



Baker Park Site Improvements FAQ

What is the Current and Anticipated Use?

- **Current Uses:**
 - The **Westside Booster Club** utilizes the site from early spring through November.
 - **Humboldt School** uses the site for overflow athletics due to its close proximity.
 - **Cherokee Elementary** students use the space during recess for unorganized play and activities on the sports fields.
- **Anticipated Use:**
 - **El Rio Vista Fields** are at capacity, making it difficult for the community to reserve field space.
 - This project aims to alleviate demand at El Rio by introducing a **turf field at Baker Park**, increasing available field time for community use.

Will Fencing Be Installed?

- Baker Park **will not** be fully fenced.
- **Fencing locations:**
 - Along **Bellows Street (west side)**
 - Along **Baker Street**, near the proposed backstop
- No fencing is proposed on the **south side** to maintain access to the sledding hill.

Will There Be Lighting?

- Yes, **site lighting will be improved**, including:
 - **Path lighting** along Bellows Street
 - **Field lighting** at the playing fields
- **Lighting features:**
 - **Timers and shut-off switches** to prevent unnecessary use
 - **Light guards** to reduce light spill

What are the Pros and Cons of Artificial Turf?



Pros:

- ✓ **Lower maintenance needs** – Unlike natural grass, no ongoing irrigation, reseeding, or aerating required.
- ✓ **Water-efficient** – Requires less water than natural fields.
- ✓ **Extended usability** – Can be used in all seasons, supporting multiple sports.
- ✓ **Durability** – No soil compaction from heavy use.
- ✓ **Weather-resistant** – Can be played on shortly after rainfall.

Cons:

- X **High upfront cost** – Installation and repairs are costly.
- X **Health concerns** – Some public concerns exist about safety risks.
- X **Staffing challenges** – More playtime increases programming needs.
- X **Heat retention** – Turf surfaces get significantly hotter than natural grass.
- X **Environmental concerns** – No ecological benefits like carbon sequestration.

Why Is Artificial Turf Being Proposed?

- The primary reason for **artificial turf** is to **maximize field availability** and allow for quick turnover after weather events.
- **High demand:** Existing field use is already significant, and demand is expected to grow.
- **Not just about maintenance:** While natural grass fields require \$10K+/year in maintenance per field, even with funding, natural grass would not meet current and anticipated demand.
- **El Rio field space is at capacity**, and Baker Park is intended to help balance programming needs.

How Is Artificial Turf Maintained?

- Routine maintenance is performed by **our operations team and contracted specialists**.
- **Key maintenance tasks include:**
 - **Top dressing** – Spreading sand or infill to maintain even surfaces.
 - **Line repairs** – Contractors fix high-wear areas and field markings.

What is the Anticipated Project Schedule?

- **Spring 2025** – Concept Development & Professional Services
- **Summer 2025** – Bidding & Permitting



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- **Spring/Summer 2026** – Construction
 - **Fall 2026** – Substantial Completion