

Lincoln Athletic Field Feedback: SPS Let's Talk Portal

Nov. 22-Dec. 19, 2024

Date Received	Description
12/16/2024 9:57:58 PM	<p>Wallingford playfield is a well-loved park in our neighborhood. It is a green space for everyone to share and enjoy. Please, there is no need to turn any part of the playfield to turf. But there is a need for funding to be provided by the school using the space for PE to help keep the grass and field better maintained. I would suggest the fund be invested in fixing drainage, water issues and grass seeding schedule to provide a field for everyone to enjoy. It has only been within the last 5+ years that the park department have not been keeping up with the maintenance schedule of reseeding and watering the field. I recall each year during the fall areas of the field would be sectioned off so they can reseed. The field was never as uneven and bumping as it is now. SPS, Lincoln & Hamilton schools, stop being so egocentric and remember it is important to share with your community as we have been sharing with you. So do your part to help take care of the nature around you and help keep, maintain, and care of all the green space (grass & trees) at Wallingford Park. It is special place for all of us to enjoy. So please remember to share.</p>
12/15/2024 3:27:33 PM	<p>On the website it says that the community feedback will be updated each week:</p> <p>"Community members have requested access to the raw feedback received. This PDF includes community comments received through email, the Let's Talk portal, and comment cards at the two community meetings through Nov. 21. Additional input will be compiled and posted each week."</p> <p>There should have been 3 weekly updates since that posting, but I am not able to find them. Please let me know if they are being posted elsewhere, and if not, please post them to this site as promised.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
12/10/2024 10:11:22 PM	<p>Please help us to keep the Wallingford playfield as a park for the neighborhood. Green space available to all is crucial to urban villages such as ours, with apartment buildings and condos eating up areas that used to be yards.</p> <p>Lincoln High would be much better served by a full sized football field in lower Woodland Park than this ineffective half-measure now being proposed.</p> <p>Thank you for listening.</p>

Date Received	Description
12/9/2024 11:15:23 PM	<p>As a member of the community I have serious concerns regarding the proposed field at the wallingford park. I am sending a follow on letter since I am opposed to the half field as well as the full field.</p> <p>my concern is that the half field will lead to a full field in the future</p> <p>in regards to the half field - other concerns are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that it takes well over half the green space of the current park- there are several unanswered questions such as - who can use this field? - are there lights? - concern over artificial turf (and the "safety" of this material) <p>my other concerns below still apply</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there is an agreement that LHS would NOT use the Wallingford Park. This is in the SEPA Checklist and was signed in order to have Lincoln HS reopened 5 years ago. - when LHS reopened, they knew that they did not have a sports field and should have started to resolve this issue ASAP but rather they did nothing and now are trying to push this thru at the last minute due to bad planning and at the expense of the community. T - The new field would be built using money from the BTA V levy, passed by Seattle voters in 2022. In 2021, SPS described plans for a \$5M Lincoln athletic field that would be built with prospective levy money: "SPS is exploring all options ... including the purchase of property. ...No proposals have been made to convert Wallingford Park." - this new field not only violates this agreement but also would severely limit access to the park for the community. - this park has 100 yr history of being put in wallingford for the community - NOT for school activities that impact the use for everyone - the park is used by more and more in the community (with the density of wallingford increasing - apartments and townhomes) ... which have no back yard or greenspace - this park is not solely a sports area - for several in the community this is a chance to be in nature and greenspace (not to be a spectator of a sports event) - this field would severely limit access to the community - I walk through the park early in the morning, the afternoon and evening.... and see several individuals using the park - walking, reading, just sitting and taking in the moment. and talking with neighbors - what impact would this field have on other groups using it and not being part of the neighborhood. concerns on street parking and traffic. There is limited parking in the area already with the new housing and no parking provided - I have serious concerns on the turf and toxicity - what effect does it have on nature, runoff,..... The current condition of the field can be improved but I don't see that anything has been done - laying down plastic turf is not the answer. - if LHS wants a sports field - they should look at locations such as that around 50th which will allow for parking, spectators etc - and not take a community resource. Yes - it is 5 blocks from the school but that is typical for city

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	<p>schools...again ..LHS KNEW that there was no sports field when they renovated the school.</p> <p>While sports are part of life - it is a part and there are so many other uses and components of this park that this would be taken away... even a half field (when looking at the drawings) takes a large part of the park away from the community and their access</p> <p>Please respect the wishes of those that live in the community. I have noticed that those pushing for the use of the park for school athletics a large majority DO NOT LIVE IN WALLINGFORD or by the park.</p> <p>This resource should be saved - this is why it was developed in the beginning</p>

Date Received	Description
12/9/2024 8:34:37 PM	<p>I am in favor of the HALF turf field proposed for Wallingford Playfield. I am also in favor of continuing to pursue a fullsize field at a suitable location within lower Woodland Park.</p> <p>Turfing half the field seems like a good compromise and will allow increased use of Wallingford Playfield during the many months of the year when it is too wet or muddy for most people to want to use. Younger kids tend to concentrate at the playground area and the remaining grassy area retains some space for picnicking and for small kids to run around.</p>
12/9/2024 6:09:43 PM	<p>I am writing in support of converting the very underutilized grass at Wallingford playfield to turf. we live in the neighborhood, have kids in SPS, and know from firsthand experience that a full turf replacement would benefit literally thousands of kids. Lincoln and Hamilton are two of the biggest respective HS and MS in the city. The park makes sense to benefit the neighborhood children who attend to have a safe place to play. Our girls have twisted ankles in the sorry mudpit of the current state. The city lags so many other family friendly communities because we lack adequate outdoor space for youth to practice. We can change that!! If these neighbors want grass access, Gas Works and Meridian are so close! I have no concern with football as the primary initial reason for this conversion. I know it will benefit soccer, ultimate, flag football, and others. Please don't be swayed by the historic NIMBY nature of the pushback. Work with Seattle Parks to expedite this turf conversion at Wallingford. thank you!</p>
12/9/2024 6:01:43 PM	<p>As a parent of a Hamilton Middle School student (and one prior HMS student too), I am strongly in favor of the proposal to add a turf football/soccer field at Wallingford Park. It would be a great asset to the HMS students, as well as Lincoln High School. It could also be a shared asset for the surrounding community. I have coached at the mixed-use fields at Woodland Park and Green Lake for many years, and we have always been able to accommodate school students, park neighbors, Little League, flag football, rec soccer teams, lacrosse, etc. Wallingford Park could continue to do the same thing when redone, but with much needed emphasis on the school students. Anyone who bought a house next to a middle school should not be surprised by this development.</p>
12/9/2024 5:37:04 PM	<p>There's a ton of research on how football fields, and sports fields in general create public spaces that girls don't actually want to use or end up using. How can the district justify taking the only public green space attached to two large public schools, and converting it to a "football" field for boys, when this will simultaneously remove public access for a wider range of users of all ages and genders that currently use this open space?</p> <p>Many other countries have done research and shown that girls are excluded from these public spaces, and instead end up spending time in more natural green spaces and with features that allow casual interaction. Turf fields and cement courts become dominated by boys, as demonstrated by multiple studies where play has been tracked throughout the day at schools. You quite literally are continuing to make the playing field uneven by designing here for the needs of boys, and prioritizing the space in this way.</p> <p>I encourage you to utilize this "extra" \$5 million you now have build to apparently build multiple fields at multiple locations, and actually devote it to creating outdoor spaces attached to your school that adolescent girls are more inclined to use. I am more than happy to provide references and collaborators who could help do this at Wallingford, rather than turning this space into something that will be dominated by the design-preferences of boys and men.</p>

Date Received	Description
12/9/2024 2:51:12 PM	<p>I would like to comment about the playfield development.</p> <p>While there is neighborhood opposition—this is a common issue as community changes are always opposed. However, there are so many pros to the Wallingford Park location over all the other options :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it is ideally situated between Hamilton and Lincoln so could serve both schools - has adequate space and while parking is not adequate it is certainly better than the non-existent parking and limited accessibility at Queen Anne bowl - while it is a community park, it isn't a regional destination like gasworks park and doesn't interfere with all of the city events at gasworks - it is much more efficient than making students walk to woodland park. In the winter students must walk in the dark and few buses serve the area, there is no shelter to wait for rides or safe place to store their bags during practice <p>I hope Seattle will consider serving the very large body of students at Hamilton and Lincoln better in the future and invest in outdoor space to promote physical activity and health for the community.</p>
12/9/2024 12:32:23 AM	<p>As a parent of 3 kids (2 at HIMS and 1 at LHS) that has lived 2 blocks from Wallingford Park for 14 years, strongly supports putting in a turf field. I think it is perfectly reasonable to have a turf field while still maintaining the playground and walking track. This would make the park accessible to everyone. More importantly though, it would give our kids the ability to be more involved in school athletics, band, cheer etc.. Our youth and their mental health wellbeing should be front and center in this discussion/proposal. Having the ability to get outside more, get exercise, and socialize should be top priority!</p>
12/8/2024 2:52:47 PM	<p>I live 2 blocks from the park and was excited to hear that there was a plan to turf the field. My family has been using the park for the past 15 years. All 3 of my kids have played soccer for multiple years on that field. I'm surprised they never broke an ankle on that pot holed mud pit. I was very saddened to hear that the plan was being revised due to some people in the neighborhood organizing over the proposal. Looks like the squeaky wheel is getting the grease. My kids now play sports for Lincoln and Hamilton and a facility nearby is a necessity. Please don't let this group deter you from implementing the full proposal. We need it for this neighborhood. These people who are rejecting it are the NIMBY folks we need to move on from.</p>
12/8/2024 12:49:39 PM	<p>As a member of the Wallingford community, I fully support the Lincoln Field project. I know now that enough community members have spoken out against a full turf field, and that the compromise is to propose a half field with no lights. Including lights would be far more beneficial, as this would ensure that all community members could use the field for longer periods of time. I hope the vocal minority is not successful in this tirade over something that is completely common sense.</p>

