

Lincoln High School Field & Track

Parks Board Meeting: July 23, 2026

Richard Best, SPS: Executive Director of Capital Projects, Planning, and Facilities



Why are we here?



SPS is requesting Seattle Parks & Recreation allow the district to:

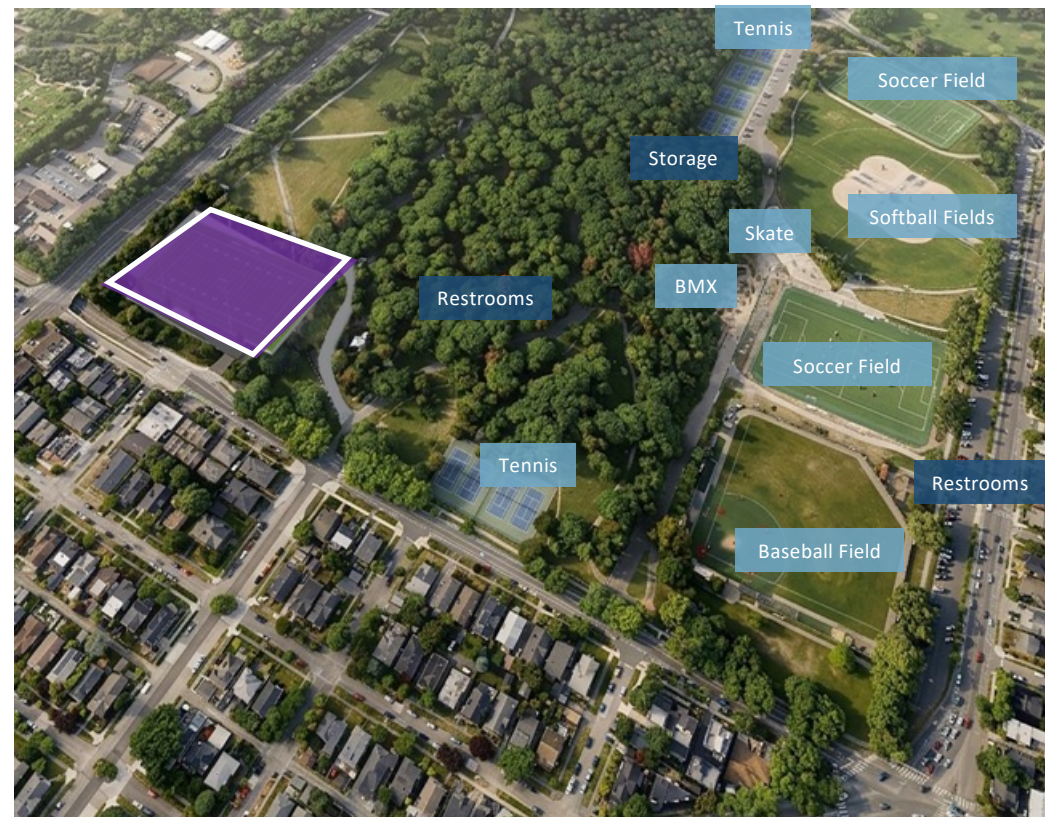
- **Proceed with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to build a new, full-size, multi-sport athletic field at North 50th Street and Aurora Avenue North**
- **Continue planning, including design and permitting, for renovating the track at Lower Woodland Field #7 and adding field event practice spaces and storage**

Why are we here?



Identified a location at Woodland Park for a multi-sport athletic field for Lincoln High School and community use

- Community-initiated location at North 50th Street and Aurora Avenue North
- Exhausted other options
- Meets criteria identified for the project
- Requires design and mitigation planning concerning tree removal and forest canopy impacts
- Joint use agreement started in 1920s to meet youth and community needs for recreational resources



Project Drivers



REQUIREMENTS

- Regulation-size multi-use synthetic turf field with lights JV & Varsity Football & JV & Varsity Soccer, etc.

Soccer

Optimal	=/> 195' x 330'
Acceptable	=/> 180' x 330'
Practice Only	=/< 180'x 300'

- Add new field capacity without displacing existing uses
 - Retain regulation-size field with lights for JV & Varsity Soccer boys & girls, Ultimate boys & girls
 - Retain multi-use SPR programmable spaces
- Walkable access for Lincoln students
- Basic facilities (restrooms, storage)
- 100-seat bleacher capacity

CONSTRAINTS

- Trees, forest floor, and other environmental impacts
- Permitting and land use requirements
- Parking / Traffic impacts
- Budget limits
- Lighting impacts

