

**Big Finn Hill Park
Kirkland Lacrosse CPG Project
SEPA Public Comments/Responses**

Public Comment or Question (from Denny Creek Neighborhood Alliance) *As an initial matter, we note that the SEPA checklist states that the applicant is “Kirkland Youth Lacrosse (and King County Parks)”. If King County Natural Resources and Parks (King County Parks) is indeed an applicant, we question whether it can serve as the lead agency for the SEPA determination. The role of King County Parks in this project and its suitability as an evaluator of the adequacy of the SEPA checklist should at least be clarified. It would be preferable, for the sake of promoting the public’s confidence in the objectivity of governmental assessment of the project’s environmental impact, that the City of Kirkland (City) act as lead agency for determining whether the field conversion will have a significant effect on the environment. We believe that the City is an appropriate entity to assume this responsibility because it will be the agency that acts on the pending grading permit for the field.*

Response: The King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) is the independent permitting authority for unincorporated King County. King County Parks must apply to DDES for permits in the same manner as a private party. All the same development conditions, restrictions, and requirements apply. Due to the Kirkland annexation and subsequent transition of jurisdiction during the permitting process, the permitting authority for this project is governed by an inter-local agreement between King County and the City of Kirkland. The permit submittal is vested under King County regulations, but issued by the City of Kirkland.

King County Parks was the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) lead agency for this project for the purposes of implementing the SEPA process which typically includes public notification, determination of non-significance (DNS), and related appeals processes. Due to the change in jurisdiction during the SEPA process, the SEPA notification process was administered by King County Parks and the SEPA DNS issuance and appeals process will be administered by the City of Kirkland

Public Comment or Question on Item A2 (From neighbors): *No objective third party monitoring this proposal. King County is acting both as a project proponent and a participant with total control of project processes (e.g. SEPA determination, permitting, oversight, etc.)*

Response: The King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) is the independent permitting authority for unincorporated King County. King County Parks must apply to DDES for permits in the same manner as a private party. All the same development conditions, restrictions, and requirements apply. Due to the Kirkland annexation and subsequent transition of jurisdiction during the permitting process, the permitting authority for this project is governed by

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Public Comment or Question on Item A7 (From neighbors): *As stated in the checklist, the proposed field house, scorekeeper's hut and field lighting will be pursued after the annexation. The annexation of Big Finn Hill Park into the City of Kirkland occurred June 1, 2011. Who will have jurisdiction over this project with respect to park hours of operation, noise control, traffic and emergency response requirements?*

Response: The design review and permitting of the scorekeeper's hut and the field house will be managed by the City of Kirkland under City of Kirkland development rules.

Who will insure that the gates to the park are locked? Currently, the gates are not closed.

Response: King County Parks will continue to operate Big Finn Hill Park. An updated operating schedule and gate plan will be developed when programming and hours are finalized for the various seasons.

Public Comment or Question on Item A7 (from City of Kirkland Staff):

Applicant response states that field lighting will be pursued after the project site has been annexed by City Of Kirkland

Response: This was in error. The lighting was included in the scope of the design for the King County DDES permit. SEPA checklist has been updated accordingly.

Public Comment or Question on Item A7 (from Denny Creek Neighborhood

Alliance)*The applicant's response to checklist item A.7 states that field lighting and other improvements will be pursued after annexation of the Finn Hill neighborhood by the City. However, responses to Section B.11 (Light and Glare) indicate that lighting is an integral part of the proposal, and DCNA therefore assumes that lighting issues must be evaluated at this time in connection with any determination of environmental impact. Response B.11a states that glare will be "minimal if at all" due to the type of lights proposed as well as the existence of tree buffers and the distance to neighboring residences. An illumination summary posted on the Parks and Natural Resources website provides a plot of projected footcandles at ground level. The values presented appear to be low outside the footprint of the field, but it is impossible for a layperson to understand how these values translate into perceived illumination. Similarly, the plot does not provide information on the visibility of the lights and any glare to homeowners with views to the field. Given that lighting will be mounted on 50 foot standards, will the lights themselves be visible from neighboring homes? Finally, the installation of lighting for the lacrosse field begs the question of whether it will establish a precedent for illumination of adjacent baseball fields. The impact from baseball lights may be considerably more intrusive for neighboring residences than what has been proposed for the lacrosse field. Is King County Natural Resources and Parks prepared to permit lighting for one sports use but not another? More information from the applicant on these issues should be provided in conjunction with its checklist responses. The issue of nighttime lighting is an important one because the revised Master Plan for the park did not contemplate field lighting or evening use.*

Response:

See Photometrics and Lighting Detail attachment. Anything less than .2 is essentially moonlight on the ground, .0 is darkness, we achieve these measurements beginning at about 100 feet around the field. The closest home is 400 feet away through a buffer of trees. 99% of the homes are between 700 feet and 2000 feet away from the field (See map). There is at least one home that has a direct line of site to the field and may see the illuminated surface from a distance. This will not result in light entering their windows, however.

Youth baseball does not usually play in the darker wetter months and the demand for baseball fields is far less, so it is not as critical to have lit youth baseball fields as it is for youth soccer and lacrosse. In addition, the baseball fields at Big Finn Hill do not have the same location and buffer features as the project field that allows for the

mitigation of lights. The baseball fields are much closer to homes and the amount of lighting and the orientation necessary for three baseball fields would have a much higher impact on homes than the planned amount of lighting and orientation for the project field (see photometrics for project field).