Date Received	Description
12/8/2024 2:39:49 AM	<p>I am a parent of two young kids and a Wallingford resident. I firmly object to the turf field (both full and half size) and reject the prevailing idea that we are annexing a public park for the benefit of the kids. No. Let's be precise. It is NOT for the benefit of "kids", rather FOR the benefit of "student athletes". Oh wait. But not for the benefit of all Lincoln and Hamilton student athletes... For many athletes will still need to go off campus for practice. Ahem. So if I understand it correctly, this takeover of a public space is for the express benefit of Lincoln Varsity Football and Soccer teams with fringe benefits to PE classes who already use the park. Got it. Given that, can we please consider the main talking point: Is this really for the kids? By turfing this field you are drastically limiting which kids can enjoy the park and how and when they can do so. Someone once told me that this park was created to provide a place for neighborhood kids to play. That makes a lot of sense; it is unsafe for kids to be in the streets and most of our yards are minuscule (if you are lucky enough to even have a backyard with the surge of townhomes and apartments). If this proposal goes through, you are robbing all of the kids in the neighborhood of this open play space. On a personal note, Wallingford park has been a foundational part of my kids' childhood. As toddlers they would go everyday (sometimes twice) no matter the season. And though they are elementary age now, they still frequent the park on the weekends, after school, and in the summer. They play catch during tee ball season, or kick a ball around for fun. And they love to run down the slope and bolt across the wide open field as fast as they can. If you decide to turf even a portion of this park, you are sending a strong message: if kids are not old enough, or "athletic" enough, they don't deserve a place to play in their neighborhood. And that is a heartbreaking thought. When my kiddos first learned that their beloved park might be turfed over and turned into a football field, they cried. Let's be clear, this proposal is not "for the kids". It is not inclusive of kids that differ in age or athletic abilities. Not to mention that it disenfranchised other members of the community that also deserve green open space. I encourage us to really examine the statement that "this turf field is for the community". It will seize 85% of the park* between the hours of 8am-7pm (times mentioned in the first community meeting) on weekdays for exclusively school use. I'm still unclear on the weekend availability if Seattle Parks rents it out to leagues. So when exactly is the "community" able to use it? On a side note, I've been watching the dueling narratives and discourse around the future of Wallingford Playfield for the last few months. I am saddened by how this issue has pitted neighbor against neighbor. I think we are losing sight of our community as whole, and the needs of all members that benefit from this park. But if the "pro turf" advocates must continue the battle cry that this change is "for the kids", let's be honest with ourselves. Most kids will lose too. The toddler who picks dandelions on a spring day. The father and son/daughter who play catch in the early evening. The kids who launch nerf rockets with a single stomp. The kids who make bubbles with wands. The babies that can't walk yet, but crawl across a picnic blanket while their parents get some fresh air. The kids that love to wander in open spaces and look at the airplanes in the sky. Just to name a few losers if this decision goes through. So please save Wallingford Park. Save it for the kids. *And on the note of the 1/2 field proposal pitched in the last community meeting: it seemed like a half baked plan and no questions were entertained about what this actually entails. Literally, no one was able to get clarity or answers. For example, why, if a full size field is being built in Woodland, do you need an additional 1/2 field? That seems a very expensive way to satisfy none of the original requirements, particularly if this new full size field meets the needs. And if another location meets all the requirements, but you still are proposing to turf the Wallingford park, it seems like this whole process where "other sites were considered" was a brazen charade and the goal was always to annex Wallingford park for the schools.</p>

Date Received	Description
12/7/2024 9:12:06 PM	I'm very much in favor of a turf athletic field at Wallingford Playfield. Please do place the half-sized field at Wallingford Playfield to allow student access to a practice field. I believe this would be a wise use of that space.
12/7/2024 4:35:45 PM	<p>I am writing to express my support for a full turf football/soccer field for Lincoln HS and Hamilton MS use + community use at Wallingford Playfield.</p> <p>I agree that it's lovely to have a park in the neighborhood but feel that people opposing the turf people are doing so reflexively as this plan isn't going to end that! I live in Wallingford, just blocks away from the park, and have gone to play several times a week with my kids for years. My kids loved the playground when they were younger and we have also used the tennis courts many times. It is my understanding that these amenities will remain. Like most park attendants we rarely used the playfield -- other than during soccer season when the Woodlawn SYSA uses the fields, something they would surely still be able to do when it's a turf field. And it would be a better - less muddy - than it is now.</p> <p>Hamilton and Lincoln, two of the largest schools in Seattle, do not have playfield for PE or for before and after school sports. The kids walk in the rain and the dark to and from Lower Woodlawn, across busy streets, or are bused to even most distance locations for sports. Anyone who considers this cannot object to putting a field in this location. It's the right thing to do for our kids.</p>
12/7/2024 1:32:25 PM	The field will serve students longer than the current neighbors will live there and new neighbors won't care that there isn't a mostly dirt unsanctioned dog park nearby. SPS is here to prioritize Seattle's students, not some NIMBY interest groups, so I expect them to stand up for our kids.
12/7/2024 11:47:50 AM	We are neighbors in Wallingford and our family includes kids and seniors. We are very supportive of the SPS plan for a half pitch at the playfield. It strikes a nice balance and expands the number of things that people can do at the park while not making the space feel overly cramped. Thank you for all your hard work on this to strike a reasonable balance for all park users.
12/7/2024 3:29:02 AM	<p>I'm writing in support of the proposed plan to convert the under utilized and inadequately maintained Wallingford playfield into a turf field to support equitable facilities access for SPS students. My children (now 10th grade at Lincoln and 7th at Hamilton) have experienced the pain of having to commute long distances, sometimes in the dark, often at the mercy of public busses, for their sports teams practices. Certain teams can't even be fielded at our schools because of lack of facilities. When the HIMS ultimate frisbee team does get to practice on the current Wallingford field, it is often a divot riddled, muddy, hazardous mess.</p> <p>I appreciate the desire to maintain park and green space in our communities. I feel the current plans maintain the outside trees and playground, in addition to many other green spaces nearby.</p> <p>I urge SPS to not succumb to the tyranny of the loud-yet-minority voices on this subject and do what is right for the children in this high population schools. Investing in our children is the right thing for our community, and equitable resourcing is the mission and mandate of the city and SPS. Let's live up to it.</p>

Date Received	Description
12/6/2024 10:17:09 PM	<p>I'm writing in support of a turf field at Wallingford park.</p> <p>Currently the park is rarely used, and those who do use it, treat it as a dog park.</p> <p>A turf field will benefit thousands of kids who need somewhere for recess, PE and after school sports.</p>
12/6/2024 9:31:44 PM	<p>Build a full field at Wallingford Playground. The park is a mess otherwise and the schools need more fields.</p>
12/6/2024 9:01:20 PM	<p>I'm in favor of converting Wallingford grass area to a turfed field. Current grass is so poor -- muddy, spotty grass, dog poop, potholed --bas to be unusable. A turf field covering the whole field area, without a tall fence and without lights seems the most sensible solution/compromise! A half field is better than nothing but might as well make a bigger field that cover all the cruddy grass.</p>

Date Received	Description
12/6/2024 8:44:59 PM	<p>I'm a parent of students at both Hamilton and Lincoln high school, and am frustrated by a process that is seemingly adding years of delay to add playfields adjacent to the campuses of both schools. Creating and activating a multi use field is a student and community need.</p> <p>For the 12 years I lived near Wallingford Park prior to having a middle school student, the field space was clearly used for 2 things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. recreational soccer practice, and elementary age soccer games in an area that started out as grass in early September and quickly turned to mud. In 1st grade, the kids loved getting filthy so much they changed their team name to "Muddy Pigs." Later as the sports got a bit more serious there were some turned ankles and concerns about field quality. 2. off leash dog play. I understand this is not permitted, and yet it is the other primary functional role of the park. I came to avoid the open space when any dogs were around after my daughter was nipped by an off leash dog on 2 different occasions. A couple of times when my kids branched out and wanted to play tennis, there were also dogs in the tennis courts. <p>We did frequent the park for the playground and the splash park when there were funds to operate it (rarely the case), and I loved seeing small gatherings for group exercise during COVID when indoor spaces and schools were closed.</p> <p>As students at Hamilton, my kids have used the park for Hamilton PE, ultimate practice, and some time at the playground. They have also enjoyed the space during brief periods when they were allowed to eat lunch outside after school began again post-COVID. It was a better lunch spot than the floor of the gym.</p> <p>Currently, my Hamilton student walks or runs to and from Lower Woodland for soccer and track practice. They often run or walk with very heavy backpacks that include laptops and books. It extends the duration and logistical challenge of practice commitments and there are times when the kids are on their own when it's pretty dark out. I feel more OK with my daughter doing this now in 8th grade but I was not comfortable with it in 6th grade.</p>

Date Received	Description
	<p data-bbox="541 267 1816 357">My Lincoln student has her own sports commute difficulties as a swimmer, but has also commuted to Lower Woodland for Lincoln PE. Honestly, she preferred having the "down time" of the school-to-Lower Woodland commute to chat with friends, but I know it takes away from the PE teachers' lesson plans.</p> <p data-bbox="541 446 1890 633">I'm only at Lower Woodland after school occasionally to pickup kids from middle school practice, but it's a zoo with fields occupied by multiple groups simultaneously, or runners getting in each other's way at sports events like cross country and soccer. The parking lot is chaos with buses and parents and kids. Even though I do love the connection to schools in west and south and north Seattle that kids have when they need to do a home track meet or home soccer game far from where they live, it takes up a lot of time. There just aren't enough fields across the city, period.</p> <p data-bbox="541 722 1890 933">Seattle as a city and SPS so often send the message to our K-12 students that they don't matter as much as other constituencies. Of course this includes the current funding realities - but the COVID experiences too are still raw: needing to stay at home and have limited instruction, being able to return to school for limited periods to be with teachers but not be able to learn from them, the restrictions on being able to use the physical space of the school campus. Right now, the Lincoln students know they are unable to use Memorial Stadium field for sports because the World Cup opportunity finally motivated city leaders to improve a Seattle Public Schools field for use by mixed groups (like people who need to use restrooms, or people with mobility challenges).</p> <p data-bbox="541 1031 1879 1120">Delaying the commitment to build a field or capitulating to Wallingford neighbors that would prefer not to live near playfield activity just sends that signal again. Please push forward quickly with a commitment to extend outdoor playfield space close to both schools.</p> <p data-bbox="541 1209 1858 1307">p.s. I know not that many parents went to the public meeting about this. They were outnumbered by people with more flexible time. My husband and I weren't able to go because of our work, elder caregiving, and kid commitments (including driving kids around to sports fields in other corners of the city and beyond).</p>

Date Received	Description
12/6/2024 8:42:43 PM	As a Wallingford resident and a parent of kids at Hamilton (and Lincoln next year), I'm disappointed so many of my neighbors were so resistant to the original plan, which I think would have preserved some important parts of the park and improved other parts that are really subpar (including the bathrooms!). It does make me wonder if dogs get higher priority than kids, but given where things are at, a partial field as an interim is better than nothing.
12/6/2024 8:04:10 PM	Yet another neighbor here to say I think a full turf field will benefit the entire community! On the sunniest of winter days lately I have been seeing the field almost empty. The mud makes it unsafe for kids and seniors to play and walk in, making turf a win for all. I'm saddened to see so many neighbors who are highly vocal in opposition, yet seemingly not actively using the field. Please, do not make this another Seattle 'equity' situation where the solution is a lose/lose, when it could easily be a win/win!
12/6/2024 5:56:26 PM	Hi - We are a Wallingford family with kids in Hamilton and Lincoln. We understand the proposal by SPS to create new turf space for school practices and other activities. We are very supportive of the plan overall. We love Wallingford park as residents and also like the idea of expanding the park's capabilities to better serve students as well. We need to continually evolve our community resources and be flexible to accommodate diverse needs. We think adding turf playfields to the park does this, while still maintaining the playground and other key elements used by the broader community. Thanks for listening.
12/6/2024 5:37:11 PM	I support adding a full turf football/soccer field in Wallingford Park. It is unacceptable for Lincoln High School to be the only high school in the district without a field. The field will be a shared community asset.
12/6/2024 5:19:31 PM	<p>Dear Seattle Public Schools,</p> <p>I am writing to express my support for the proposed turf soccer/football field at Wallingford Park. This project will create a much-needed resource for Lincoln High School, Hamilton Middle School, and the surrounding community. A field like this can serve as a shared space for athletics, recreation, and community activities, enhancing the quality of life for residents of all ages.</p> <p>Turf fields are critical for ensuring reliable access to play spaces, especially in our weather. They allow more consistent use by reducing cancellations due to rain and field wear. This project would expand opportunities for youth and adult sports programs, which are proven to benefit physical health, teamwork, and community engagement.</p> <p>While I understand concerns from neighbors about potential impacts, I believe these can be addressed through thoughtful planning—such as managing field schedules, lighting, and the selection of environmentally sound turf materials. With these steps, the field can meet the needs of both schools and the broader Wallingford community.</p> <p>Thank you for your work on this important project, and I hope to see it move forward.</p>

