

Riverbend Soccer

Isn't it going to be amazing when you drive along Highway 70 into Oroville, and the first thing you see is a huge expanse of green grass along the Feather River. And you see hundreds of kids playing soccer with moms and dads enjoying this great sport. This afternoon, the Supplemental Benefit Fund (SBF) committee will hopefully approve an agreement with the Feather River Recreation and Park District (FRRPD) for \$1,020,000 to develop turf at the north end of Riverbend Park for three soccer fields.

For all those who have heralded the cause for soccer in Oroville, this has been a long time coming. The Riverbend Park soccer fields will also enhance the historic downtown low-flow channel of the Feather River by its inviting green gateway to visitors and locals as well. Many have said that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) did not follow through after many promises were made when the Oroville Dam was built. Riverbend Park is an example of one of the interim special projects that was approved prior to the re-licensing of the dam. FRRPD and the community can be thankful to DWR for pledging \$5.2 million for the first phase of Riverbend Park. Now with the SBF committee approving \$1,020,000 from the SBF fund, DWR and the state water contractors have committed \$6,220,000. It's so exciting to see these funds finally build real projects and not produce more paper studies.

Many of us who worked hard in relicensing to establish the SBF fund felt this was a prime example of one of the many projects that could be developed along the low-flow channel of the river, as well as the Veteran's Memorial Park project and rehabilitation of the Bedrock Park lagoon into a small whitewater park. This turf will not only be beneficial to youth soccer but will also be utilized for many community events and recreational activities.

This Saturday, Sept. 6, Oroville Youth Soccer will host its Opening Day Ceremonies to kick-off the upcoming season. The children will be displaying their team banners. This is an opportunity for you to see how important this sport is to Oroville and its youth, as well as show you how well this program is run by a great grass-roots organization of parents and community leaders. The event takes place at Central Middle School starting at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday is also the first day of the Nor-Cal/Feather River Open Disc Golf Tournament at Riverbend Park. Chip Frink and Sean Pfundstein, along with the entire Disc Golf Club in Oroville, have been very proactive in helping to maintain the disc golf course and promote tournaments. The Riverbend Disc Golf Course, designed by "Steady" Ed

Headrick (the inventor of the modern-day frisbee) and Greg Payne, would not be what it is today without the efforts and hard work of Jack Taylor and the Sunrise Rotary Club, who initiated the development of what has now evolved into a 36-hole riverfront course.

Riverbend Park is the prime example of how partnerships can work with agencies, service clubs, community leaders, and proactive citizens. It is fun to see the community finally enjoy their dream of a developed Riverbend Park.

Quote

“We used to say that Frisbee is really a religion — ‘Frisbyterians,’ we’d call ourselves. When we die, we don’t go to purgatory. We just land up on the roof and lay there.”

~ Steady Ed Headrick (*inventor of disc golf and the modern day Frisbee, as well as the founder of the Professional Disc Golf Association and the International Frisbee Association*)

“When we dream alone it is only a dream, but when we dream together, it is the beginning of a new reality.” ~ Author unknown

Fun Facts

Ivy League students started experimenting with flying discs in the 1920s when they tossed around pie tins from the Frisbie Baking Company of Bridgeport, Conn. When the empty pie tins were tossed, college kids would yell “Frisbie!” to signal the oncoming flight of the tin.

A soccer ball is made up of 32 leather panels, held together by 642 stitches. Most Adidas Teamgeist soccer balls have 32 panels, but there are five out there somewhere in the world with 33. If you find one, rumor has it you could win a tour around the Adidas factory in Germany. Keep those peepers peeled!

Upcoming Events

Oroville Youth Soccer Opening Day Ceremony. Sat., Sept. 6 at Central Middle School, 8:30 a.m.

Nor-Cal/Feather River Open Disc Golf Tournament. Sept. 6-7 at Riverbend Park.

See you in the parks!

This is a prime example of what the SBF was intended to provide: recreation socio-economic enhancements for the recreation mecca of the state.