The Big Finn Hill Master Plan is a guiding document based on community needs and desires. The community needs and desires have changed since the 1980's, especially as it related to ballfields. It was determined that increasing the capacity of a single existing soccer field by upgrading its surface and adding lights addresses some of this critical community need without having to add additional fields or change the layout of the Master plan. The new technology in surfaces and lighting that is available now was not available when the original master plan was developed nor when it was revised in 1994. The surface technology allows for carefully engineered drainage management and treatment while improving safety, playability, and reducing resource consumption. The new lighting technology allows for a highly focused light that illuminates only the field area with no sky glow or spill (See photometrics). Because of the opportunity to better serve families with kids in organized sports and because of the new surface and lighting technology, it was determined that the improvement best served the entire community while preserving the same amount of the park in its natural state per the spirit of the master plan

Public Comment or Question on Item A8 (from neighbors): *An environmental study should be performed on this project due to the fact that the project is adjacent to wetlands. Furthermore, the synthetic turf will contain environmentally hazardous material. The use of crushed recycled tires also known as "crumb rubber" or cryogenic rubber will be installed immediately adjacent to wetlands. The potential for this material to enter the wetlands, stream and ultimately Lake Washington is significant.*

Response: As of 2009, King County regulations require "enhanced treatment" of drainage from all sports fields. The proposed approach to meet this requirement is the construction of what is called a "large sand filter." The sizing of the large sand filter is dictated by the 2009 King County Surface Water Design Manual, the same as is adopted by the City of Kirkland. Runoff from the field will be collected under the field and conveyed to pass through the sand filter, which includes a minimum of 18-inches of sand. According to the Design Manual, this system is approved to remove pollutants that may be associated with an athletic field.

The potential for the infill material to enter the wetlands through the system is highly unlikely. The infill material generally is stabilized in the turf material and cannot migrate through the surface and substrate. Very little migrates outward from the field area.

Public Comment or Question on Item A10 (from neighbors): *King County should provide independent oversight. They are not a disinterested party in this project.*

Response: King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (DDES) is the independent permitting authority for unincorporated King County. King County Parks must apply to DDES for permits in the same manner as a private party. All the same development conditions, restrictions, and requirements apply. Due to the Kirkland annexation and subsequent transition of jurisdiction during the permitting process, the permitting authority for this project is governed by an inter-local agreement between King County and the City of Kirkland. Per the inter-local agreement, the permit submittal is vested under King County regulations, but issued by the City of Kirkland.

Public Comment or Question on Item A10 (from City of Kirkland Staff):

Will the field lighting need a separate building and/or electrical permit?

Response: Under King County regulations, the lighting system is reviewed and approved as part of the clearing and grading permit. No additional permits are required.

Public Comment or Question on Item A10 (from City of Kirkland Staff):

Is a revision to the current Master Plan needed?

Response: The Big Finn Hill Master Plan is a guiding document based on community needs and desires. The community needs and desires have changed since the 1980's, especially as it related to ballfields. It was determined that increasing the capacity of a single existing soccer field by upgrading its surface and adding lights addresses some of this critical community need without having to add additional fields or change the layout of the Master plan. The new technology in surfaces and lighting that is available now was not available when the original master plan was developed nor when it was revised in 1994. The surface technology allows for carefully engineered drainage management and treatment while improving safety, playability, and reducing resource consumption. The new lighting technology allows for a highly focused light that illuminates only the field area with no sky glow or spill (See photometrics). Because of the opportunity to better serve families with kids in organized sports and because of the new surface and lighting technology, it was determined that the improvement best served the entire community while preserving the same amount of the park in its natural state per the spirit of the master plan

Public Comment or Question on Item A11 (from neighbors): *The synthetic turf violates the Revised King County Park Master plan. Crumb rubber or cryogenic rubber particles are known to clog filters and drain which will create an accumulation in the existing retention pond. Accessing clogged filters and drains are a maintenance expense which will be funded from King County Park's budget which is funded by taxpayers.*

Response: The infill will not migrate from the surface through the enhanced treatment system and into the retention pond. The turf has a backing, much like residential carpeting. The backing only allows water to pass through, and continue to the collection and flow control in the field substrate, and to the large sand filter prior to the drainage entering the retention pond. Standard drainage system designs provide access for maintenance purposes. Maintenance for synthetic sports fields is largely paid for by the users through use fees and synthetic sports fields have much lower per-user field maintenance costs than properly maintained natural grass fields. Synthetic sports fields are also more durable under repeated use, and therefore reduce the number of natural turf fields necessary for the same amount of activities, or they reduce the amount of maintenance effort required to keep the fields playable.

Public Comment or Question on Item B1c (from neighbors): *The project is adjacent to wetlands. Wetlands also change over time and may function differently from year-to-year or season-to-season. According to our information, there has never been an environmental impact statement done on Big Finn Hill Park since its inception in 1984.*

Response: The project area is limited to the footprint of an existing developed soccer field. Because of the flow control, drainage, and retention features of the project field and because the footprint is restricted to an existing developed area there are no new impacts on the wetland as a result of this project. If a larger scale improvement project is proposed in the future whose footprint expands into or otherwise impacts the wetland and/or triggers any other environmental threshold, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) may be required at that time.

Public Comment or Question on Item B1e (from neighbors): *In addition to the field base rock, the synthetic turf will consist of recycled rubber a source of fill not mentioned in the SEPA checklist. As noted earlier, recycled rubber contains hazardous materials, clogs filters, and leeching into the adjacent retention pond is probable.*

Response: The enhanced treatment system included in the design captures any potential pollutants from the surface or substrate. The infill does not migrate through the surface, through the enhanced treatment system, nor does it clog filters. King County currently operates and maintains eight (8) synthetic fields, none of which have the newly required enhanced treatment system. None of these existing fields exhibit the hypothetical problems mentioned.