Date Received	Description
12/6/2024 4:50:46 PM	<p>Writing to say I am fully in support of a full & lighted turf field being built at Wallingford Park. This will serve students at two schools, as well as the community as a whole. We need more usable space for recreation with our growing population, and unfortunately a grass field can't take all the wear & use in our rainy climate. Please help make this happen! I don't think neighbors who want this to be an extension of their yards should be listened to - of course they will fight for a dark & quiet park across from their house. I hope SPS and the parks dept have the vision of knowing how to best use this space to its utmost. A dark, muddy, empty field all winter long could become a turf & lighted space that is used by many! Hopefully you all will make that happen! Thanks for your energy toward this amazing vision.</p>
12/6/2024 4:24:12 PM	<p>I am supportive of a full turf football/soccer field in Wallingford Park for Hamilton Middle School and Lincoln High School (as well as the community) to use. It is unacceptable that Lincoln High School is the only high school in the district without an athletic field. This would be a shared community asset.</p>
12/6/2024 3:47:28 PM	<p>I am in full support of creating sports fields for Hamilton and Lincoln HS students to use. I have students in both schools and routinely have to drive them to practices throughout the north end of the city and at start times as late as 7:30 pm. From my observation the current park is mostly used as an unapproved off-leash dog park. There have been many negative incidents in the park from off leash use. The area should be used for school sports as a priority, especially because neither school has a real field for athletics.</p>
12/6/2024 2:45:24 PM	<p>I write to you as a parent of a current Hamilton Middle School student that is involved in school sports and will likely continue to participate in school sports once matriculating to Lincoln.</p> <p>While I appreciate that there are differing views from both the local neighborhood community and within the school community (some Hamilton sports teams currently utilize the park and would lose access), the lack of dedicated sports fields for BOTH Hamilton and Lincoln provides a disservice to our students.</p> <p>I understand that Lincoln will have priority use of the converted Wallingford playfield. While this addresses an issue for Lincoln, it does not fully address the issue of field access for all Lincoln sports in a season that need an outdoor field (e.g. Football, Girls Soccer in the fall, Ultimate). Consideration should be given to finding additional local space for BOTH Hamilton and Lincoln sports activities.</p> <p>Addressing the community opposition to converting Wallingford playfield to a dedicated sports ground, if we look to Loyal Heights Playfield and other similar fields, the local communities appear to utilize these without much reservation. If Wallingford were to be converted to a sports field, keeping these fields accessible to the community is paramount. Fields should not be locked behind a gate like at Ingraham and Jane Adams.</p>

Date Received	Description
12/6/2024 2:33:52 PM	<p>Hello- Please build a full size field at Wallingford Park. A half size field is a waste of community resources. Please don't let a small group of noisy dog owners (who should not be in the park anyway) dictate the conversation. Thank you for considering.</p> <p>Parent of Hamilton and Lincoln students</p>
12/6/2024 2:25:21 PM	<p>Hello - I am writing in support of creating a turf field at Wallingford Park that would be utilized by the community, including the schools (Hamilton and Lincoln).</p> <p>I have lived in the area for nearly 15 years, and raised my kids here. My toddlers went to The Exploration Academy in the Wallingford Center and used the park as part of their daily routine. From the plans I have seen there will be continued space for preschool age kids and the community to continue to use the park. This should not deter the plan for an improved playfield.</p> <p>When Wallingford Park was used for Rec soccer my kids played games on the muddy and uneven field. It was a Seattle experience, though not always safe. An improved field may become available to the younger kids (with smaller field requirements) for Rec soccer. The improved surface without dog poop would be a huge benefit.</p> <p>We have had picnics and birthday parties at Wallingford Park. We will continue to be able to do so with a new playfield.</p> <p>I now have students at Hamilton and Lincoln. They walk through the park regularly, and have used it as outdoor space for school. The green/grass area is not really useable due to the destruction from the dogs (in the most west part of the park - not used by toddlers and preschools for the same reasons)</p> <p>SPS and those supporting the new playfield have worked hard to amend plans for those opposing a playfield. The compromises have been great, and reasonably address the concerns. Currently the space is often muddy, uneven and used as an illegal dog park making it entirely unusable for the majority of the community. Cleaning it up and using it for daytime sports seems like a huge bonus for all in the community. It will decrease the need for</p>

Date Received	Description
	transporting kids to other fields for practice and keeps our kids in the community. The benefits clearly outweigh the concerns.
12/6/2024 2:23:48 PM	I am writing to give my full support to the building of a turf field at Wallingford Park. It is critical that this space be developed to be of more use to both Lincoln and Hamilton students. It is wasteful and dangerous to make all of these students commute from school to other facilities to practice anything outside. In addition, the Wallingford Park grass field is completely worthless for most of the year. It is a bucket that holds water and any use after rain ruins the field for weeks. I had many games with my kids in youth soccer that were creating injuries or unable to be used for the stated purpose of kids at play. A turf field gives even more opportunity for youth sports outside of school activities. I have heard it is moving to a half field instead of full and would say even that is a mistake. You need to make this a fully functioning sports field. You can do that with a small park and a walking trail around the outside, keep a park - - all with some creative design. This is a huge moment to solidify the future use of this space for more people. Families and kids can still enjoy this space, dogs can still run around in the early morning, etc. It is the responsibility of the city to come through for the schools. Please get this done as big as possible.
12/6/2024 2:18:52 PM	I'm for the turf field at Wallingford park. It will be usable by all.

Date Received	Description
12/6/2024 1:21:12 PM	<p>I am a resident in Wallingford and have a daughter who has graduated through SPS, attended Hamilton and used the park for soccer games and practices while in elementary school. I am opposed to adding turf to the open grass area of the park. Using half of the grass area to create a half-field of turf would reduce the usefulness of the whole grass area for all the structured and non-structured activities that rely on a single consistent surface across the field. Activities that occur on that surface now and rely on a consistent soft surface are Ultimate practice and games (by Hamilton students as well as adults), kids soccer and practice, adult volleyball, badminton, kids impromptu games involving running, rolling on the hill and especially chasing balls. Dividing up the open space into 2 spaces and uses would reduce the usefulness of the park for the sort of activities that green open space invites. The park is already small, please do not make it's open space smaller.</p>
12/4/2024 9:32:50 PM	<p>Dear SPS—I attended the Nov 20 meeting and found it confusing and divisive. A half turf field is no better than the original proposal to my mind. What is so difficult about understanding that we need to protect our green spaces, especially given the fact that this park is the only one in the area accessible to seniors and those with young children who live near by????</p> <p>Lincoln HS has never had the space required for a school of its size. Please reconsider, leave Wallingford Park alone and look to the several excellent alternative sites for LHS athletics.</p>
12/4/2024 8:38:38 PM	<p>Can you please provide an update on what the exact next steps are that you will be following for this project and our tax dollars?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the next step in terms of proposing the half field at Wallingford? Will you be engaging with the community further? 2. Will community members be given a chance to provide further feedback on this proposal before you submit it officially to SPR? 3. Will the public be able to engage with SPR about the proposal? 4. Where will the transparency come into this process? <p>100% against the way our tax dollars are being managed here - especially for a field Lincoln doesn't even want. And 100% against the field at Wallingford park.</p>

Date Received	Description
12/4/2024 8:24:35 PM	<p>Dear Seattle Public Schools Leadership, I am writing regarding your proposal to convert Wallingford Playfield into a dedicated athletic facility for Lincoln High School and Hamilton Middle School. As a resident who lives directly across from the park and visits it almost daily with my three-year-old daughter, I must express my deep concern not just about the proposal itself, but about how it reflects on the values you claim to teach our students. You speak often about modeling good behavior for students. Yet here you are, coming into our neighborhood five years after Lincoln's reopening to drastically alter a park that has served our community for over 100 years. You're going back on multiple explicit assurances made during Lincoln's renovation that the school would use other facilities and leave our park intact. What lesson does this teach our children about keeping promises and being good neighbors? You frame this as an equity issue because other schools have dedicated athletic facilities. But this fundamentally misunderstands what equity means. You're proposing to take a vital community asset away from general public use – including our most vulnerable neighbors – and restrict it primarily to organized sports teams that already have multiple alternative venues. The families who would lose access to this space are precisely those with the fewest alternatives – apartment dwellers, low-income families, and those who rely on walking access to recreation. You tell us the park won't fundamentally change. But we live here. We use this park every day. We know exactly how it will change. The reservation system and athletic scheduling would mean the park would be dominated by organized sports nearly every afternoon, evening, and weekend. The constant presence of competitive athletics in a permanently marked artificial turf environment would make this space unwelcoming for small children, elderly neighbors, and others seeking the calm community environment that has defined this park for generations. It's particularly frustrating that you have full-time paid staff and consultants pushing this proposal using our tax dollars, while our community must rely on volunteer efforts from busy families and elderly residents to defend our park. You have institutional power and money behind your effort to fundamentally change our neighborhood, while dismissing the very real concerns of the people who actually live here and use this space daily. The right thing for this community is to preserve this park as the inclusive, accessible green space it has always been. As Wallingford transitions into an urban village with increased density and more affordable housing, this accessible green space becomes even more essential. Don't hide behind false claims about equity while taking away one of our neighborhood's most precious community resources. We strongly support Lincoln and Hamilton students having proper athletic facilities. But this shouldn't come at the expense of one of our city's most precious green spaces. Please work with our community to explore alternatives that would add to Seattle's recreational assets while preserving what makes Wallingford Playfield special.</p>

Date Received	Description
12/4/2024 7:14:41 PM	<p>Hi--</p> <p>I am a parent of three kids in SPS (two at Lincoln, one at BF Day). I am writing in strong support of building a full-size (not half size!) soccer field at Wallingford Playfield. The location is so perfectly close to both Hamilton and Lincoln, and would allow students an easy walk to practice/games after school, without having to drive and park (a barrier to equity, as not all students have cars), also without losing precious winter daylight during that commute.</p> <p>As one of the largest high schools in Seattle, Lincoln's students are packed into an impossibly tight space, as are the students at Hamilton. PE classes take place either after a long walk to Woodland Park or in a tiny indoor space. We know that our kids benefit from space to play, and we know--as state champions in soccer!--that a soccer field in this location would be incredibly appreciated and put to great use.</p> <p>I hear that there are a few well-organized neighbors who prefer to walk their dog in that park, and so oppose the construction of a full field. I cannot abide by the hoarding of public lands for the interests of a few; we are talking about the measurable good of literally thousands of students (Lincoln plus Hamilton) as opposed to a few dozen dogwalkers. And if the concern is parking, of which there is no evidence of an additional burden? Homeowners do not own the public streets on which they park. If they need their parking guaranteed, they can use their driveways. I live near Greenlake, where lots of people come and park--so be it! You can't live in the heart of a thriving city and expect it to act like a suburb.</p> <p>Here is why I am opposed to the half field proposal: it doesn't solve the problem of these students needing a space for practices and games. In a levy a few years ago, we ALREADY PAID for the cost of creating a FULL field for our students. Why would we shrink it to a half field now? The only reason I can see to do so would, again, be to prioritize the wishes of a few homeowners near the park, instead of an investment in the success and well being of our kids in public schools. When we look at all the challenges SPS faces right now, here is an easy way to say yes to our kids, instead of no.</p> <p>Thank you for your time. mother of three SPS student-athletes</p>
12/4/2024 4:55:37 PM	<p>I am confused as to why Lincoln/SPS is using a \$5 million levy to build a new football field, for a very limited range of students, meanwhile reducing community access to community green space - when SPS recently proposed shutting down 5 local schools for next year to save that exact same amount: \$5 million dollars. Now that there is significant backlash against SPS trying to take over a community park, SPS is proposing a bandaid of building *both* a smaller turf field at the public park (which they admit will not meet their needs), while also building more extensive full resources at Woodland.</p> <p>This sort of fiscal mismanagement is alarming, and is clearly part of why these schools are facing difficulty with meeting their own budget. Do not waste valuable resources on a half-solution when SPS currently faces a budget crisis, for this exact dollar amount.</p>

