

TITLE: _____

The grass is always greener on the other side, 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 P D 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. Just this weekend I had several comments made to me while I was working at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park on the multi-use turf area. 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 to him was that FRRPD is actively pursuing different avenues of funding additional multi-use open turf areas, such as through the Supplemental Benefit Fund (SBF).

Others, such as City Councilmember Jim Prouty, have questioned the limitations of three fields. I would defer to the wise words of Dr. Roy Shannon, who responded to just such a question at the last SBF meeting by saying, "Three fields is a huge improvement over what we have now."

FRRPD is dedicated to providing for the recreational needs of this community with more multi-use open turf areas. The grass may be greener in other communities, but not for long.

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 peroxyacetylene nitrate. This same area releases enough oxygen to meet the breathing needs of a family of four.

FRRPD Upcoming Events

The 2008 Summer Concerts in the Park series kicks off Thurs., May 8th at Riverbend with free music by the band Feedback.

See you in the parks!