A Look Back



- Started with 20+ options
 - Parks, Lincoln parking lot
- Began outreach for Wallingford Playfield
- Community proposed other locations for study including gravel parking lot at North 50th Street and Aurora Avenue North
- Lincoln High School athletics currently use Lower Woodland for some activities



Shift to Woodland Park



- Evaluation of locations at Lower Woodland Field #2 and North 50th Street and Aurora Avenue North
 - Extensive community feedback resulted in revisions especially to Lower Woodland #2
- Parks review, community engagement led to additional revisions and stepping back from North 50th Street and Aurora Avenue North
- Additional community engagement led to re-evaluating North 50th Street and Aurora Avenue North location as well as additional revisions to location at Lower Woodland Field #2 — shared with community

Overview – Locations



Two locations shared
with community April 25



Field Options



Three field options shared with community April 25



Feedback from April 25



Top Takeaways

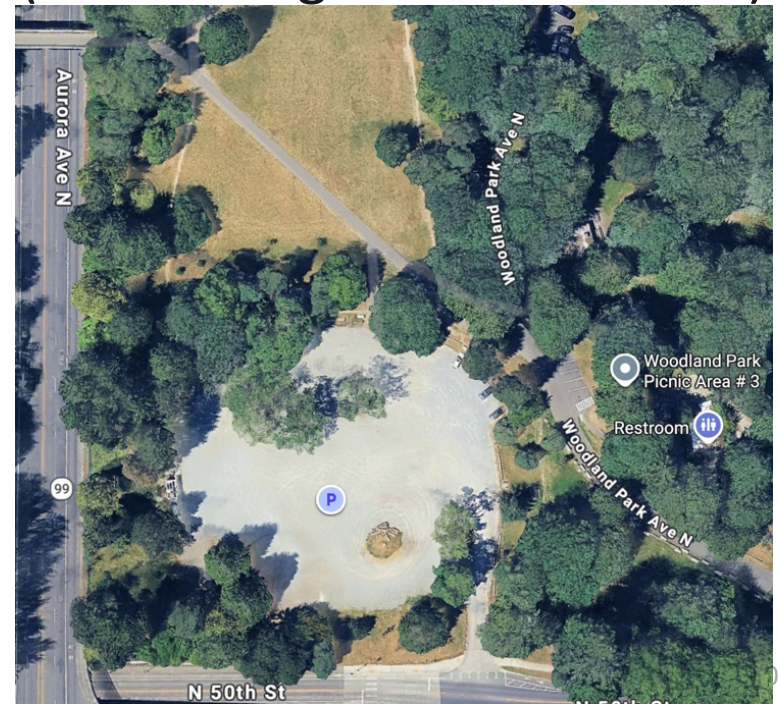
- Move forward
- Option B — broadest support
 - Some preferring faster Option A or variations on Option C
- Concerns raised, especially tree impacts, open space, parking/traffic, pedestrian safety



SPS Request to Proceed: Athletic Field Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Design, permit, and build a new, full-size, multi-sport athletic field at North 50th Street and Aurora Avenue North (with storage and restrooms)

- SPS preferred option
- Meets defined project guiding criteria
 - Walking distance from Lincoln High School
 - Expanded access without displacing current users
 - Meets program needs for HS athletics
 - Preserves capacity



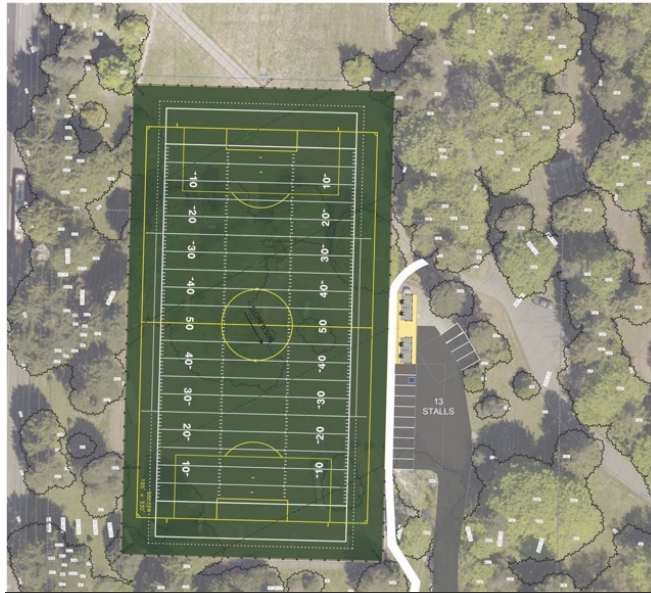
To Be Addressed During Design Phase

- Reduce environmental impacts and develop strategies for mitigation
- Develop field orientation and layout of supporting areas to build a strategy that preserves and enhances the tree canopy and forest floor of the entire park
- Plan to meet pedestrian needs, including ensuring ADA compliance
- Plan for storage space
- Collaborate to determine if existing restrooms need to be renovated to address need
- Negotiate agreements regarding field maintenance and future replacement of synthetic turf