Date Received	Description
12/4/2024 11:19:57 AM	<p>I want Lincoln H.S. athletes to have a practice area, but not to provide it by taking away a space from the community, including, of course, other children. Furthermore, let's not teach our children that all outdoor spaces should be free of grass and mud. These things should be part of growing up, and probably were for any adults reading this.</p>
12/3/2024 2:59:55 PM	<p>December 2nd Comments</p> <p>My name is -- and I've lived in Wallingford for 46 years, including working at Hamilton Middle School for 10 years. SPS's proposal to irrevocably change the function of Wallingford Playfield Park from community use and access into the mainly exclusive use and access of a small percentage of the community is not legal. It is not what the grantors intended when they made their donations a hundred years ago, and there are covenants to protect it. Yes, times change - and they've actually changed in the direction of needing accessible green space even more as more families and fewer yards populate this neighborhood.</p> <p>While SPS and SPR have backed off on the 85% attempted takeover, it was done in such a slipshod and disingenuous manner that we should now neither trust nor consider the new "mini-proposal" which abandons their stated primary requirement. Half-of-a-field would not provide a dedicated practice field. Now they merely want to permanently destroy our community's natural green space to temporarily relieve the pressure on needing to commute until their new field gets built.</p> <p>Artificial turf cannot be recycled and thus is consigned to a landfill after its useful life of 8-15 years, making it unsuitable for a circular economy. The plastics from the synthetic grass blades do end up down stream in the oceans (See: Environ Pollut. 2022 Oct 1; 310: 119841.; also: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749123010965).</p> <p>The consensus is not yet in on whether artificial turf reduces or increases injuries to athletes (See:Turf vs. Grass Injuries, Mass Brigham General, 01/30/2024).</p> <p>Cork substrate merely mitigates the heat dome effect when compared to rubber pellet substrate.</p> <p>More families in more townhomes without yards means that we need more green play space within walking distance. Local seniors need a green space to walk to. Given the scarcity of this resource, it is the students who elect to participate in a particular sport that should be the ones to commute,.</p> <p>The fact that SPS and SPR have still failed to propose any specific schedule for athletics use of the field, combined with my experience coaching my own Special Olympics athlete while trying to find fields that can be regularly scheduled, informs me that the schedules for SPS plus weekend scheduled athletics clubs means that the field would basically be unavailable for the other members of the community.</p> <p>Combine all of this with the Mayor's zoning plan for Wallingford, and you can't be seriously entertaining a plan to</p>

Date Received	Description
	<p>reserve this resource for the exclusive use of such a small percentage of the community.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

Date Received	Description
12/3/2024 12:59:53 AM	<p>I continue to have grave concerns regarding the legality and equity of the plans being pushed through that convert the playfield into turf specifically reserved for (in this order): Lincoln HS boys athletics-LHS other athletics-Hamilton MS athletics-Reservable for league sports after hours. I also don't trust SPS to keep their word read: of they get a 1/2 field, I believe they will eventually try again to get the whole park. It is documented that they said they would NOT try to put a field on the Wallingford Playfield, and yet, here we are!</p> <p>Legally, the proposal is questionable. The school district has no legal right to that land and the parks department cannot legally give the rights to them.</p> <p>Societally, it is inequitable. Access to greenspace w/in 5 min walk from home for all community members is the law. Taking the park for organized sports from 8am-10pm, removes the accessibility of that greenspace.</p> <p>Parking for residents surrounding the park is already impacted by school parking. Organized events after school hours will make it impossible for residents to park when they come home from work.</p>
12/3/2024 12:26:24 AM	<p>It's hard to find a good place for a sportsfield for Hamilton and Lincoln. I was looking forward to having lighting at Wallingford playfield, which would greatly expand how much the field could be used. This goes for Hamilton ultimate, maybe soccer, perhaps Lincoln sports too, as well as community rec soccer (Woodland Soccer Club, SYSA).</p>
12/2/2024 5:18:13 PM	<p>A few thoughts:1) Wallingford will grow a lot in the short and long term given the plan to increase density. This will mean more families with kids who need a playground2) Student populations are decreasing, at least for the short term3) There are alternatives to using the Wallingford playing field as a sports field. They are at Woodland Park, with existing sports fieldsPlease acknowledge the city's commitment to maintaining neighborhood quality of life while increasing density by shifting the location of this sports field to a more reasonable location. Thank you -</p>

Date Received	Description
12/2/2024 3:08:30 PM	<p>After the 11/20 meeting, I am no longer supportive of the half field option, though it remains clearly better than the full. I am primarily concerned with the lack of trust engendered with the whole process and what feels like Russia taking Crimea (SPS will just come back for the rest later, with a "why not?").</p> <p>I feel that the explanations given for the half and full-size don't acknowledge the downsides of the project (doesn't fully serve LHS athletics, doesn't have any application as striped/proposed, no explanation on how reserving would work) have given me greater skepticism on the project success than before.</p> <p>For the community, it scars the park, and feels like Russia taking Crimea (you'll be back for the rest later). I'm not clear on the legal ramifications either, confused as to why this is a rushed community vs. community process before clearing out any of those obstacles.</p> <p>For the schools' PE usage, I would hope that Seattle Parks can explain why drainage doesn't work here, or invest into making the grass field something usable. I haven't seen the mower or dirt work happen at all this past year, and I run Green Lake where 1) the field isn't always the best, and 2) it's always happily used by a plethora of parties. I personally grew up in Sammamish, where all our fields were grass and it wasn't an issue for the kids.</p> <p>I'd also suggest HMS look at updating the current full-cement basketball court for opening up a wider variety of activities. Not sure if 3 10' basketball hoops are optimal usage there.</p>
12/2/2024 9:02:44 AM	<p>I'm 100% opposed to a synthetic field at Wallingford Park that would IN ANY WAY further restrict access to the community. While I appreciate that the NEW proposed half-field will NOT include lighting, the permanent markings on the field are MORE THAN UGLY in such a natural, PRESERVED setting. Those unnecessary markings (yes, I grew up with little plastic cones marking sidelines and yd lines) might make the park more 'sellable/rentable' to outside groups, leaving our exploding community without freely accessible space to PLAY! Little cones are perfectly acceptable for PE classes and after-school middle school programs. In fact, it probably helps the students understand the rules and responsibility they have in respectfully maintaining COMMUNITY outdoor space. Wallingford Park cannot and should not be 'claimed' by Hamilton or LHS...it belongs to WALLINGFORD! Furthermore...SPR needs to figure out how to effectively maintain the field that they configured! If we need a dog play area to protect the field, then build it! I guarantee that the Wallingford Community dog owners would HAPPILY contribute to the effort. See attached photo of a simple (and turfed) example.</p>

Date Received	Description
12/1/2024 11:30:50 PM	I do not support the proposal for a half sized field at Wallingford park without lighting. This doesn't meet the intent of the project or the levy. Seattle Schools should not be spending resources on a field that won't work for Lincoln students. The proposed half field won't support any additional use of the park beyond what it provides at this time (PE). This doesn't meet the intent. Please look to a permanent solution that will actually be a resource for Lincoln sports and meets the field needs in the levy that taxpayers supported.
12/1/2024 8:22:54 PM	<p>To whom this may concern,</p> <p>I've lived in Wallingford since 2002 and two blocks from the park. Love having it near and have used it in so many ways. I am for the turf field. I have a 15 and 12 yr old who both attend Hamilton and Lincoln. They both participate in ultimate frisbee and soccer. That field has never been a field - the grass is never grass and there are holes that create hazards. It's mostly a dog park and in the summer a place to toss a ball or have a picnic or gathering. Those things can still happen with turf with more rules yes, but it means with more respect to the area. Experiencing what it's like for sports teams to acquire fields these days and for parents traveling all over town to take kids to practices, there is a huge need for more fields that are safe and near by their schools and homes. Our neighborhood is seeing big changes and this is part of urban living!!</p>

Date Received	Description
11/30/2024 7:48:10 PM	<p>I've heard all your arguments and seen your new plan and I'm still against a synthetic field at Wallingford Park.</p> <p>Yes, I hear people saying that a grass turf is harder to maintain, but I don't buy it. I think you're taking a short-cut that's bad for everyone.</p> <p>You think dogs won't defecate on plastic turf, too? I hear from people living with both dogs and plastic turf that this idea is more fantasy than reality.</p> <p>But the real point? It is absolutely possible to have real grass turf and keep it in good condition. Even in this climate.</p> <p>That would be the win-win here -- you'd get no argument from me about that plan.</p> <p>But Parks & Rec needs to do the work to make that happen. Do that work, and in 8-10 years you do NOT need to buy another synthetic turf. You do NOT need to put a huge amount of unrecyclable plastic, cork, and silicon into the dump. You are NOT filling sewers with the chemicals that have to put on that synthetic turf over the seasons to suppress weeds to prevent that ground from trying to reassert its natural state.</p> <p>And you are NOT asking kids and adults to inhale silicon dust in the dry, hot summers, threatening health.</p> <p>For all of us who use this park, we get to keep using it, in the natural state that it has been in for 100 years.</p> <p>Please don't put synthetic turf in our park. Instead, do the right thing: fix the grassy field for use by everyone. The</p>

Date Received	Description
	<p>dog problem, the mud -- these are solvable problems.</p> <p>Do the work. Don't just coat the park in plastic.</p> <p>Keep our park a PARK.</p>
11/30/2024 5:29:38 PM	I support the proposed athletic turf field at Wallingford Playfield. It would be a huge benefit to the students at Hamilton and Lincoln.
11/30/2024 11:12:43 AM	I am opposed to changing the Wallingford playfield into turf. I am concerned about the environmental impacts of turf and believe it would change the natural feel of the park to change a section into turf with permanent lines on it. I would rather SPS invest in better upkeep of the grassy space for the students to practice on and find an alternative location for a full field, like behind Lincoln or woodland park. It isn't fair to reduce the community use of the field for the benefit of a small subset of students who play sports. Thank you for taking into account community feedback.