Public Comment or Question on Item B1g (from neighbors): *What will be considered an impervious surface? How is the 10% computed? There will be a field house roof surface (reported to be 20'x50'); scorekeeper's hut; asphalt surface for the additional eight parking stalls; the additional asphalt surrounding the field and the roofs over the player's benches.*

Response: Any newly paved surfaces associated with the field are included by DDES in the impervious calculation for the clearing and grading permit. The scorekeeper's hut and field house are not included in the clearing and grading permit. Those structures will be designed and permitting with the City of Kirkland at a later date. Nonetheless, the runoff from the possible future field house and hut were included in the project stormwater calculations.

Public Comment or Question on Item B1h (from neighbors): *Without proper maintenance, catch basin inserts are known to get plugged causing them not to drain properly.*

Response: Catch basin inserts are standard requirements of any site work project. They are installed to reduce the likelihood of sedimentation of downstream waters. Although they can become clogged, it is also a standard requirement that the inserts be maintained throughout the duration of project construction.

Public Comment or Question on Item B2a-b (from neighbors): *Studies indicate that greenhouse gases are emitted in the manufacturing, transporting and processing of synthetic turf. The temperature of artificial turf is greater than natural turf. During warm months, the plastic and rubber used in the manufacturing of this product creates a noticeable odor. Furthermore, at the end of its lifecycle, synthetic turf will end up in a landfill.*

Response: Current generation synthetic surfaces chosen for King County Parks are made using recycled material and can also be 100% recycled. The surface will be 100% recycled at the end of its lifecycle.

Both the CDC and the EPA have concluded there are no human health risks associated with synthetic turf or crumb rubber. Many studies have proven the safety and benefits of synthetic sportsfields (see "Synthetic Field Studies" attachment) There is no lead in synthetic turf product chosen for this project. While a mild odor can be detected in newer fields (especially in warmer months) there is no gas-off or emissions associated with this odor. Northwest weather provides mild temperatures. In the rare occurrences that temperatures reach uncomfortable levels (ie. approaching 100 degrees), field activities are cancelled.

Public Comment or Question on Item A10 (from City of Kirkland Staff): *Crumb rubber emits some gas and certain types of synthetic field material can result in dust containing lead according to a quick review of information found online. Additional background information is needed on this topic.*

Response: Cryogenic SBR rubber used in the sand infill mix is safe with no human health risks from gas emission. There is no lead in current generation synthetic turf product chosen for this project. (see "Synthetic Field Studies" attachment)

Public Comment or Question on Item B3a1 (from neighbors): *The flow control facility abuts the existing soccer field which flows into Lake Washington via an unnamed creek. According to the sign located on the east side of Juanita Drive near NE 133rd Place, Denny Creek also flows through this park.*

Response: The SEPA checklist was update to note that the stream is named Denny Creek.

Public Comment or Question on Item B3a (from City of Kirkland Staff):

1. *Include name of stream*
2. *King County GIS data shows that there is a wetland within 200 feet of the Southern boundary of the existing soccer field.*

Response: The SEPA checklist was update to note that the stream is named Denny Creek. The wetland areas to the south of the existing soccer field, an existing developed area will not be impacted by replacing the surface of the soccer field.

Public Comment or Question (from Denny Creek Neighborhood Alliance):

The checklist response indicates that the existing water retention system drains into an unnamed seasonal stream, in which no fish have been identified. This information is incorrect. The stream, O.O. Denny Creek, flows throughout the year, has excellent water quality as a result of earlier mitigation efforts, is inhabited by trout, and could, with additional mitigation work, support salmon as well. It is therefore essential that the field conversion and associated water runoff be handled so that there is no degradation of water quality or exacerbation of “flashing” during storms.

Response: The SEPA checklist was update to note that the stream is named Denny Creek. The field upgrade includes highly engineered flow control features in the substrate that will attenuate drainage flows better than current conditions. In addition, the drainage will be treated at a much higher level than current conditions.

Public Comment or Question on Item Ba6 (from neighbors): *Waste materials associated with synthetic turf include, but are not limited to the following:*

- *Crumb rubber particles made of recycled rubber*
- *Field sanitizers, disinfectants*
- *Mold, algae and bacteria (including staph)*
- *Debris from players and fans entering into the wetland and the other portions of the park*

Response: King County currently operates and maintains eight (8) synthetic sports fields. Crumb rubber migration from the field surface is minimal (mostly around the entry/exit gates of the field). Only biodegradable cleaners are used on the field surface. Properly designed and maintained synthetic sports fields do not have problems with mold, algae, or bacteria.

Public Comment or Question on Item Bb2 (from neighbors): *Chemicals that can be found in synthetic turf include, zinc, iron, arsenic, cadmium and chromium, alphasan, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and nonpylphenol.*

Response: While the manufacture of the synthetic surface fibers may include some of these materials, they do not leech from the fiber. The Disease Control (CDC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have determined that there are no human health risks from synthetic surfaces. The design also includes an enhanced treatment system to further ensure any potential leechates prior to entering the storm water system. (See “Synthetic Field Studies” attachment)

Public Comment or Question on Item B3c2 (from City of Kirkland Staff): *Please provide additional background material regarding chemicals found in crumb rubber and whether it affects water quality.*

Response: While the synthetic products used in this installation contain a variety of chemicals in their manufacture these chemicals either do not leech from the fiber or are captured and treated by the enhanced treatment system. Either way there will be no adverse impact on water quality. (See “Synthetic Field Studies” attachment)

