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## **CONSTRUCTION IS WELL UNDERWAY ON NINE NEW YOUTH BASEBALL FIELDS**

*Youth baseball will have access this year to the new Dwight Merkel Softball Complex and will continue to have access to the Franklin Park Complex.*

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Construction is well underway to develop and improve more than nine sports fields for youth baseball throughout Spokane funded by the 2007 Parks Improvement Bond.

“We believe strongly in helping our kids be active and healthy,” says Leroy Eadie, Spokane Parks & Recreation Department Director. “We know we have a need for additional youth fields and we’re pleased to be offering new fields throughout the City. We will continue to work with the various youth leagues, teams, players, and parents to assess ongoing needs and solutions.”

### **Money in the Bond was specifically earmarked for youth baseball. How will that money be spent?**

The City of Spokane and the Parks and Recreation Department have budgeted \$3 million of the 2007 Parks Improvement Bond to convert nine general use softball/baseball fields into youth baseball fields. These nine fields will be designated for youth baseball and are located in each of the three City Council Districts.

### **Where will the fields be located?**

The fields will be spread throughout the City, allowing easier access for all youth baseball participants. There will be two new youth baseball fields at Underhill

Park, one at Liberty Park, three at Chief Garry Park, two at B.A. Clark Park, and one at the new Dwight Merkel Sports Complex.

**When will these fields be ready for play?**

The fields will be ready for use in spring 2011. Youth baseball will also have access this year to the new Dwight Merkel Softball Complex and will continue to have access to the Franklin Park Complex.

**What is happening with agreements regarding the Franklin Park Complex?**

The contract with Spokane American Softball Association to run the Franklin Park Complex will expire July 31st and will not be renewed. The Parks and Recreation Department will consider a Field Use Agreement with Spokane American Softball Association and future users of the Franklin Park Complex that include rules and procedures to ensure that Franklin Park is a joint use facility, accommodating both softball and youth baseball.

**Where can I get updates on the progress of the projects?**

City of Spokane Parks and Recreation wants to make sure that all interested parties and especially those who represent organized sports city-wide receive timely and accurate information.

To receive updates related to the development, use, scheduling and planning of athletic fields, including field allocation policies and procedures please send an email to Carl Strong to be added to his distribution list.

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