Date Received	Description
11/29/2024 11:07:56 PM	<p>Hi, Let's try much harder preserve some of the green space that is disappearing around us in Seattle. I lived in NYC for a decade and every park there was covered in astroturf, I saw how many injuries it caused for players and how hard it was to maintain. I'm hopeful that we can preserve Wallingford park as it is and find a way to maximize usage of other playfields that already exist for organized sports. As someone who grew up here then moved away for a long time I'm mystified by our desire to expunge the very things that makes our city unique. Seattle can do density better and keep its emerald city vibe. Let's not lose it one park at a time.</p>
11/29/2024 6:52:12 PM	<p>SPS should leave Wallingford Playfield alone - it is a community asset that is used by all ages for multiple purposes.</p> <p>Over the years, SPS has had several opportunities to proactively address Lincoln High School's need for an athletic field. Robbing Peter to pay Paul is not the way to do it. Leave Wallingford Playfield alone.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
11/29/2024 10:08:16 AM	<p>I can't fathom why Wallingford playfield would not be upgraded with turf to benefit the thousands of children community members who could benefit. Please upgrade the field to the original proposed full field with lights. The community would significantly benefit from this. Don't allow a well organized minority of community members to sabotage this vital upgrade to the neighborhood.</p>
11/28/2024 2:03:57 PM	<p>The half field option at Wallingford Park seems to strike an appropriate balance between all users of the park.</p>
11/28/2024 1:54:52 PM	<p>As a community member for 15+ years and parent of students at both BF Day Elementary and Hamilton Middle school, I strongly support redeveloping Wallingford Playfield into a turf athletics field for use by Lincoln high school and Hamilton middle school</p> <p>The current field is not usable for the majority of the year due to poor drainage and damage from consistent dog usage. Even when "usable" the field has holes and other irregularities that are dangers to athletes (i.e. can cause rolled ankles, etc.).</p> <p>I would urge the district to continue with the full field plan, and put in full lighting. Lights are critically important as it gets dark so early in the fall and winter. Lights on turf fields allow them to be usable for the entire year.</p>

Date Received	Description
11/28/2024 1:29:49 PM	<p>As we often use the Wallingford Playfield for exercise and walking, I often notice several teams consisting of multiple players of all genders usually younger than high school at a time using the field for play and practice of activities such as soccer and ultimate frisbee that have reserved the field for their use. At times there can be at least 40 people using the entire field.</p> <p>I do not believe a half field or full field for Lincoln HS at Wallingford Playfield would meet their needs. A half field would not be adequate for an actual 22 player football game. A full field would impact the immediate neighborhood caused by increased traffic, noise, and unavailability to the field for existing users. I believe a half field or full field for Lincoln HS at Wallingford Playfield would be disruptive to the community needs, current uses, and be a disservice to the “all genders” aspect as football is a male dominated sport. I believe any Lincoln HS use at any facility should have to use the same space request process as any other groups and should not be prioritized above any other groups.</p>
11/27/2024 10:33:50 PM	<p>Thank you for proposing the half field instead of a full practice field. I still have concerns about the permanent removal of green space from our densifying neighborhood. Is this half field going to be a scheduled sports field? I anticipate SPS will have it scheduled all daylight hours during the school year and a good portion of daylight hours during the summer, and organized/club sports will book the remainder of available time. Is that probable? That leaves the neighborhood community with much less space for unscheduled casual play and activity in the park. A good chunk of the remaining field is slope so tossing a baseball or throwing a frisbee will prove challenging when shared with other park visitors using the green space. The practice field is better suited on SPS property (such as the parking lot currently used by Solid Ground which is owned by SPS according to the King County’s parcel viewer). Or use part of Lincoln’s parking lot and designate the angled parking on the west side of Lincoln to be additional staff-parking during school hours. Lincoln having a sports field is important and it would be ideal to develop it at Lower Woodland. I do not agree that it’s a necessity for middle and high schools to have sports facilities adjacent to their buildings. Our children attended Hamilton where PE was held in the gymnasium and occasionally the park. It wasn’t an issue with the students or staff then. They attended high school just prior to Lincoln reopening. One attended Ingraham and, like the majority of its student body, did not use any of its sports facilities. The other attended Roosevelt and lettered in 2 sports each year of high school, never using the sports facilities other than the locker room. They went off-campus. Inconvenient but not a deal breaker for my teen. We need to add green space to the neighborhood, not take it away. Build the practice field elsewhere.</p>
11/27/2024 10:05:04 PM	<p>Dear Community Leader, I am a student at Hamilton International Middle School and ever since I was little, I have been going to Wallingford Park. And ever since I was little, the field has been nothing but a mud pit. If we were to convert the field from a mud pit and a turf play field, then Hamilton International middle school and Lincoln high school could use that space to have practices and to have PE. As someone who has had practices for Hamilton. I have had to walk all the way down to Lower Woodland, but it would be much easier to just walk out the doors and have the field right there. Also, I have many friends who play ultimate frisbee for Hamilton and they have had many practices canceled because the field was too muddy. If the field were to convert to a turf field, then the ultimate frisbee team would not have to cancel practices due to the field being too muddy. In summary I believe that the</p>

Date Received	Description
	field should get converted into a turf field because it would benefit many students that play sports for the two schools. Sincerely,
11/27/2024 8:02:09 PM	We have two girls, one of whom just started at Hamilton, the other will start in two years. I cannot imagine a situation where they can't use the playfield for Ultimate practice, or have to play on turf (which is awful for the environment). We make twice weekly use of the playground at the playfield, minimum, and have started tennis with our kiddos there. Please do NOT convert this entire playfield to a turf oriented monster that's unavailable for the community and for the girl sports that already practice and play there multiple times a week.
11/27/2024 7:34:31 PM	<p>Dear SPS,</p> <p>I attended the community meeting on November 20th. I don't think half of a field is a suitable option. It pleases no one. I think there are still other options (the gravel field at the Zoo on 50th strikes me as one option that was not considered in the presentation that was delivered on the 20th.) Maybe it's time to go back to the drawing board?</p> <p>Please allow the community to use the park as it was designed.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

Date Received	Description
11/27/2024 7:24:02 PM	<p>I wanted to share this article from Wallyhood on compromise, as I know the park issue has created some divisions in the neighborhood and with the school. As a parent and neighbor, it's been surprising to watch a SPS-contracted firm present this initially as a "decision" that had been made, which is initially part of what was so surprising to the community and created a significant reaction. SPS could have handled their need for a field much better, but they really came into this basically telling people it was happening, and on a piece of land SPS doesn't even own. I'm also surprised to watch the language and reaction of parents, and staff who are pro-turf basically imply that SPS' needs come before the rest of the community. While I 100% support schools, and athletics, the assumption and attitude here that a football team should just be able to "have" a beloved neighborhood resource, is beyond presumptuous and also a very bad lesson to teach kids about being a "community member". When the Lincoln president spoke, he did not even acknowledge the needs of the community beyond saying the school was part of the community too and they "deserved" to have their needs met. The schools have presented themselves as against the community, rather than compassionately using this as an example to teach kids that they are part of something, and a need they have may not be "best" in the eyes of others, and the extended community they exist in. People who do not support the turf field have been bullied by football parents in the Hamilton and Lincoln Facebook pages. The insults about older people, dog owners, and NIMBYism are embarrassing to see from students, staff, parents and PTA members, and not at all how the wider community has been talking about the children who DO need more resources.</p> <p>Do you not see the irony here in the privilege of the urgency driven by the needs of a football team trying to take over a piece of park land, declaring open green space has "no use"? When the amount they have to spend is literally the same amount that SPS was trying to save by shutting down 4 local schools in this same year? That this field is needed for "their" well being? What about the rest of the multigenerational community that does not play organized sports, nor want every piece of green space to be "turfed" in this city? There also needs to be the acknowledgement that this is a dense city, and not every high school can have "everything". This is not suburbia, and many schools in large urban areas do not have their own fields Privileging male sports and mental health, is exactly the same sort of toxic masculinity our country continues to struggle with in our leadership. Don't recreate this in the schools. Do not take over this park.</p>
11/27/2024 6:54:14 PM	<p>As an athlete and student, do not take over our community park. Athletes are not the only people who use this field, and it's false to say that this will serve more people. What about the kids who don't play organized sports? The kids that read poetry and like to sit outside? This gives athletes priority, and also benefits toxic masculinity of football which kids need less of, not more.</p>

Date Received	Description
11/27/2024 6:51:30 PM	<p>Dear SPS,</p> <p>As a neighbor and parent I am extremely concerned with how poorly SPS has managed the usage of the taxpayer levy to pursue building this field at Wallingford Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Came in poorly prepared and simply stated SPS was going to take over a park and cover it with plastic. - Did not provide basic details up front, but left it open, to whether certain features well-loved and used by the community would be removed. This created unnecessary anxiety for community members, and also pitted neighbors and school against each other. - First presented this as a necessary need for the boys football team as the primary reason this was urgent and needed to happen to take over the field. However the levy is for everyone, and this also created unnecessary concern for the community around the inequity of the situation is displacing other multigenerational, diverse sets of users. - Has proceeded to have back door meetings between the school and SPR without community involvement. - Instead of addressing poor maintenance of the field, such as actually installing drainage and regularly maintaining and enforcing use by dogs, seems to think it's fiscally and environmentally responsible to cover it with plastic turf. - SPS has led a campaign that seeks to present the neighbors as NIMBYs, rather than seeing neighbors as part of the community with the schools, and people who are concerned about SPS trying to change the legal status of the land. If SPS had engaged the neighborhood up front truly in the spirit of working together, much of this confusion would have been avoided. <p>SPS must not install any turf at Wallingford Playground - it is illegal per prior promises, and against the wishes of the rest of the community.</p>
11/27/2024 5:40:18 PM	<p>Your compromise solution is a fair one. I would support a full sized field with no lights and very limited rentals by then[arks department but also respect my neighbors who want to keep the field as small as possible. Half sized field is great,</p>
11/27/2024 5:40:17 PM	<p>Hi, I just want to express my support for a full football/soccer field at Wallingford Park. I think it is important that schedules are negotiated with all stakeholders including nearby residents, Hamilton Middle School and Lincoln High school Athletics. Thanks!</p>

Date Received	Description
11/27/2024 5:30:13 PM	<p>I support keeping the Wallingford park available to the community with playground, wading pool, and picnic area. I also support the addition of a half-size turf field for Lincoln and Hamilton student use but also community use outside of school hours. The existing field is a mess.</p> <p>I am opposed to the full field option, opposed to adding lights, opposed to renting out the field for rec leagues.</p> <p>I have lived in Wallingford for 30 years, before that in lower Fremont. The park has been and still is an important family and neighborhood resource. Thank you!</p>
11/27/2024 5:27:56 PM	<p>I am writing as a Wallingford resident and frequent user of Wallingford Playfield to express my strong opposition to the proposed athletic field at this location. While I agree that Lincoln High School needs a dedicated practice field, it is unacceptable to overtake one of the last remaining greenspaces in our neighborhood due to Seattle Public Schools' (SPS) poor planning when Lincoln was originally re-opened.</p> <p>SPS's own documentation underscores this point. The Environmental Checklist for the Modernization of Lincoln High School (2017) explicitly stated that "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." This was a foundational assumption when Lincoln was reopened, and to disregard this now is both unfair to the community and contrary to the commitments made during the project's approval process.</p> <p>As a Wallingford resident living in a condo, the Wallingford Playfield is one of the few accessible green spaces within walking distance of my home. The playfield is, in many ways, my backyard. Removing this shared community resource, especially as the neighborhood population is set to increase due to upzoning, would be a grave mistake. Parks are vital in denser urban environments, providing space for recreation, community, and mental well-being. The idea of removing park space just as our community grows contradicts the principles of thoughtful urban planning.</p> <p>While some may argue that the current field is underutilized or problematic, that perspective discounts the value it holds for so many of us. Just because the field has issues does not mean it is "useless." This plan effectively represents a permanent annexation of public land for the exclusive benefit of Lincoln High School. A shared-use facility should not prioritize one user group to such an extent that it eliminates access for others.</p>