Public Comment or Question (from Denny Creek Neighborhood Alliance): *DCNA understands that the new field will be surfaced with synthetic turf, which contains crumb rubber. Concerns have been raised by neighboring residents that this material contains toxic compounds that will be released into surface water as the field ages. DCNA is not qualified to assess this potential hazard but the objections should be explicitly addressed before any determination of non-significance is made. DCNA is pleased to note that the conversion plan includes a sand filter, which is designed to catch runoff from the field before it drains into the existing retention and filtration system in Big Finn Hill Park. Unfortunately, one of King County Parks’ own inspectors has noted that this system requires maintenance and may not be performing as expected. Certainly, the current pond has tended to overflow during winter storms, and further improvements – in addition to maintenance – may be required to accommodate runoff in the future. King County Parks should not approve construction of the new field without undertaking the maintenance tasks that its inspector has specified and without carefully assessing whether improvements to the existing retention pond are also warranted.*

Response: See Synthetic Field Studies attachment. There are no conclusive studies that suggest cryogenic crumb rubber (as used in this design with sand/infill mix) will leach pollutants beyond the field matrix. To be certain, however, King County regulations now require “enhanced treatment” of drainage from all sports fields. The proposed approach to meet this requirement is the construction of what is called a “large sand filter.” The sizing of the large sand filter is dictated by the 2009 King County Surface Water Design Manual, the same as is adopted by the City of Kirkland. Runoff from the field will be collected under the field and conveyed to pass through the sand filter, which includes a minimum of 18-inches of sand. This system

is approved to remove pollutants that may be associated with an athletic field including any unknown pollutants from the synthetic matrix.

In addition to being upgraded with the sand filter, the existing storm water system requires maintenance and rehabilitation to ensure maximum performance. This will also be completed as part of the improvement project.

Public Comment or Question on Item Bc1-2 (from neighbors): *The filter has the potential to clog and potentially harmful materials will leech into the existing retention pond and then into the creek and beyond to Lake Washington. Additionally, human waste and debris has the potential to enter the ground and surface water.*

Response: The enhanced treatment system included in the design captures the potential pollutants from the surface or substrate. The infill does not migrate through the surface, through the enhanced treatment system, nor does it clog filters. King County currently operates and maintains 8 synthetic fields, none of which have the newly required enhanced treatment system. None of these existing fields exhibit the hypothetical problems mentioned. The risk of human waste and debris is no more than for the existing grass field. The enhanced filtration system will provide an improvement to the existing condition.

Public Comment or Question on Item 4a (from neighbors): *This site contains wet soil plants which are not noted on the SEPA checklist.*

Response: The project area is an existing grass soccer field. With the exception of wet soil plants in the existing storm water facilities, the project area does not include or otherwise impact wet soil plants or wetlands. The soils at the project site are generally Alderwood, gravelly sandy loam, and Ragnar-Indianola association. These are Soil Conservation Service (SCS) hydrologic soil groups C and B soils respectively.

Public Comment or Question on Item 4b (from neighbors): *The sentence, "In general, no trees are planned for removal". It has been represented to us by King County (T.J. Davis) that no trees will be removed. This sentence indicates that the possibility exists. The area is in a wetland and there is wildlife dependent on the existing trees. Furthermore the trees are needed as buffer for the surrounding homes.*

Response: No significant trees in or around wetlands are being removed. Two ornamental conifers may need to be removed to construct the sand filter and will be replaced. These trees were planted as part of previous landscaping improvements to this area of the park. SEPA checklist has been updated to reflect this.

Public Comment or Question on Item B.4 (from City of Kirkland Staff):

Please confirm if trees are being removed with the proposal. If so please update the site plan to show tree location, species, and size of trees to be removed. Is there a proposed landscape plan?

Response: No significant trees in or around wetlands are being removed. Two ornamental conifers may need to be removed to construct the sand filter and will be replaced. These trees were planted as part of previous landscaping improvements to this area of the park. There is no landscape plan, as the landscape around the field area will not be altered from current conditions. The landscaping will be restored to existing conditions following any construction related damage. SEPA checklist has been updated to reflect this.

Public Comment or Question on Item 4c (from neighbors): *Eagles, woodpeckers, frogs, owls, deer and other wildlife live in this park. Has a study been completed in the park to suggest that there are no endangered species?*

Response: A wildlife study was not required because the facility is an existing facility. The footprint of the facility only takes up 1.55% of the park and is not being expanded. The vast majority of the park will continue to serve as a respite for wildlife from the residential developments that surround it while continuing to accommodate existing community recreation activities.

Public Comment or Question on Item 4d (from neighbors): *Landscaping is not described in the proposal, however, the comment in this section indicates it will match what is currently on site. What landscaping is anticipated?*

Response: There is no new landscaping planned. The only landscaping anticipated is what is necessary to return the construction footprint and the immediate surrounding area to its current state. A grassy area will be re-installed above the sand filter. Any grassy areas damaged due to construction or staging will be repaired.

Public Comment or Question on Item 5a (from neighbors): *The stream that runs through this site flows into Lake Washington which does have the potential to affect fish. The Revised Master Plan, (page 8, section 6) references renewal of the original salmon stream.*

Response: The SEPA checklist has been updated to reflect this. The flow control requirements enhanced treatment system required for this project ensure that there is no adverse impacts on the stream.

Public Comment or Question on Item 5b (from neighbors): *The answer provided under this item "none known" is contradictory to the statement made by proponents in Item 5a.*

Response: There are no known endangered species on the site.