Concepts: Possible Field Orientation



East/West



North/South



Diagonal

Permitting: Athletic Field



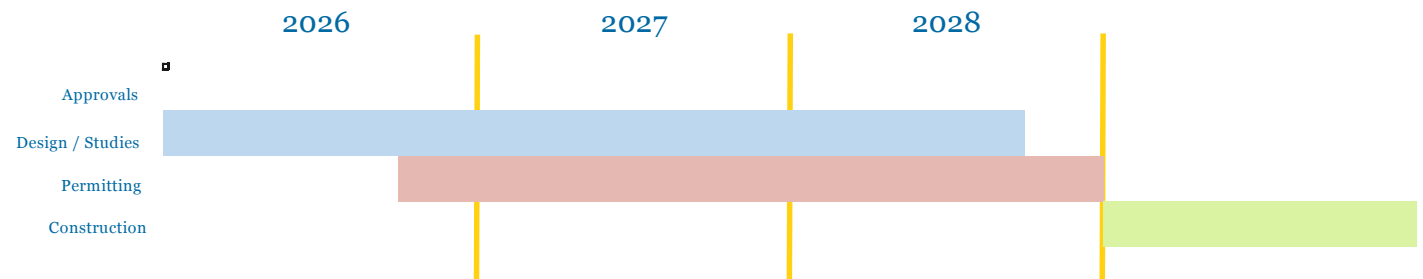
Requirements

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- City of Seattle Conditional Use Permit (CUP)
- Department of Ecology NPDES
 - National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
- Building Permits (incl. Grading and Drainage)
- Master Use Permit (MUP)
 - Potential Council Action

Timeline: 50th & Aurora Multi-Use Field

Tentative Schedule

- **July 2026:** Presentation to Parks Board
- **Approvals:** Summer 2026
- **Design / Studies:** Through mid-2028 including EIS
- **Permitting:** 24 months
- **Construction:** 12 months



SPS Request to Proceed: Track



Continue planning, including design and permitting, for renovating the track at Lower Woodland Field #7 and adding field event practice spaces and storage

- Provides practice space for track and field events (4-lane track, shotput, discus, long jump)
- Takes Field #7 offline while constructing track

Upgrade Track at Lower Woodland Field #7

To address in Planning phase

- Design and locate portable field event equipment
- Develop storage, either as shared with existing or new space
- Evaluate and address restroom requirements
- Develop agreement on track and field event space maintenance



Permitting: Track



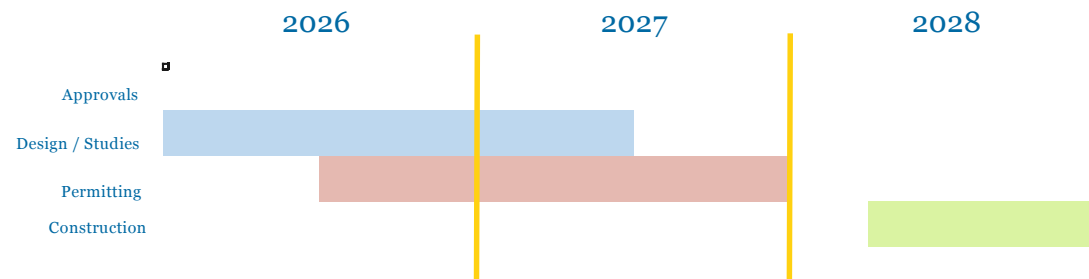
Requirements

- State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)
- City of Seattle Conditional Use Permit (CUP)
- Building Permits (including Grading and Drainage)

Timeline: Lower Woodland Field #7 Track

Tentative Schedule

- **July 2026:** Presentation to Parks Board
- **Approvals:** Summer 2026
- **Design / Studies:** 12 Months
- **Permitting:** 18 Months
- **Construction:** 6 Months



Summary



SPS is requesting Seattle Parks & Recreation allow the district to:

- **Proceed with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to build a new, full-size, multi-sport athletic field at North 50th Street and Aurora Avenue North**
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Next Steps



- Seattle Parks & Recreation approval to proceed
- Begin design for field and track renovations
- Hire consultant to conduct EIS for multi-purpose field
- Community engagement
 - Lincoln High School families, students, and staff
 - Friends of Lower Woodland Park
 - Tree Action Seattle
 - Birds Connect
 - Metro League Cross Country
 - Friends of Olmstead Parks
 - Other community groups and neighbors