

# A Smart and Strategic Approach to Meeting Our Sports Field Needs

Final Report of the City of Davis

Sports Complex Task Force

Presentation: July 19, 2016

# Task Force Appointees

Sports Complex Task Force	
Name	Organization
Kelly McCrory	Davis Little League
Kevin Waterson	Davis Youth Softball Association
Fred Main	Davis AYSO
Laura Hall	Councilmember Appointment (Wolk)
Steve Hampton	Councilmember Appointment (Davis)
Carson Wilcox	Councilmember Appointment (Swanson)
Bill Donaldson	Councilmember Appointment (Lee)
Bruce Gallaudet	Councilmember Appointment (Frerichs)
Will Arnold	Recreation and Parks Commission
Jason Bone	Open Space and Habitat Commission
Dan Carson	Finance and Budget Commission
Alan Humason	Yolo County Visitors Bureau
Josh Lutzker	Independent User Group Representative
Jeff Lorenson	Davis Joint Unified School District (ex officio)

# Our Assignment Included...

- Determining the pros and cons of developing a sports complex or other facilities
- Working with sports groups to define the range of needs for facilities
- Identifying potential partners and funding models for city pursuit of a sports complex
- Research sports complexes in other areas and the lessons of their successes and failures

# How We Accomplished Our Work

- The Task Force held 16 noticed public hearings, including a workshop to hear from sports organizations about their needs
- We conducted a detailed survey of local sports groups and analyzed that data
- We heard testimony and received materials from local and regional experts
- We reviewed prior city studies on this subject

# Key Results of Needs Assessment (I)

- More than 6,000 participants currently in sports teams; hundreds more expected soon
- 86% of participants are under the age of 20
- Many are involved in tournament play; 62% of groups support travel teams and 77% participate in tournaments outside of Davis
- 92% of groups are interested in hosting tournaments

# Key Results of Needs Assessment (II)

- 85% of sports groups say current field resources do not meet their needs; 42% must travel outside of Davis for practices
- 79% require lights for their activities
- 46% of groups (with 4,600 participants) say revitalizing existing fields can't meet their needs; others say this could but are still interested in a sports complex
- Aquatics groups also have significant needs

# Finding: Davis Needs New and Improved Sports Facilities

- As a community we have outgrown the number and types of fields built decades ago
- The main losers are children and youth
- We are missing opportunities to be a healthier community and have a healthier economy
- We need two distinct types of facility improvements: (1) a new sports complex and (2) reconfiguration and improvement of existing fields

# Why Build a Sports Complex?

- Centralization can hold down operating costs, make programs easier to manage, and help families with children on multiple teams
- Youth sports travel could be reduced as more tournaments were hosted locally
- A self-contained complex with parking, concessions, community/green space becomes a community hub

# Critical Design Factors For a Sports Complex (I)

- A minimum of 50 acres, but 125 or more acres would allow for long-term future expansion
- Lighting is critical to allow games after dark, year-round play, and more practice times
- Shared storage and meeting space
- Good transportation access (for cars and bicycles) that would not create traffic impacts on existing Davis neighborhoods

# Critical Design Factors For a Sports Complex (II)

- Sufficient parking with control access points to help with staging tournaments and to encourage carpooling
- A design that reflects our community strong environmental values: uses water and energy efficiently, complies with Right to Farm rules, avoids and protects open space and wildlife habitat

# Some Additional Site Options are Worthy of Study (I)



(A) South of Davis Muni Golf Course; (B) Outside of Mace-Covell Curve;  
(C) South of Legacy Fields

# Finding: No Specific Site Preferred

- City previously studied Old Davis Landfill, Mace Covell Gateway, and Howatt Ranch.
- Because of controversy, we wish to broaden the site discussion to show that others could work and that a fresh site review is warranted
- Picking one preferred site not possible with limited time and resources for our study
- Unsolicited South of Legacy Fields site offer warrants study in open and competitive process

# Improvements to Existing Sports Infrastructure

- Some fields and courts no longer used due to their state of disrepair
- Some specific needs cited are repair of tennis court surfaces; repair and improved maintenance of grass field; provision of more soccer goals for public use
- Development of a sports complex would take pressure off of existing fields, allowing their conversion for use by other sports teams

# What We Learned from Regional and Local Organizations

- The City of Davis lacks dedicated revenue streams for parks other communities have
- Construction of sports facilities by government agencies can be very expensive
- Privately operated sports fields can maximize revenues but reduce local control over sports programs and risk field overuse and lack of field maintenance

# A Community-Based Foundation For a New Sports Complex

- Blue and White Foundation, Davis Legacy are model nonprofit organizations that helped build excellent sports facilities.
- We propose a similar community-based organization comprised of representatives of interested sports team to build, own and operate a new sports complex
- It could organize a community-wide fund-raising effort to line up funding and pledges and other financial sources (ex: facility naming rights)

# City Role Limited But Important

- Even if a new nonprofit proceeds, the city has a continued responsibility to help provide park and recreation services for its citizens
- The City of Davis could help conduct a formal process to solicit site offers, help determine the best site, and undertake other tasks
- Some future city financial investment may be needed
- We find a community-based initiative is likely to achieve faster and better results than public-only approach

# Benefits from a Sports Complex

- An expansion of 100s of participants in sports teams would help counter negative health trends such as obesity and heart disease
- Coaching provides positive role models and values for children and youth
- Expansion of tournaments would generate additional economic activity for hotels, restaurants and other businesses
- The City of Davis could receive hundreds of thousands of dollars annually in additional revenues

# Recommendations to the City Council

- Request the Recreation and Parks Commission conduct a hearing on this report. City staff would also have an opportunity to analyze the merit of our proposals
- If, after following this process, the City Council supports our approach, it should incorporate our proposal into the official city goals it will formally adopt for the next cycle

# Conclusion

The Task Force believes it is offering a smart and strategic approach that could:

- Benefit the large number of children and adults participating in local sports teams
- Provide practical field expansion solutions in fiscally challenging times
- Improve the overall quality of life for city residents