Public Comment or Question on Item 5d (from neighbors): *This site will inhibit existing wildlife. Lights, noise and synthetic turf are not conducive to their existence.*

Response: The project site takes up 1.55% of the park and the footprint is limited to the existing soccer field where active recreation already occurs. A vast majority of the park remains in a natural state. The primary impact on wildlife in this area comes from the residential developments and the infrastructure required to serve them (roads, utilities, etc). The park offers a small respite for wildlife while still being able to accommodate community recreation.

Public Comment or Question on Item 6c (from neighbors): *The statement made that use of synthetic turf eliminates the need for watering, fertilization, mowing, and aeration is misleading. Our observations indicate that the existing turf is mowed weekly for a period of 6 (six) months maximum throughout the year, or approximately 24 times/year.*

Response: The SEPA checklist has been updated to reflect this. The flow control requirements enhanced treatment system required for this project ensure that there is no adverse impact on the stream.

It is true that the existing field becomes too wet to properly maintain or play on for most of the year. The new surface will be able to be maintained and used all year long. The amount of maintenance required for a synthetic field per capita is dramatically lower than a properly maintained grass field. The amount of maintenance required to keep a grass field playable is not supported by the amount of use it can accommodate and has to be subsidized. Synthetic surfaces are able to pay for their own maintenance because of the increased capacity and reduced maintenance costs per capita.

Public Comment or Question on Item 6c (from neighbors): *Fertilization most likely occurs 2x/year.*

Response: This is correct. The synthetic surface will eliminate the need for fertilizing.

Public Comment or Question on Item 6c (from neighbors): *Synthetic turf will require vacuuming, blowers and sweeping more frequently than the natural turf is currently mowed.*

Response: The frequency of weekly maintenance of a synthetic surface is usually less depending on conditions. The primary difference is that the field will continue to be maintained in the darker wetter months. Sweeping and grooming is the main maintenance activity for synthetic surfaces. Blowers are rarely used unless a large amount of debris is on the surface, usually after storm events.

Public Comment or Question on Item 6c (from neighbors): *Specialized equipment costs approximately \$15-30,000.*

Response: The grooming equipment is included in the purchase of the synthetic surface being paid for by Kirkland Lacrosse. The grooming/sweeping equipment works with standard maintenance vehicles (gators) that King County Parks already possesses and uses at Big Finn Hill.

Public Comment or Question on Item 6c (from neighbors): *Equipment needs to be maintained (more equipment requirements means more maintenance costs).*

Response: Equipment maintenance is a standard practice for King County Parks. Gators are already in use at Big Finn Hill and already being maintained. Groomers/sweepers require minimal maintenance and are under warranty along with the surface.

Public Comment or Question on Item 6c (from neighbors): *Crumb rubber gets displaced and requires replacement; sanitization is required; disinfectant is required to mask odors; repairs will be needed to fix torn turf; clogged filters and drainage repairs will most likely occur.*

Response: Infill can migrate within the field surface and needs to be groomed. Minimal additional infill is used to address low spots (primarily from migration and compaction). A biodegradable cleaner called Rainwater is used to do any cleaning that is required. Repairs are covered by warranty. All other maintenance is much less per capita than an existing grass field.

Public Comment or Question on Item 6c (from neighbors): *Due to the location of this field there will be ongoing maintenance required during the fall and winter months which will include removal of leaves from deciduous trees, removal of pine cones, branches and other debris from fir trees which is a year-round occurrence. Many of these items can currently be resolved by mowing. User sweeper attachment is used to address field debris as needed.*

Response: The surface will be swept and groomed as needed, including being swept and groomed to address debris.

Public Comment or Question on Item 6c (from neighbors): *The warranty on these fields is approximately 8 years.*

Response: This is correct. Typical synthetic warranties are 8 to 10 years. The typical life span of a current generation synthetic surface is about 8 to 10 years. At that time, the carpet fiber layer is simply replaced and the old layer is recycled. The substrate does not need to be replaced for 30+ years.

Public Comment or Question on Item 6c (from neighbors): At the end of the lifecycle, the field will have to be disposed of in a landfill which can cost thousands of dollars.

Response: The surface is 100% recyclable. Upon replacement the surface is picked up and 100% recycled. It does not go into a landfill.

Public Comment or Question on Item 6c (from neighbors): According to King County, the oldest existing turf fields are 5 (five) years in age. There is no history determining the viability of this product.

Response: King County Parks' oldest installation is 5 years, but other installations locally and nationally have been around for much longer. There is a strong local, national, and international track record with the current generation of products. Previous vendors of subpar products are no longer in business leaving 3 or 4 preferred vendors with strong product performance and fully backed warranties.

Public Comment or Question on Item 7a (from City of Kirkland Staff): Please provide additional background in regards to exposure to toxic chemicals and heat effects of using crumb rubber

Response: Both the CDC and the EPA have concluded there are no human health risks associated with synthetic turf or crumb rubber. Many studies have proven the safety and benefits of synthetic sportsfields (see "Synthetic Field Studies" attachment) There is no lead in synthetic turf product chosen for this project. Northwest weather provides mild temperatures. In the rare occurrences that temperatures reach uncomfortable levels (ie. approaching 100 degrees), field activities are cancelled.

Public Comment or Question on Item 7a1 (from neighbors): Kirkland Youth Lacrosse suggested at the June 20th, 2011, meeting that they would like to discuss with King County Parks the possibility of opening an existing gate (east of the site) which is currently accessed by park employees and emergency vehicles only. Their plan would be to provide parallel parking along this area of NE 138th Street. This plan would be hazardous to pedestrians and emergency vehicles. There would be no turn around access. This suggestion, however, acknowledges Kirkland Youth Lacrosse's awareness that parking is inadequate for this project.

