

# **Memorandum of Understanding**

**Park District of Oak Park**

**and**

**School District 97**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets forth the terms and understanding between the Park District of Oak Park (PDOP) and School District 97 (D97) on the collaboratively funded improvements to the playing/sports field areas, as defined in the 2013 Field Maintenance agreement, at D97's Middle Schools. The proposed improvements include the installation of multi-use all weather synthetic turf fields and new ball diamond hardscapes (backstops, player and spectator seating), at both Julian and Brooks Middle Schools, and sports lighting at Julian Middle School. These improvements will support the wellness/ exercise programming of D97 and PDOP by providing renovated fields/play areas that will be able to support D97's physical education programs, PDOP programs and the athletic opportunities provided by PDOP's affiliate youth sports organizations.

## **Background**

The Park District of Oak Park (PDOP) and School District 97 (D97) have a history of partnering at a variety of levels, but specifically with the use and maintenance of sports fields throughout D97's school system. PDOP and D97 have a comprehensive Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the maintenance of D97's sports fields, and an IGA for PDOP's use of D97's fields, gymnasiums and other indoor spaces. In 2012, PDOP, D97, and local community groups successfully collaborated on open space improvements including an all-weather synthetic turf field at Irving School.

The athletic fields at Julian and Brooks Middle Schools suffer from significant wear and tear due to the large student populations (approximately 1,000 at each school) and during inclement weather are routinely unavailable to support D97, PDOP and /or community use. As a result of the poor conditions at these facilities, they are programmed to a lesser degree than comparable facilities in the community.

The Park District has a desire to expand the inventory and improve the quality of sports fields in Oak Park after the PDOP's 2012 Athletic Field Study illustrated the huge demand on sports fields inside Oak Park boundaries and a lack of opportunities to add additional fields. The study's recommendations included the use of synthetic all-weather turf fields as one way to increase quality, expand the number of useable hours, and reduce wear on grass fields. The addition of an all-weather field and the possibility of sports lighting at Julian Middle School and an all-weather field at Brooks Middle School will assist the Park District's efforts to meet the community's demand for quality outdoor field space.

The School District has a desire to improve the quality of outdoor field space at each of their two middle schools. The fields will be used by the schools for their physical education and sports programs, as well as places for students to congregate during lunch breaks. The schools' ability to utilize the outdoor field spaces to increase the amount of time their students can engage in active outdoor play both during and outside of school hours will be increased due to all-weather playability.

## **Purpose**

This MOU will be used to ensure consistent communication between PDOP, D97 and key stakeholders regarding project scope, timing and funding. The end goal is to provide quality all-weather outdoor spaces to increase physical education opportunities during school hours as well as use after school through participation in organized sports and free play by neighborhood youth and their families.

The above goals will be accomplished by undertaking the following activities:

- Increased use of sports fields by Physical Education Teachers
- Increased use of sports fields by Middle School Sports Teams
- Increased use of sports fields by Youth Sports Groups
- Increased use of sports fields by PDOP programs
- Increased use of sports fields by Oak Park youth and their families
- Reduced sedentary behaviors by youth and their families by providing an all-weather surfaces that can be used year round when the fields are not permitted
- Reduced cancellation of physical education classes and youth sport games and practices

## **Reporting**

- PDOP and D97 staff will meet weekly until project scope, funding and timing are confirmed
- PDOP and D97 staff will meet bi-weekly during the construction of the sports fields to provide updates on project progress and timeline for completion
- PDOP and D97 Boards will be updated at least monthly on the progress of the agreement terms through a joint communication piece from PDOP and D97 staff
- Key stakeholders (e.g. PDOP Affiliate Youth Sports teams, other ) will be updated at least monthly on the status of funding and construction progress

## **Funding**

- The cost of the design and installation of multi-use all weather synthetic turf fields, and new ball diamond hardscapes (backstops, player and spectator seating), at both Julian and Brooks Middle Schools, and installation of sports lighting at Julian Middle School is estimated at \$925,000 for Julian and \$550,00 for Brooks for a total estimated project cost of \$1,475,000 (includes contingency)
- PDOP will commit up to \$925,000 towards the funding of the sports field improvements at Julian and Brooks Middle schools
- D97 will provide the land and commit to funding of \$300,000 toward the sports field improvements at Julian and Brooks Middle schools
- D97 and PDOP will engage local community organizations and PDOP affiliate sports organizations and request their combined funding support of \$250,000 for this community wellness endeavor

- The levels of support (from local community organizations and PDOP affiliate sports organizations) will be negotiated by D97 and the respective organization. The Park District will assist in making introductions and engage in conversations with respective organizations as requested and deemed appropriate by D97
- While funds from the youth sports organization will be applied to the project cost for the Brooks Middle School project, it is understood that their support will ensure both projects can take place

**Duration**

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from PDOP and D97 only after authorization by each respective Board. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from the PDOP and D97 and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent. In absence of D97 being able to secure commitments of required funds from local community organizations and PDOP affiliate sports organizations or from D97 funds by June 1, 2015 this MOU will become invalid and neither sports field will be constructed.

**Construction**

The Park District will engage architecture and engineering services to coordinate the design, bid specifications and construction of the spaces once funding is secured.

**Maintenance**

PDOP and D97 will engage in a full IGA on these projects once the funding is secured. The Park District will provide maintenance to these turf surfaces.

**Contact Information**

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 (PDOP Print Name)

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 (PDOP Signature)

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 (Title)

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 (D97 Print Name)

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