the record straight on that and emphasize how it is necessary and better than just grass, which clearly cannot support the volume of use.</p> <p>I'm in support of the full field at Wallingford Park. It would be ideal for the 2,700 students and their families, as well as ideal for older people with the walking path being renovated (the new bathroom being added was a great bonus too).</p> <p>I'm also in support of the half field at Wallingford Park and think this is a decent compromise: It will allow for increased use of the open space all year round, meet some of the school and sport needs, and also allow for plenty of grass and all amenities and trees to remain. There are some people who will never be happy, and action is needed now. Let's go.</p> <p>I look forward to hearing more about the Woodland Park full playfield options.</p>
2024-11-21 14:24:34	<p>The Wallingford Park Alliance is very well organized and doing a lot to spread their viewpoints as well as misinformation.</p> <p>I think the other side needs to be more organized and aggressive too. One suggestion for the benefit of Lincoln and HIMS students and time-strapped parents is to put plan boards on easels in the school lobbies, along with one-pagers of true information and a suggestion box for comments.</p> <p>Presentations from the planning team to the school communities would be helpful, too, perhaps via PTSAs.</p> <p>This could be done elsewhere, too, like at the retirement home on Stone Way. We need to stop letting the Wallingford Park Alliance control the community narrative.</p>
2024-11-21 15:21:54	<p>We have lived close to the Wallingford Playfield for over 10 years and frequently walk there. I have a 4 year old, 10 year old at JSIS and a 13 y old Hamilton student. Our family has used the park for Hamilton PE classes, woodland park rec soccer, the wading pool, the playground and the tennis courts. I support the improvement of the mostly muddy, uneven field. And I think turf would be a perfect solution to our neighborhood park. The field would be used much more than it is now if it were replaced with turf. This would also solve the problems of off leash dogs digging holes and children being injured during soccer. There are often times when we decided to drive to Montlake turf field because we didn't want to deal with the muddy conditions at Wallingford Playfield. It isn't a safe place for kids to run and play sports, so we have to find other parks to go to lately.</p>
2024-11-21 15:51:12	<p>Why will it take so much longer (3-5 years) to develop a field at Lower Woodland Park than it would at Wallingford Playfield? Please accelerate the Lower Woodland process to get Lincoln their field ASAP and invest in better upkeep at Wallingford Playfield so it's a playable field for both students and the broader community.</p>

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2024-11-21 15:52:59	<p>Hi,</p> <p>As a parent of a 6th grade girl at Hamilton I would like to voice my support for a turf and lighted improvement at Wallingford park. In many other neighborhoods in the city where a park has been improved with turf and lighting you find the community out, interacting and exercising. In a world driven to our phones shouldn't we put every effort we can to bring people together and moving around?</p> <p>My daughter also has had to walk from school to Lower Woodland for practice while wearing a 20lb bookbag, her soccer bag and a musical instrument. Why are her needs as a member of this community not being considered?</p> <p>Thank you for enduring the endless waves of misinformation to continue to push this beneficial project for the community.</p>
2024-11-21 21:48:57	<p>Dear Parks department and Seattle Public schools,</p> <p>I am a 7th grade student at Hamilton International Middle School. I play ultimate frisbee, and in sixth grade we had practice on that field and I want to tell you that the field is in terrible condition. The off-leash leash dogs there have completely torn up the field and their poop is everywhere it's disgusting. I am also in PE and we play various sports outside. It's the same problem and and we really need a turf field so that the kids can actually use the field safely all year. In the dry season there's caked mud everywhere that's all dried and when we run the dust goes in our faces e yes and mouth. In the wet season it's completely muddy and people are constantly slipping, I can tell you that slipping in the mud is not fun especially when there's dog poop nearby.</p> <p>Whenever we go out there the only people on the field are people with dogs, all the little kids are on the playground. I'm really glad they're not taking out the playground, but the mud at the field has to go.</p> <p>The turf field is gonna be great because people will actually be able to play sports and the little kids will still be able to run around there without slipping and getting a mouthful of mud. I play soccer on turf and it's way better.</p> <p>Thank you for helping the kids.</p>
2024-11-22 00:00:00	<p>please send me a copy of the pdf from the meeting on 11/20</p>

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2024-11-22 00:00:00	<p>I wanted to speak Wednesday but the only people who got a chance had made up their mind before they saw this option.</p> <p>I've lived by this field for 15 years and my daughter starts at Hamilton next year.</p> <p>I'm relieved we backed off of the full field option - that really felt like stealing the park and unfair to the community.</p> <p>I love the half field option because it keeps all the things that are great about the park but makes the field space better and more usable.</p> <p>That field is always in terrible condition and the only way to fix that and keep it grass would be to significantly reduce its use. You can't use a grass field in winter and when it rains.</p> <p>That field isn't something great about the park, it's ugly and sad.</p> <p>There is a significant need for some walkable play fields for Hamilton, Lincoln and the community.</p> <p>What I love:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* keep the walking path, trees, some grass, playground</li><li>* turf field to reduce injuries and mud and dust when playing</li><li>* smaller so it won't be reserved dawn until dusk by people outside the community</li><li>* blobby bits on the side of the field for more unscheduled use</li></ul> <p>It's a really practical and fair plan. The kids that will use it are part of the community too.</p> <p>I wish you had spent more time at the meeting talking about the great aspects of this plan. I hope there are more ways to do this - I think the community would support this plan if they understood it better.</p> <p>thanks, Kate</p>

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2024-11-22 01:50:45	<p>I heard a lot of passionate remarks at the community meeting, and I am very sympathetic to the challenges faced by the athletic teams and the need for better practice areas. However, I am very concerned about the idea of removing park space just as the neighborhood's population is set to increase. I did tons of athletics in high school, even though I had to bike across town to the nearest track and field, so I don't buy that it is untenable to walk 6 blocks to Woodland park. The school has admitted as much by situating the track there.</p> <p>So that leaves this "interim" plan for the Wallingford playfield. But there is nothing interim about it. That space isn't going to turn back into a community park once bigger facilities are built. City planning is not done on the scale of 3 or 4 or 5 years. Decisions made now will last decades at minimum. Maybe a century. That's how long the original decision to make a park has influenced this neighborhood. Parks are one of the most important things to have in upzoned city neighborhoods, and while there was a lot of talk about how the current field was useless, and would be so much better, that is cold comfort to the people who would no longer be able to access it. Just because that field has issues doesn't mean that it is useless. Simply put, the school is talking about permanently annexing public land for it's own benefit.</p> <p>I support building a nice full size field on the gravel lot at 50th and Aurora. (I also use that park, incidentally, but it is just so much more able to accommodate a large field.) This will be the best long term solution.</p>