Response: Eight stalls are being installed as part of the project, in conjunction with upgrades to the ADA parking. The field surface improvement will not increase the maximum amount of parking needed because it does not increase the maximum amount of users that can use the field at any given time. The improved surface of the field is exactly the same footprint as the current field and will only be able to serve the same number of people at one time as the current facility. The increased capacity of the improvement comes from being able to use the field throughout the whole year (especially the wetter months).

Public Comment or Question on Item 7a2 (from City of Kirkland Staff):

Please confirm if there are any measures to help reduce or control health concerns

Response: The design uses the latest generation of synthetic field technology that assures there are no human health concerns. The fiber contains no lead and the cryogenic rubber does not pose any human health risks as confirmed by the CDC and the EPA. (See Synthetic Field Studies” attachments)

Public Comment or Question on Item 7b2 (from City of Kirkland Staff):

Please confirm types of long term noise effects as a result of future practice and/or games such as use of loudspeakers.

Response: Noise levels generated by community sports is minimal and will be the same as current conditions (youth sports practices and games) but will extend to later hours, particularly in the darker months. Loudspeakers will not be allowed at this field, nor will airhorns traditionally used by lacrosse to signal substitutions. In addition use of car stereos in the parking lot will also be prohibited.

Public Comment or Question on Item 7b3 (from City of Kirkland Staff):

What are the proposed measures to reduce or control any noise impacts.

Response: Noise levels generated by community sports is minimal and will be the same as current conditions (youth sports practices and games) but will extend to later hours, particularly in the darker months. Loudspeakers will not be allowed at this field, nor will airhorns traditionally used by lacrosse to signal substitutions. In addition use of car stereos in the parking lot will also be prohibited.

Public Comment or Question re: Noise (from Denny Creek Neighborhood

Alliance): *Artificial lighting will permit evening practices and games on the field, which were not contemplated in the 1994 revised Master Plan for Big Finn Hill Park and therefore represent a significant new impact. Unfortunately, the applicant’s response in section B.7b notes only that noise will arise from “team play, same as current.” The applicant does not provide any substantive information about evening activities, such as expected levels of traffic, expected noise levels (including the use of airhorns or whistles), hours of evening use, frequency of use, and scope of permitted activity at night (e.g., whether park use will be limited to the lacrosse field and whether any limitations can be effectively enforced by park or law enforcement personnel). This information is critically important to any environmental assessment, and should be presented in detail. Additionally, commitments regarding the mitigation of noise associated with evening activities should be assessed in the context of whether users of the lacrosse field will be held accountable for compliance. DCNA understands that use conditions will be described in an agreement between the County and Kirkland Youth Lacrosse. They should be sufficiently specific to assure neighboring residents that clear limits have been established for evening lacrosse events. Equally importantly, the*

County should commit itself to imposing the same requirements on other users of the field.

Response: Noise levels will be the same amounts as current activity (practices primarily during the week and games on weekends). Youth sports coaches and referees currently use whistles at the site during practices and games, this will continue to be the case. Air horns (traditionally used by Lacrosse to signal substitutions) will not be allowed at this field. Amplified sound will also be prohibited at this field. Activity will extend beyond current seasonal use to include the wetter and darker months but those noise levels will be the same as existing scheduled uses. The field will primarily be used for soccer most of the year, just like it is today. Lacrosse will only use it in the Spring. Facility use rules including the prohibition of air horns and amplified sound at the field will apply to all users.

Facility use rules are enforced through use agreements with yourh sports associations and/or rental agreements with community users. Penalties for violating field use rules include the loss of use privileges. In general, youth sports teams are highly organized and respectful users of King County’s large collection of sportsfields and King County has not had problems enforcing use rules at dozens of other King Coutny sportsfields.

Public Comment or Question on Item 7b1-3 (from neighbors): *This proposal will increase noise levels substantially. The statement provided in the SEPA checklist “same as current” is incorrect. The Revised Master Plan (page 8) states “Noise as the # 1 factor affecting neighborhoods”. Extended hours 8am-11 pm daily, will create more team play, thereby creating more noise. Currently there is no night use at the park – it closes at dusk.*

Response: Noise levels will be the same amounts as current activity (practices primarily during the week and games on weekends). Air horns and amplified sound will be prohibited at the field. Activity will extend beyond current seasonal use to include the wetter and darker months but those noise levels will be the same as existing scheduled uses. Hours will be extended to 11pm to allow for adult usage of the facility.

Public Comment or Question on Item 7b1-3 (from neighbors): *Equipment to maintain the site will be used more frequently and will create noise.*

Response: Gators used to pull the groomer are much quieter than mowers and are used the same or less than weekly mowing equipment (depending on conditions).

Public Comment or Question on Item 7b1-3 (from neighbors): *More traffic noise and team noise will occur with increased hours and increased participants. Lacrosse teams average 20 players/team.*

Response: The peak usage will be the same or less as existing peak soccer uses. Existing peak uses occur during modified soccer (younger teams) and soccer practices where 4 (four) teams are often on the field at one time. While Lacrosse teams have a few more players on a team than soccer, Lacrosse never has more than 2 teams on the field for practices or games. Peak traffic will be the same as existing conditions. (See letter from TSI)

Public Comment or Question on Item 7b1-3 (from neighbors): *Overlapping sports will increase the traffic, fan and team noise.*

Response: Current use patterns sometimes result in multiple activities in the park (soccer and baseball). This will continue to occur sometimes but instead of soccer and baseball it may be lacrosse and baseball. King County Parks makes adjustments in scheduling if and when traffic or other capacity issues arise.

