Beach Chalet Athletic Fields
Renovation 2009

San Francisco Recreation and Parks
City Fields Foundation
Chronic Shortage of Athletic Fields

2004 independent study found SF short by 35 soccer fields & 30 baseball diamonds

Greatest shortfall – 3:00-6:30pm weekdays
4,000 SF kids use the fields afterschool during spring and fall
The Playfields Initiative

City Fields partnership with Rec/Park was established in 2006

Goal: Address the ongoing shortage of athletic fields in SF & help Rec/Park equitably provide sports facilities

How: Renovate high-use and worn-out athletic fields with synthetic turf and lights and improve efficiency of permit system

To Date: Five field/light renovations
Why Synthetic Turf?

- Ability to dramatically increase the amount of playtime on a field
  - No rain closures
  - No rest/regrowth closures
  - Every field can be used year-round

- Safe, consistent, level playfields

- Saves approx. 1,500,000 gallons of water per field each year

- Reduces maintenance

- Requires no herbicides or fertilizer

Thorough vetting by Synthetic Playfields Task Force resulted in stringent SF purchasing standards
Garfield Square Playground - 2006

Before
Garfield was formerly known as “el parque donde te rompes pie” or “the park where you break your foot”

After
Silver Terrace Playground - 2006

Before
Formerly a field of last resort, Silver Terrace is now the most requested athletic field in San Francisco

After
Franklin Square Playground - 2007

Before
Already a popular artificial turf field, lights were added to Franklin Square to extend play hours

After
South Sunset Playground - 2008

Before

South Sunset is now a clean and safe playfield for local school kids and park neighbors

After
Crocker Amazon Playground - 2008

Before

By improving the field layout, two new soccer fields and restrooms were added to the three existing fields at Crocker

After
Kimbell Playground’s athletic field will reopen this Summer!
The Beach Chalet Soccer Fields complex is one of the primary ground sports athletic facilities in San Francisco.

During fall, more than 1,550 kids and 600 adults play at Beach Chalet each week.

The field was identified as a good candidate for renovation by a citywide planning group convened in 2006 and 2007.
Built more than 75 years ago, the Beach Chalet Athletic Fields were last renovated in 1998.

One of the four fields is always out of use for rest and regrowth, leaving just three fields for play.
Why Beach Chalet?

The Beach Chalet Athletic Fields are unsafe and in poor condition due to heavy use, abundant gopher holes, and year-round wet conditions.

In September 2009, a 14 year-old girl broke her ankle during a soccer game at Beach – this is not uncommon.

Despite constant use by kids, Beach Chalet lacks basic family-friendly amenities: clean restrooms, changing stations, play/picnic areas, spectator seating.
More Play on Safer Fields

Renovating Beach Chalet with lights and synthetic turf will eliminate all dangerous gopher holes and more than triple the amount of play on those fields.

Currently, the field can host 4,738 hours of annual play. The proposed renovation will add 9,582 hours of new play each year.

The renovation will also make the facility much more family friendly and inviting for all – athletes, spectators and park visitors.
Proposed Project Plan
Field Improvements
An 18-inch raised walkway featuring built-in spectator benches was designed across the center of the fields instead of tall bleachers. The walkway will also improve circulation and disability access to and through the area.
The crumbled asphalt apron around the restroom is being redesigned to include spectator plaza, a small play structure, drinking fountains, bike racks, trash cans, and new landscaping. Picnic tables and barbeques are being added along the grass warm-up area.
Bathroom Renovation

Parking Lot

Soccer Fields
Parking Lot Improvements
New Lighting

- 60’ field lights – screened from street view
- Pathway lighting to northern spectator seating
- Pathway lighting east to parking lot and JFK Dr.
- Plaza and picnic/bbq lighting
At just 60-feet, the field lights were designed 10 to 20-feet shorter than standard and were placed on the field to nearly eliminate sightlines from outside the Park.
Field Lights From JFK Dr & Great Hwy

Computer-generated images of the 60' field lights. Photos taken June & September 2009.
City Fields provides a grant to the Neighborhood Parks Council to organize local stewardship groups in conjunction with each field renovation. These groups do clean-ups and community building events to get more people involved in our parks.
Anticipated Timeline & Next Steps

June 2009 - Community input &
April 2010  design development

April 2010  Rec/Park Commission
            considers concept plan

June/July 2010  Blueprint development

Aug - Oct. 2010  Bid project

November 2010  Construction begins

September 2011  Field opening, ribbon-cutting
                & community block-party