

The Grass is Finally Greener on the Oroville Side

The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, especially when you're in the green park business. It's all a matter of perspective. The connotation that the grass is always greener on the other side is that we don't necessarily appreciate what we have, and we think it's going to be better with what we see with the potential across the fence. For this community, the connotation that the grass is always greener is true. The need for multi-use turf in Oroville is real. The number one question I typically get is, "Will Feather River Recreation and Park District build more sports turf areas in the future?" The answer is yes. For example, at Riverbend Park there are plans for 12 acres of multi-use turf at the north end of the park. This acreage is enough to accommodate three large soccer fields. There are future plans to add a fourth field at the north end of the park as well as two additional fields south of Bear Rock Pavilion off Salmon Run Road. These areas will all be multi use, and can be programmed not only for soccer but for other recreation programs as well.

Many groups have contacted me regarding the need for multi-use open turf areas: both the Rhinos and Eagles football programs; the Oroville Youth Soccer Club; disc golfers; the Hmong and Mien communities; and the list goes on. I had several comments made to me while I was working on the multi-use turf area at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park several weeks ago. The MLK field has been predominately programmed for Oroville Youth Soccer for the last few years. The comment was, "Why aren't there more fields for kids to play on, like Community Park on 20th Street in Chico?" My answer now is that FRRPD has been successful in garnering \$1,020,000 from the California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Contractors Supplemental Benefit Fund (SBF) for a multi-use open turf area at the north end of Riverbend Park.

The FRRPD Board of Directors is dedicated to providing for the recreational needs of this community with more multi-use open turf areas. Thank you to FRRPD Chairman Monique Gurr, Vice-Chairman Jan Hill, and Directors Vene Thompson, Loren Gill, and John Allen. Thanks also to the Green Dream Team of Dr. Roy Shannon, Mike Glaze, Nick Oliver, Dan Briggs, Rich Delaby, and John Stanton, along with the numerous other supporters of Oroville Youth Soccer. The grass may be greener in other communities, but not for long.

Wow – 12 acres of home turf for Oroville kids. Dr. Shannon, sharpen the mower blades because any way you cut it, the grass will finally be greener on the Oroville side.

Quote

“I believe a leaf of grass is no less than the journey-work of the stars.” Walt Whitman

“Whoever makes two ears of corn, or two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before, deserves better of mankind, and does more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together.” Jonathan Swift

Fun Facts

A turf area just 50 feet by 50 feet absorb carbon dioxide, ozone, hydrogen fluoride, and perosyacetylene nitrate. This same areas releases enough oxygen to meet the breathing needs of a family of four.

With up to 90% of the weight of a grass plant in its roots, turf provides a very efficient erosion prevention device.

Soccer is the world’s most popular team sport.

FRRPD Upcoming Events

The **2008 Summer Concerts in the Park** series continues this Thurs., May 22nd at Riverbend Park with free music by the band Wylde Side. The Flowmasters will play Thurs., May 29th. The fun starts at 6:30 p.m. and won’t stop until 8 p.m.!

Join us for the **Welcome to Summer** pool party at Nelson Pool on June 7th from 12 to 4 p.m.

Swimming lessons are available for kids ages 6 months to 12 years. Sessions are 2 weeks long.

Call the District office at 533-2011 for more information.

See you in the parks!