Public Comment or Question on Item 7b1-3 (from neighbors): *Buffer will be decreased at least 6 (six) months of the year due to the deciduous trees – see photos.*

Response: The immediate field area is surrounded by conifers. In addition, the distance from homes provided by the central location of the field within the park provides ample buffer for typical youth sports activities. The closest home has 400 feet buffer including trees. 99% of the homes are between 700 feet and 2000 feet away from the field (See map).

Public Comment or Question on Item 7b1-3 (from neighbors): *Lacrosse play includes whistles and air horns. While the proponents of this project indicate they will discontinue the use of air horns, it is questionable that this mitigation is enforceable.*

Response: Air horns (traditionally used by Lacrosse to signal substitutions) will not be allowed at this field. Youth sports coaches and referees currently use whistles at the site during practices and games, this will continue to be the case. Facility use rules are enforced through use agreements with teams. Penalties for violating field use rules include the loss of use privileges.

Public Comment or Question on Item 7b1-3 (from neighbors): *Adult league players in other jurisdictions are known to linger after the games are over. How will this be enforced and which entity – King County Parks or City of Kirkland --will enforce the park hours?*

Response: Facility use rules are enforced through rental agreements which include hours of use and time allowances for exiting within the operational hours of the park. King County Parks operates many lit sports field facilities and has not had a problem enforcing hours or unapproved activity.

Public Comment or Question on Item 7b1-3 (from neighbors): *After dark, illegal activities currently enforceable due to park closure will no longer be enforceable with the hours extended to 11:00 pm.*

Response: Areas of the park beyond the field use area will still close at dusk. King County Parks has several facilities where portions of the park are open for active recreation but the rest of the park remains closed at dusk. Parks staff will administer the new park hours and while Parks does not have issues at similar sites elsewhere, Parks will work with users, neighbors, and Kirkland Police to address any issues that arise.

Public Comment or Question on Item 7b1-3 (from neighbors): *Construction hours: how will this be enforced, who will regulate – what hours will be in effect?*

Response: A contractor has not been selected so it is not known at this time what the construction schedule will be but construction hours will be governed by the City of Kirkland construction rules for operation of heavy equipment per 115.25. In general, this restricts construction to 7am to 8pm Monday through Friday, 9am to 6pm on Saturday, and no construction allowed on Sunday. The City of Kirkland will implement construction restrictions and enforce them.

Public Comment or Question on Item 8a (from neighbors): *The proposal is not consistent with the current use. It violates the Revised King County Master Plan. Lights, noise and extended hours will have a tremendous effect on the adjacent properties. This proposal will remove the quiet enjoyment of the neighborhood. Neighbors will be confronted with late night noise caused by fans, team members, traffic, cars in the park using the turn-around resulting in headlights into their homes (see photos). There will also be increased traffic on neighborhood streets which currently is an ongoing problem. People searching for the fields and for additional parking often frequent our neighborhood.*

Response: Peak traffic will not increase from current peak uses; however, use will occur more often than current uses in the wetter and darker months. Noise levels will be the same as they are today but will extend into the darker and wetter months. Traffic will not increase from current peak uses. (See letter from TSI). Additional signage will be provided to help address any existing difficulties with users finding the field.

Public Comment or Question on Item 8b (from neighbors): *This question has not been answered on the SEPA checklist.*

Response: The site has not been used for agriculture. SEPA Checklist has been updated to reflect this.

Public Comment or Question on Item 8c (from neighbors): *Currently there are no backstops, dugouts, small retaining wall or play structures on the site. The site as referenced in item #A11 of the SEPA checklist refers to the existing soccer field only. There are removable nets, and a fence around the existing retention pond.*

Response: The SEPA checklist was updated to delineate note that structures are in the park, but not in the project footprint.

Public Comment or Question on Item 8d (from City of Kirkland Staff): *Confirm if structures will be demolished. It appears that at the very least the fence along the Southern boundary will be removed.*

Response: The fence along the southern boundary will be removed during construction and upgraded as part of the new fencing around the field. SEPA checklist has been updated to reflect this.

Public Comment or Question on Item 8f (from neighbors): *The Master plan describes this as a park (page 10) "being designed to accommodate a diversity of active and passive recreational activities. The park is designed to serve the needs of the local neighborhood as well as the surrounding community".*

Response: The planned improvements are consistent with this statement. There are active sports fields, play areas, trails, mountainbiking, natural areas, and a variety of associated activity in the park. The field improvements make one of the sports fields more playable and safer.

Public Comment or Question on Item 8h (from neighbors): *The Revised Master Plan indicates on page 10 that "Significant trees and vegetation will be preserved; wetlands and streams will be protected and in many cases enhanced".*

Response: Significant trees and vegetation are being preserved. Two ornamental conifer trees must be removed in order to install the sand filter and they will be replaced.

Public Comment or Question on Item 8k (from neighbors): *These proposed measures are not consistent with the Revised Master Plan dated August 1, 1994.*

Response: The Big Finn Hill Master Plan is a guiding document based on community needs and desires. The community needs and desires have changed since the 1980's, especially as it related to ballfields. It was determined that increasing the capacity of a single existing soccer field by upgrading its surface and adding lights addresses some of this critical community need without having to add additional fields or change the layout of the Master plan. The new technology in surfaces and lighting that is available now was not available when the original master plan was developed nor when it was revised in 1994. The surface technology

allows for carefully engineered drainage management and treatment while improving safety, playability, and reducing resource consumption. The new lighting technology allows for a highly focused light that illuminates only the field area with no sky glow or spill (See “Photometrics and Lighting Detail” attachment). Because of the opportunity to better serve families with kids in organized sports and because of the new surface and lighting technology, it was determined that the improvement best served the entire community while preserving the same amount of the park in its natural state per the spirit of the master plan.