Date Received	Description
	<p>I strongly encourage SPS and Seattle Parks & Rec to prioritize alternative locations for this field. The gravel lot at 50th and Aurora, for example, could accommodate a full-sized field and meet the school's needs without sacrificing community green space. Additionally, a half field could be constructed on the north parking lot of Lincoln High School. Both options would honor the commitments SPS made in 2017 and preserve Wallingford Playfield as a vital resource for our growing community.</p> <p>I urge you to reconsider the current proposal and protect the limited green space that remains in Wallingford.</p>
11/27/2024 2:17:00 PM	<p>Thank you for the productive meeting at Hamilton Middle school and for clarifying how the field will be funded out of the levy taxes. I believe the new 1/2 field plan, full track at Woodlawn Park and search for a regulation football field elsewhere addresses the entire community in a fair way. Please be fiscally responsible and mindful of taxpayers dollars as you complete this project.</p>

Date Received	Description
11/27/2024 12:36:18 AM	<p>Lincoln High School must find another space for their athletic and not try to utilize Wallingford Park. SPS/LHS committed to practicing at the Woodland Park fields and have games at Memorial Stadium when the school was first reopened. They committed to Wallingford neighbors that they would NOT use our park for their athletic practices, which is also stated in their SEPA permit. LHS needs to identify another space for their athletics and not “displace current use” of Wallingford Park (which is very beloved and well utilized by thousands of Wallingford residents, many living in apartments and condos without yards), as they have chosen not to do at so many other viable options for their athletics (see Paige McGeHee slides attached).</p> <p>Also, the so-called community engagement meeting on 11/20 was terribly managed and obviously biased. A very poor example of how to run a community engagement process with differing opinions by community members. And please consider that a park is for EVERYONE, not just young athletes! What about our hundreds of elderly neighbors? Non-athletes of any age? Free play space for all? We need Wallingford Park to be a natural open space, not a youth athletic field!</p>
11/26/2024 8:51:46 PM	<p>I am writing to voice my strong opposition to SPS's proposal to cover half of Wallingford Park with with a synthetic athletic field with very limited public access. The preliminary drawings presented at the 10/20 meeting show that the bulk of the park will disappear for public use with only a rump of open grass on the eastern edge. This land grab does not resolve Lincoln High's need for a full athletic field but it will negatively impact everyone who lives in the neighborhood with the same issues that a larger field presented: removing the bulk of the tiny bit of park space available to us, not to mention the traffic and noise inappropriate to a residential neighborhood with limited street parking and no buffer zone between the proposed field and homes. Development of Wallingford Park as an athletic field also goes against SPS's pledge to the neighborhood that there would be no effort to appropriate the park with the reopening of Lincoln High. We urge you to retain your commitments and search for and develop an appropriate space in the greater Woodlawn Park / Zoo area. Build the full field that Lincoln High deserves and let the school's neighbors retain our only public green space in Wallingford. The reckless attempt to appropriate the Park is turning school and neighborhood into adversaries. It is so disturbing to see students on bicycles removing concerned citizens' "Save the Park" signs. Please do the right thing by letting the Park be and focusing on a more appropriate space.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>

Date Received	Description
	<p>I'm writing in regard to the proposal to install an artificial-turf field at Wallingford Playfield. A half-field is certainly preferable to a full field in such a small and already crowded area with extensive upzoning on the way, but a lot of information about the half-field proposal is still lacking. I appreciate there is an FAQ online, but much of it relates to the now-abandoned proposal for a full-size artificial field.</p> <p>More detailed, better organized information pertaining to the half-field is needed, including.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will the half field be reserved for student use only during school hours and after-school practice times? Please detail the hours. - Will people be able to reserve field time outside of school usage, or will it be first come, first served? - Will the field be fenced to control access? - Will there be higher fences on the west or north sides of the park to prevent errant balls? - Will the artificial field and the adjacent natural turf be better maintained? The parks department many years ago did some major drainage and other fixes, but the natural turf seems to have been completely neglected for at least the last six years which is why it currently is such a mess for student and community users. -What is the decision-making process and timeline? This was sprung upon the neighborhood by Seattle Public Schools with very little notice, and initially it was very unclear what role Seattle Parks department was playing in a very impactful decision about a city park.
11/26/2024 8:14:13 PM	Thank you for clarifying and providing more information.
	<p>I have been following along on the developments with this. I am very opposed to using Wallingford Park for a school playfield. Furthermore, the idea of putting a half field in there seems more than ludicrous. That is a lose-lose for everybody. We lose our neighborhood open-access used-by-everybody-at -all-times park, and the school gets half of what it needs - a field that is not sufficient and that will have to be replaced with a full-size field somewhere else sooner or later. Why not explore the other options that make way more sense (including using LHS's own land/parking lot to build a field, and leave the park for the ever-increasing number of Wallingford residents?</p> <p>Please, please, please, do NOT ruin our park with this half-a**ed idea.</p>
11/26/2024 7:41:43 PM	Thanks,

Date Received	Description
11/26/2024 6:29:49 PM	<p data-bbox="541 240 789 266">Wallingford Playfield</p> <p data-bbox="541 363 1898 418">I like the plan. A synthetic playfield makes sense. As a 37 year neighbor I've watched the field get muddy and prior efforts to drain failed. We as a neighborhood should do everything thing we can to work with the schools.</p> <p data-bbox="541 516 1793 571">I know this will be a problem for people who let their dogs run in the park unleashed but that is not actually acceptable behavior and they should use the dog park.</p> <p data-bbox="541 669 1835 724">Finally the park playfield is often under used during the day. There is capacity for more use- we are an urban environment.</p> <p data-bbox="541 821 1163 847">Let's welcome and support our schools. Thank you.</p>
11/26/2024 6:26:48 PM	<p data-bbox="541 852 1864 938">My husband and I regularly use the Wallingford Playfield and are strongly opposed to your proposal to convert a good portion of the playfield to an athletic field for Lincoln High School and Hamilton Middle School. There are other viable options that should be pursued.. Converting a portion of the playfield would also be illegal.</p>

Date Received	Description
11/26/2024 4:39:44 PM	<p>I found the meeting at Hamilton on 11/20 frustrating and frankly embarrassing. It left me feeling sour about SPS's public outreach on the matter of Wallingford Playfield Park. Though I'm trying to stay open minded, it made me less likely to support SPS efforts toward a synthetic turf field.</p> <p>A neighbor who attended the meeting later told me she felt sorry for Paige McGeHee, because McGeHee was so clearly out of her depth trying to run the meeting. Others told me that they came to the meeting to get answers, but were shut down when they tried to ask questions.</p> <p>I was there. I heard McGeHee make vague statements about data and timelines, then state as facts things that I know aren't true, leaving me with the impression that she continues to fail to do her homework. Or is she being intentionally misleading?</p> <p>I wonder why SPS has someone so unqualified to conduct their public outreach. This is a poor way to gain community trust in the feedback process.</p> <p>I'd like to bring your attention to the comment line. Vague instructions were given about how to participate. By the time I realized that in order to make a public comment, I had to get to one side of a packed room across hundreds of people, that line of people was already thirty or forty long.</p> <p>And the first ten people of that line were all pro-athletic-field, giving the distinct impression that it had been set up that way.</p> <p>The comment line excluded anyone who couldn't walk or run, didn't hear the poorly given instructions, or who couldn't stand in line for however long it might take.</p>

Date Received	Description
	<p>We had elderly people who wanted to speak but were shut out until much later in the process. In other similar community meetings, elders are encouraged to speak, and even to speak early on.</p> <p>From all this, It would be easy to conclude that the only community members whose public comment matters here the ones who are part of SPS's athletic departments.</p> <p>Next I'd like you to consider the comment time limit, and how unfairly that was enforced. One minute to speak, we were told. And yet that limit was not at all enforced for those first ten people, the SPS athletics people. They were allowed to talk, unrestrained, for many minutes each.</p> <p>The one-minute limit only began to be applied when pro-natural park people began to speak.</p> <p>So SPS gave more time to those who had the SPS preferred position. Whether that was intentional or sloppy, I can't say. But wow, does it look bad.</p> <p>The way the meeting was run and the way the comment line was conducted made SPS and organizers seem biased, disrespectful, ableist, and ageist.</p> <p>This sort of thing erodes public trust. It certainly has eroded mine.</p>

Date Received	Description
11/26/2024 2:03:32 PM	<p>I support the Seattle Parks plan to install a half sized artificial turf field at the Wallingford Playfield/Park. Use shall not be restricted to Hamilton and Lincoln schools and lights should not be installed.</p> <p>I think an all weather surface will increase the use of the park throughout the year.</p>
11/26/2024 12:54:30 PM	<p>I'm concerned that this proposal still gives Lincoln High School and Hamilton exclusive use of the playfield during school hours. Is this true? The website does not make it clear. I strongly oppose giving the field use exclusively to any group, even a public school. I have a toddler and love enjoying the field throughout the day.</p> <p>Will this half field take reservations outside of school hours? If yes, this even further reduces community access to the field and creates a 'pay to play' environment.</p> <p>Overall, I'm still strongly opposed to the proposal. I believe Seattle Parks should maintain the green field so that everyone in the community can continue to benefit and utilize this space to it's fullest. It seems incredibly short sighted to turn over the park to Seattle Public schools. As single family homes turn over and become townhomes and apartments this park becomes even more critically important. Please don't take away our amazing park!</p>
11/26/2024 12:43:26 PM	<p>Just because SPS reduced the size of their proposed turf field for Wallingford Park does not mean that it is automatically a desirable solution instead of a full turf field. The best solution, if there is to be any school-day-use-only field at all, is improvement of the natural turf in a "half field" space, instead of using artificial turf. Fix the field drainage, and put in a new field grass with proper soil and amendments, and then earmark money to maintain it on a regular basis. This fits the goal of having a (PE only) half field and also preserves all of the park as a green space. The Wallingford community is best served by preserving the green space that was created and mandated by law for the use of all.</p>
11/26/2024 12:40:15 PM	<p>I am attaching my concerns (which i wrote in the form earlier). Due to formatting, I thought that the word doc might be easier to read</p>

Date Received	Description
11/26/2024 12:37:31 PM	<p>As a member of the community I have serious concerns regarding the proposed field at the wallingford park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there is an agreement that LHS would NOT use the Wallingford Park. This is in the SEPA Checklist and was signed in order to have Lincoln HS reopened 5 years ago. - when LHS reopened, they knew that they did not have a sports field and should have started to resolve this issue ASAP but rather they did nothing and now are trying to push this thru at the last minute due to bad planning and at the expense of the community. - The new field would be built using money from the BTA V levy, passed by Seattle voters in 2022. In 2021, SPS described plans for a \$5M Lincoln athletic field that would be built with prospective levy money: "SPS is exploring all options ... including the purchase of property. ...No proposals have been made to convert Wallingford Park." - this new field not only violates this agreement but also would severely limit access to the park for the community. - this park has 100 yr history of being put in wallingford for the community - NOT for school activities that impact the use for everyone - the park is used by more and more in the community (with the density of wallingford increasing - apartments and townhomes) ... which have no back yard or greenspace - this park is not solely a sports area - for several in the community this is a chance to be in nature and greenspace (not to be a spectator of a sports event) - this field would severely limit access to the community - I walk through the park early in the morning, the afternoon and evening.... and see several individuals using the park - walking, reading, just sitting and taking in the moment. and talking with neighbors - what impact would this field have on other groups using it and not being part of the neighborhood. concerns on street parking and traffic. There is limited parking in the area already with the new housing and no parking provided - I have serious concerns on the turf and toxicity - what effect does it have on nature, runoff,..... The current condition of the field can be improved but I don't see that anything has been done - laying down plastic turf is not the answer. - if LHS wants a sports field - they should look at locations such as that around 50th which will allow for parking,

