



CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE

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University Place gets \$146,000 grant to develop athletic field at Cirque Park

The City of University Place was recently awarded a \$146,220 grant from the state's Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) Youth Athletic Facilities Program to construct a baseball field at the 27-acre Cirque Park. The City will match the grant dollar for dollar using General Obligation Bond Funds (sold in the summer of 2001) to complete the project. Total estimated project cost is \$292,440. Construction will start this year and the field should be ready for use in the 2005 season.

Construction will include subgrade earthwork and finish grading, a grass outfield, a sand/clay mixed infield, subsurface drainage and automatic irrigation. The field will also include a baseball backstop with foul line fencing, dugouts with concrete floors, composition roof and chain link perimeters, team benches, foul line poles, safety netting, a drinking fountain and a flagpole. Anchors for bases will be set at 55 feet, 60 feet and 80 feet from home plate to accommodate different types of league play. All features and facilities will be handicapped accessible.

When completed, the field will be the first competition-quality athletic field owned and maintained by the City. The only other city-owned baseball field is located at Sunset Terrace Park on 19th Street West, but it is used mainly for T-ball and other non-competitive leagues because of its limited size and lack of adequate parking.

Since incorporation, the City has relied on University Place School District athletic fields to host the majority of its youth baseball/softball programs. This sharing of fields works well, but because the City does not have control of scheduling at the fields its youth softball/baseball sports programs are limited to about 1,100 participants each year. The City's goal in building this new field is to provide a first class baseball field that will allow it to greatly expand the number of leagues and participants in youth/teen programs and possibly add adult sport recreation programs.

Funding for the IAC Youth Athletic Facilities Program comes from a \$10 million donation made in 1998 by the Seattle Seahawks "team affiliate" and interest derived from that donation. Referendum 48 (the Stadium Act) authorized creation of the YAF program, which provides funding for community athletic facilities.

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