

Update: March 26, 2011

## **Youth Baseball FAQ**

Construction has now been completed on nine new or improved youth baseball fields funded by the 2007 City of Spokane Parks Improvement Bond.

“We believe strongly in helping our kids be active and healthy,” says Leroy Eadie, Spokane Parks & Recreation Department Director. “I’m looking forward to seeing the first youth baseball games played on the new fields and knowing how the players feel about having brand new outfield grass, infields, dugouts, pitching mounds, and backstops. I believe we’re going to be seeing some smiling faces.”

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

The City of Spokane and the Parks and Recreation Department 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 are the fields located?**

The fields are spread throughout the City, allowing easier access for all youth baseball participants. There are 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 new youth baseball fields will be available for use as soon as the new turf is strong enough to withstand regular play. SPRD has hired a new Athletic Field and Facility Maintenance Supervisor, Chad Keefer, who has extensive turf background and will be able to determine when these fields should come on line. In the meantime, youth baseball has access to the new Dwight Merkel Softball and the Franklin Park Complexes.

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

In addition to Merkel Sports Complex, Spokane Parks and Recreation Department is now managing and scheduling Franklin Park Softball, the Southeast Sports Complexes and all the other park department-owned softball/baseball fields within the city.

### **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 Chad Keefer, [ckeefer@spokanecity.org](mailto:ckeefer@spokanecity.org), to be added to his distribution list.

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