Date Received	Description
	<p>spectators etc - and not take a community resource. Yes - it is 5 blocks from the school but that is typical for city schools...again ..LHS KNEW that there was no sports field when they renovated the school.</p> <p>While sports are part of life - it is a part and there are so many other uses and components of this park that this would be taken away... even a half field (when looking at the drawings) takes a large part of the park away from the community and their access</p> <p>Please respect the wishes of those that live in the community. I have noticed that those pushing for the use of the park for school athletics a large majority DO NOT LIVE IN WALLINGFORD or by the park.</p> <p>This resource should be saved - this is why it was developed in the beginning</p>

Date Received	Description
11/26/2024 12:19:23 PM	<p>I have written before but feel the urge to write again after the second public meeting on the topic of the destruction of our beloved and much used park.</p> <p>There was a variety of voices, including many Lincoln school parents and supporters who voiced their abhorrence at the proposed plans to replace much of the park with toxic plastic 'turf' for the football field. Others included persons with small children, families of the immediate neighborhood, esteemed elders (we do care about our elders - don't we?) who will be denied access to this essential space.</p> <p>Note also, as was mentioned but may have gone little noticed, the concern that we are diminishing green space at a time when we are hell bent of increasing the population density in the region, with building up and down Wallingford Ave N inter alia.</p> <p>It is clear after this meeting that the vast majority of people attending - and it was well attended- want to keep their green space as it is, or improved, but not given away to the high school. There was no animosity to the HS itself, but clearly in all the re-org over the last few years it was negligent of them to have missed out on this planning.</p> <p>Notable also is the legality of all this. It seems that it would be illegal, and certainly I for one would be prepared to challenge such a usurpation of the park if the SPS tries to go ahead with it.</p> <p>The High school must look elsewhere, and to me the Woodland park car park is optimal. In the meantime QA bowl, or some other place, but NOT this much needed park.</p> <p>I feel for the High School parents and kids, who put up a good show at the meeting, but bullying one's way through this will not, and should not work.</p>
11/26/2024 11:03:26 AM	<p>Putting an artificial turf field at Wallingford Park, even at a scaled-down size, would permanently alter the character of our beloved neighborhood park. This proposal is one more example of SPS' slapdash decision-making. The district could have long ago built an athletic field on Lincoln's own campus by making use of a portion of the parking lot. I'm a parent of two soccer-playing middle school boys. While they would use the field, it is not fair to others in the community to drastically change the texture of the park.</p> <p>What's more, it's illegal. As The Seattle Times reported on a legal review of Wallingford Park: It was created 100 years ago as a play area for "small children"; was expanded in 1970 as "open space"; and is protected by a 1997 city law that says parks must be preserved for park use. In a 2017 environmental review of Lincoln's renovation, SPS said Wallingford Playfield would not be used for the school's sports programs.</p> <p>Thanks for listening to the voice of the community. A clear majority is opposed to artificial turf at Wallingford Park.</p>

Date Received	Description
11/25/2024 8:54:31 PM	<p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>I'm writing to express my strong support for the proposal to build a full-size synthetic turf field at Wallingford Park for Lincoln High School and Hamilton Middle School. This initiative is crucial for ensuring equitable access to athletic facilities for all students in our district.</p> <p>Currently, Lincoln High School is the only high school in the district without its own athletic field, placing its students at a disadvantage compared to their peers. The proposed field would provide much-needed facilities for both Lincoln High and Hamilton Middle School. As you know, Wallingford Park is also used by Hamilton for PE instruction during the school day since it also has no outdoor field or track for sports or even for its PE classes. Hamilton PE classes currently use the trail on the outside edges of the park when they do their mile runs for class - frequently having to navigate around off-leash dogs, unhoused persons (some of whom have appeared sufficiently threatening to warrant canceling outdoor class activities), mud in the winter, and trash. Building a proper field at Wallingford Park would help ensure that students have equitable access to quality outdoor infrastructure for physical education and athletics. This also aligns with OSPI and SPS policies (e.g., Policy 2200) which require programs and services be developed and placed equitably across the district, and promote equitable access to outdoor physical activity for students. Right now, the students attending Hamilton MS and Lincoln HS do not have equitable access to a safe outdoor space for PE, let alone for school athletics.</p> <p>I challenge every single "community member" who has signed on to support the campaign to fight this initiative to stand up in front of the student bodies of both schools and tell the 2,700+ students how they each use the park and then explain to them why that use is more important than the proposed use by thousands of public school children. All this talk about community members' access for picnics in the evenings and unstructured outdoor play is meant to paint a picture of a park that is heavily used and bustling with people of all ages, races, and socio-economic status frolicking in the grass in the warm sun, throwing frisbees, and having impromptu dance parties with their well-behaved dogs on leashes. This of course, is far from an accurate picture. The reality is that the park is used most by the community in the summer months (when schools are out and the park would be OPEN for public use). Picnicking in November-May? I don't think so. The truth is that the most vocal opponents of this initiative (including the organizers of the campaign) are motivated by their own interests such as wanting to continue using the park to run their dogs off leash since it's closer and more convenient for them than going to the off-leash dog park at Woodland Park. They'd prefer to have 6th graders walk all the way to Woodland Park across busy streets and sometimes in the dark - like they do now. Some neighbors are also probably worried about parking in front of their million dollar houses and others are thinking about the annoyance of having more people (especially teenagers - gasp!) in their neighborhood - especially after dark (double gasp!). These concerns are real but do not come close to justifying depriving 2,700 public school students of their access to a safe outdoor area for their physical education and athletic pursuits.</p> <p>It is important to note that the field will remain open to the public outside of school scheduled hours as well as in the summer months when non-dog related use of the park is in most demand. It is essential to recognize that this</p>

Date Received	Description
	<p>project serves a greater good by supporting youth development and community engagement. The current grass conditions are poor and often unusable due to weather conditions, making the transition to turf not only beneficial but necessary.</p> <p>In conclusion, building a full-size turf field at Wallingford Park is a vital step toward providing equitable physical education and athletic opportunities for our students. It balances community needs with those of our schools, ensuring that everyone benefits from improved facilities.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my perspective on this important matter.</p>

Date Received	Description
11/25/2024 5:20:30 PM	<p>Wallingford will be growing significantly due to upzoning. The community cannot cede any green space. When Lincoln was being reopened, the District was fully aware of the lack of a field, and CLEARLY PROMISED that Wallingford Playfield would not be used for high school athletics.</p> <p>I recognize that fields are important for both the community and the athletes. I understand it is possible to build a full field at Woodland Park; the main downside is less proximity. If someone has to walk five blocks, I strongly think it should be these student athletes, pursuing their extra curricular sport, rather than the community which is many thousands of people larger and includes all ages.</p> <p>While the proposed field does not include the clearly hazardous crumb rubber, the long term health impacts of the top plastic layer are unknown, but it seems likely that they will produce microplastics that negatively impact health of humans and animals. And I want a natural environment, rather than a plastic coated one, in my local park.</p> <p>I am a long time resident of Wallingford (27 years) and my two children attended local public schools.</p>
11/25/2024 3:52:47 PM	<p>Could you please post on the website the 2024-2025 Agreements which allow Hamilton and Lincoln to use the Wallingford Playfield for PE? They are not specifically listed in the 2022-2027 SPR-SPS Joint Use Agreement, but it does describe a process where each school applies annually for its use of SPR facilities, so I assume that you have those agreements on file. We have not been able to find them on the internet. I am trying to make sure that the community has all the facts on the current agreed use of the Wallingford field, so that we can understand the scheduling changes SPS is alluding to if a new turf half-field is installed. Thank you,</p>
11/25/2024 2:33:56 PM	<p>I've been following the 'debate' about where to place the field and as a parent of Hamilton students I can attest for how the only option that would satisfy the needs of the school is for the field to be located in Wallingford playground park.</p> <p>All other options have the same problem as today where the kids have to walk to woodland or bus to seattle center which is both a security and health issue for the kids.</p> <p>We go to Wallingford park frequently and for some of the practices (ultimate freesbe) as well and can attest for 1) the park is almost always empty, 2) it's a mud mess whenever there is a bit of rain and it leads to injuries and sickness.</p>

Date Received	Description
	<p>The comments from people fighting against this are mostly misguided and sometimes deceitful. The park right now is not used except as an illegal off-leash dog park which being so close to a playground is another reason to proceed with the construction as planned.</p> <p>Please don't hesitate to contact me or use any part of this feedback in supporting the construction plans</p>
11/25/2024 1:41:23 PM	<p>Dear SPS / Seattle Parks,</p> <p>I was rather disappointed to see the suggestion to "downsize" the field to half-size. To me, this sounds like a solution where nobody really benefits. Please keep pushing for a full-size field WITH lights at this super convenient location that would serve two (!) large schools by creating direct access without need for walking/transportation.</p> <p>A half-size field is MUCH less than half the value for the student athletes (limited practice options i.e. no real scrimmages and if no lights limited times; and can't have home games i.e. still need to travel to ALL games). At the same time if probably is MORE than half the perceived costs for the community, since there will be construction, the nature of the park will change, there will additional "noise" from field use, and "environmental costs" from synthetic turf. Honestly, my impression from the meeting was that neighbors were mainly trying to push the project elsewhere rather than being against the project (i.e. by suggesting QA bowl, Gasworks).</p> <p>There simply is NO better solution than having the field at Wallingford Park and also building it ASAP!</p> <p>Thank you. (mom to an 8th grade HIMS and 10th grade LHS student)</p>
11/24/2024 6:49:01 PM	<p>Hi there,</p> <p>I just wanted to express my appreciation for the compromise that SPS has proposed regarding placement of a half turf field at Wallingford Park. Initially a full-size turf football field was proposed, but it would have removed unscheduled access to green space from over 85% of a heavily used neighborhood park. A full-size field in use by student athletics from 3:30pm to 7:00pm and then open to reservation by organized sports teams from 7:00pm to 10:00pm would benefit only athletes at the expense of drop-in recreation by the wider community. Lincoln and Hamilton also have a strong need for additional athletic field space, and the half field that SPS has proposed will provide a close, safe space for PE and student athletics, without removing most of the green space/public access to Wallingford Park.</p>

Date Received	Description
	<p>Although neither the pro-full size football field community or the pro-save the greenspace community got exactly what they wanted, both of them benefit from this proposal, and ultimately Lincoln will have even more turf fields than initially proposed (a full-size field at Lower Woodland and a modernized Memorial Stadium in addition to the half field). Thank you for listening to the community and considering both the needs of high school athletes and the wider community!</p>
<p>11/24/2024 6:29:59 PM</p>	<p>I'm a Wallingford resident and a father of three kids ages 8-14. My kids grew up on the playground at Wallingford Playfield, and they all played community soccer there. I have spent multiple seasons coaching both for Woodland soccer and Hamilton's ultimate teams - and Wallingford Playfield was our practice field for all of these, as well as hosting the games for Woodland soccer's younger teams.</p> <p>I reject the premise that there is a community vs school issue here. My kids are students, and this is our neighborhood park. They are students, and we are a part of the community. The proposed improvements would make Wallingford Playfield more useful and welcoming to a larger section of our community for more days and hours per year.</p> <p>It's clear the current field is well loved. In fact, it has been loved to death. A four-season field is a win-win for the whole community, including the schools. Synthetic turf is the only realistic option given the current intensity of use, let alone expected increases in use with a growing population.</p> <p>Synthetic turf is safer too I broke my ankle last year practicing on one of Seattle Parks' poorly maintained grass fields.</p> <p>Lighting is essential, even for a practice field. Look outside these days. For 3 months of the year, it is basically dark by 5:00. Lighting could extend the hours that younger kids can use the playground too.</p>

Date Received	Description
	<p>I very strongly support a synthetic turf practice field, with lighting, to allow more of our growing community to benefit from Wallingford Playfield.</p>
<p>11/24/2024 2:28:48 PM</p>	<p>I am writing to communicate my support for the new half-sized field at Wallingford Playfield. I think this is an excellent compromise with the community.</p>
<p>11/24/2024 12:54:02 AM</p>	<p>At the meeting on Nov. 20, I was surprised to hear the presenter say that SPS does not own the "business" parking lot to the east of Lincoln's large north parking lot. The King county tax parcel for this property shows that it is indeed owned by SPS (see attached screenshot). The 2017 SEPA Checklist from the Lincoln remodel confirms this ownership, stating: "SPS plans to renew a lease with the adjacent Solid Ground Building for the 48 parking spaces in the northeast corner of the site."</p> <p>It does not seem that SPS is taking the idea of placing a field their own land seriously if they are not even acknowledging what land they own. Have you requested a serious estimate for the cost of putting a raised playfield with ground-level parking underneath in this large (approximately 450'x150') space directly adjacent to the school? What could be safer or more convenient for both PE and after-school athletics than a field outside Lincoln's doors? The Northwest school in Capitol Hill has an elevated athletic field built by Exxel Pacific, a local company with a huge list of large-scale Seattle projects shown on its website. Building vertically, instead of sprawling horizontally, is an obvious strategy in an urban neighborhood that is rapidly increasing in density. New construction on a level site should be a relatively quick solution.</p>

Date Received	Description
11/23/2024 7:27:50 PM	My daughter is a Hamilton student. We support building a full sized football field at Wallingford park. It is in the best interest of the school students from Hamilton and Lincoln and is the best use for this public space, which right now is not very usable in its current state for anything. Please proceed with a full sized football field. Thank you for investing in our students and community!
11/23/2024 7:22:37 PM	I am a student at Hamilton international middle school and I think that the turf remodeling is necessary for PE and out of school activities. Wallingford playfield is always muddy and there's always dogs so it makes it impossible to have any physical activity on it.
11/23/2024 6:08:14 PM	I am in 7th grade at Hamilton Middle School and want a better field to be build in Wallingford Park. In PE we use this field a lot and I think upgrading will benefit everyone. I play soccer outside of Hamilton and turf fields are way more fun to play on because it can be easier to run, pass, etc. Hamilton uses fields for multiple sports, not just in physical education. In all, I strongly encourage a turf field to be build for Lincoln High school and Hamilton Middle School to help everyone in the Wallingford neighborhood.
11/23/2024 6:02:10 PM	<p>I am writing to support building a turf field at Hamilton. I think it would be a great idea for many reasons.</p> <p>First, a turf field at our school would be much closer to walk to compared to the fields we use now. It would save us time and make it easier for everyone, especially on days when it's raining and gets dark early.</p> <p>Second, having a turf field at our school with lights would be safer because playing in the dark can be dangerous, especially if it's a muddy field, kids can slip on the mud and get injured. Also it would be a lot safer because when walking to Lower Woodland, traffic can be bad at 50th/Stone Way/Green Lake Way intersection.</p> <p>Third, the field could benefit neighborhood kids and lots of different sports. It can help for Lincoln, Hamilton, and recreational leagues.</p> <p>Finally, a turf field would be in better condition year-round. Grass fields can get worn down and uneven, making them harder to use for sports. Turf would always be ready to play on, no matter the weather or how much it's used. I hope you'll approve this plan. It would be closer to walk to, safer, benefits lots of people, and better condition year-round.</p> <p>Thank you for your time! Sincerely, 6th Grade Student</p>
11/23/2024 5:54:40 PM	I support making a full sized football field at Wallingford park. My daughter is on the Lincoln cheer team so I've been to my share of football games around the city. It would be amazing to have a true home field. My younger daughter is at Hamilton and would benefit from a better field for PE now and through high school. I understand some neighbors will push back because they like to walk their dogs but that's not the best use of this public land. Please don't let the loudest voices win when it's clearly in the vets interests of our students for years to come.
11/23/2024 5:50:05 PM	<p>A parent of a middle schooler at Hamilton and high schooler at Lincoln, we are in support of the proposed sports field at Wallingford Park. The plan presented with a half field is an excellent solution that provides a compromise with benefits to the school while maintaining the current use by the greater Wallingford community.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>

Date Received	Description
11/23/2024 5:35:12 PM	<p>Wallingford park must to transform the illegal dog park into a real turf lit field for Hamilton and Lincoln school. The students are part of the community too don't forget about that. They live in the neighborhood and they deserve a real field LIT for practice (due to the weather in Seattle turf is the best option because it can be used all year around).</p> <p>The space is available right next to the school so it must to be used they should be the priority not the dog owner. It's ridiculous the students must walk to woodland for practice every day.</p> <p>Btw: We are all done with the muddy pool of poop or "green space" as some people call it that is currently a rutted out illegal dog park which is not only dangerous for all the kids that play soccer there, but also anyone who wants to do anything on that field without spraining an ankle.</p>
11/23/2024 4:20:39 PM	<p>I just wanted to write my full support for a field at Wallingford Playfield. I prefer a full-size field, but also agree that a half-field would work. A turf field would serve the community youth by accommodating teams from both Lincoln and Hamilton to practice, as well as, local/recreational leagues in the neighborhood. It replaces an unused, muddy, and misused grass field while still retaining the character of the park for others (walking path, playground, etc). I strongly support lights though.</p>
11/23/2024 3:14:32 PM	<p>Thank you SPS for working on a field for our Hamilton MS and Lincoln HS students! I am very disappointed that the full use of Wallingford Playfield was dismissed. This was the best solution, and we need to support our students, our children, especially our public school kids now more than ever. The Wallingford Playfield has never been a dog park and we cannot accommodate those needs without accommodating our children. Please continue to fight for this option.</p>
11/23/2024 2:17:56 PM	<p>I am a parent of a current Hamilton student and a future Hamilton student. I live in Wallingford and have used the park for the playground, wading pool, church picnics and rec soccer for many years. I believe adding turf fields for our middle and high school students would be a great use of the space. I sincerely hope they will be built</p>
11/23/2024 1:03:10 AM	<p>I am a parent of Lincoln and Hamilton students. It would be so nice for the kids and the community to have an athletic field near the schools. Ideally it would be at the Wallingford playfield because that is the closest location and the open field part of the playfield is not well used whenever I run by that park.</p>

Date Received	Description
11/23/2024 12:10:32 AM	<p>I'm in favor of the turf being put in at Wallingford Playfield. I support the full field, but a half field would be better than nothing.</p> <p>I recommend those in charge of the presentations listen carefully to those who oppose the turf field and address them better on the website, mailers, and upcoming presentations. A better visual may also help.</p> <p>Some of the concerns I've heard are:</p> <p>1) Losing amenities. Even though it seemed somewhat clear, there is so much misinformation out there that the point needs to be hammered home over and over in different ways. I.E. Playground, Walking path, picnic area, and playground will still be in place. Maybe better for a few of them.</p> <p>2) Loss of access- Come up with some ideas on how those without kids in organized sports can still have guaranteed access. I.E. agreement with parks for big chunks of unreserved field during different times of the day and a lot in summer. I've heard that people think there will not be available unstructured time with HIMS and LHS PE, Band Practice, After School Sports, and then Parks reservations for other organized sports.</p> <p>3) Trust of SPS- Many in the neighborhood do not trust SPS and feel that promises aren't kept. Many feel frustrated that the topic of the need for a field was brought up in the early days of forming LHS and neighbors were allegedly told that although LHS didn't have a field, they wouldn't take over Wallingford Playfield. I don't know how to address this but seems like maybe the main opposition for those of the Wallingford Playfield Alliance.</p> <p>The first two need to be addressed with some concrete detailed suggestions and put in concrete if all parties agree.</p>

Date Received	Description
11/22/2024 8:40:57 PM	<p>My husband and I fully support a turf field for Hamilton and Lincoln.</p> <p>We have four kids at SPS and they will all go to Hamilton.</p> <p>I am saddened that one-sided misinformation was used to communicate with the older folks home. They deserve to be told the truth and not only provided one side.</p> <p>This location makes it possible for use for PE and is the perfect location.</p>
11/22/2024 8:37:40 PM	<p>I don't understand why community opposed to a football size for middle and high school students. This is the area with no fields at all. It is so frustrating that kids had to walk 15-20 minutes to Woodland for physical activities. The field can be rented to other sports groups and generate income for neighborhood playgrounds. It is selfish not to have the a decent field for the students. Currently there is no home field which give them a disadvantage with other HS</p>
11/22/2024 8:27:41 PM	<p>I think the plan for a full field at Wallingford Park is a great one. I've lived here in Wallingford for 20 years and as I talk to my neighbors they seem overwhelming in support of it. Somehow, I think the opposition is just incredibly loud and motivated. Please go ahead with your plans. A half-field is fine, but I think the full field would be better. It makes sense to try to preserve some things if possible, like the playground, maybe a trail around the field, and some trees, but only if that's possible.</p> <p>The current park, while being idealized by the opposition, is honestly in terrible shape. I'm a local soccer coach, and more than one of my players has turned an ankle in a hole likely dug by an off-leash dog (which aren't allowed). It is a muddy mess 6 months of the year. Any change would be a huge improvement.</p>
11/22/2024 8:25:07 PM	<p>I am writing in support of the proposal for a smaller, half-size synthetic turf field that maintains current community use while supporting Lincoln and Hamilton PE and after school activities. While a full-size field would have been preferable, the half-size field is certainly better than nothing and creates and imminently more useable space for our schools and for our community. We need this. Our kids need this. It doesn't take ANYTHING away from the community, it only builds our resources and creates a more useable space for all.</p>

Date Received	Description
	<p>Restore and maintain the grass to be safe and usable</p> <p>Install lighting</p> <p>Avoid turf</p> <p>Keep this a pristine neighborhood field with playground</p>
11/22/2024 8:19:35 PM	Find a new site for a huge track and field
11/22/2024 8:09:06 PM	<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>An example to support the need for lighting occurred this week. The girls football tryouts were held at lower woodland and were supposed to last until 5:30 (kids can't even get down to the field until 4:00). They started tryouts and the lighting didn't turn on. They had to stop practicing at 4:30. Allowing only 30 minutes of valuable tryout time. Other schools would not experience this inequity and would better support all kids that want to participate in sports. Creating a half field with no lighting doesn't support sports at Lincoln or the intent of this funding. I would ask that the project study the current field needs of all sports teams at Lincoln and assess if this proposal meets any additional needs that aren't already happening at Wallingford park. I don't believe this investment as proposed is an effective use of levy funds and hope that SPS management take a closer review.</p> <p>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>

Date Received	Description
11/22/2024 8:07:15 PM	<p>I am writing to advocate strongly for to have this FULL field turfed for use by both these schools. These kids needs place to move for there physical and mental health and for the community of their schools. Although a half field would be better than nothing, it would not allow any of the many field based teams to play any games there and would restrict what the thousands of kids across both schools in PE are able to do. They do the best they can but its a sad situation for both schools with what they can offer and kids can try out doing sports wise in PE. PLEASE PLEASE convert to a FULL SIZE FIELD!!! Thanks! (parents to Hamilton 8th grader and Lincoln 11th grader and neighbor to Wallingford Park in favor of turfing a full field! so a parent and community member)</p>