Public Comment or Question on Item 9c (from neighbors): *There has been no proposal by the proponents to reduce or control impacts. Noise was a #1 factor in the Revised Master Plan which remains a problem and will only increase with this proposal. This issue is not addressed in the proponent’s SEPA Checklist.*

Response: Section 9 refers to projects that add or displace housing (low income, middle income, or high income). This project does not involve any direct impacts on housing. Indirect neighborhood impacts are addressed elsewhere in the SEPA checklist.

Public Comment or Question on Item 10a (from City of Kirkland Staff): *What is the height of the proposed field lights?*

Response: The SEPA checklist has been updated to note light poles which will be approximately 70 feet. The height of the poles is a mitigation feature necessary to properly focus the lights on the field surface to eliminate spill. (See Photometrics and Lighting Detail” attachment)

Public Comment or Question on Item 10a (from neighbors): *This statement is incorrect. The tallest proposed structure will be the proposed lights which will be most likely a minimum of 50 feet in height*

Response: The SEPA checklist has been updated to note light poles which will be approximately 70 feet. The height of the poles is a mitigation feature necessary to properly focus the lights on the field surface to eliminate spill. (See Photometrics and Lighting Detail” attachment)

Public Comment or Question on Item 10c (from neighbors): *The aesthetic impacts to this project will not be controlled by black fencing. This field proposal is not consistent with the “natural” aesthetics of this park. This proposal introduces a commercial product, unlike any others existing in this park. As noted in the Master Plan, page 10, “the majority of the park will remain undeveloped, in its existing natural state”.*

Response: The majority of Big Finn Hill Park (166.8 acres) is undeveloped and remains in its natural state. The soccer field project area takes up 1.55% of the park. The total developed area in the park as a whole including all the sports fields, play

areas, roads, parking, and related infrastructure is only 13.58%. The vast majority of the park remains in its natural state, but some simple infrastructure such as roads, gates, bollards, fences, etc. is necessary for user safety, use delineation, and protecting sensitive areas of the park. Fencing is necessary at the field to keep the ball activity on the field surface and protect surrounding areas. It also delineates the surface for approved activities with related use rules while preventing unapproved activities (vehicles or dogs on the field). The fences are gated and are not locked.

Public Comment or Question on Item 11a (from City of Kirkland Staff): Please provide detail on the proposed lighting system:

Response: See “Photometrics and Lighting Detail” attachment.

Public Comment or Question on Item 11a-d (from neighbors): Lights will illuminate homes to the south and will be visible to the homes to the north due to the deciduous trees and shrubs that die back in the winter. Allowing lights extends the hours of operation. See attached photos. The lights are in violation of the Revised Master Plan (page 10).

Response: The Big Finn Hill Master Plan is a guiding document based on community needs and desires. The community needs and desires have changed since the 1980’s, especially as it related to ballfields. It was determined that increasing the capacity of a single existing soccer field by upgrading its surface and adding lights addresses some of this critical community need without having to add additional fields or change the layout of the Master plan. The new technology in synthetic surfaces and lighting that is available now was not available when the original master plan was developed nor when it was revised in 1994. The surface technology allows for carefully engineered drainage management and treatment while improving safety, playability, and reducing resource consumption. The new lighting technology allows for a highly focused light that illuminates only the field area with no sky glow or spill (See photometrics). Because of the opportunity to better serve families with kids in organized sports and because of the new surface and lighting technology, it was determined that the improvement best served the entire community while preserving the same amount of the park in its natural state per the spirit of the master plan.

Public Comment or Question on Item 11a-d (from neighbors): The other fields on this property do not have lights.

Response: Youth baseball does not play during the winter consequently, lights are not as critical for youth baseball.

Public Comment or Question on Item 11a-d (from neighbors): Once lights are allowed, the other sports will follow suit.

Response: The baseball fields do not have the same mitigation opportunities as the project field that would otherwise allow for mitigating the impact of lights. The baseball fields are much closer to homes and the amount of lighting and the orientation necessary for three baseball fields would have a much higher impact on homes than the planned amount of lighting and orientation for the project field (see photometrics for project field).

Public Comment or Question on Item 11a-d (from neighbors): *Lighting will extend the park hours of operation thereby increasing noise and the potential for increased vandalism.*

Response: Sanctioned public activities in parks in the evenings reduce vandalism. Vandalism in any given park occurs under the cover of darkness and when there is no other approved, positive activity occurring.

Public Comment or Question on Item 12a-c (from neighbors): *The existing soccer field is available and used for a variety of activities other than organized sports. This proposal includes a fence which most likely will restrict other uses. The cost of the synthetic turf and its maintenance will most likely prohibit other uses. Past events such as the Susan G. Komen 3-day walk and cycle cross will no longer have access with the new proposed use. The Revised Master plan was designed to encourage community activities by providing a “balance of activities and balance of priorities”.*

Response: Big Finn Hill Park is a large multi-use regional park that remains mostly in its natural state. The soccer field project area takes up 1.55% of the total park and the total developed area in the park as a whole, including all the sports fields, play areas, and related infrastructure is 13.58%. While most of the park is in its natural state, there are still a variety of activities available in the park for all types of active and passive users. The field improvements will provide additional opportunities for sports field users during darker and wetter months without impacting the rest of the uses. King County Parks will continue to accommodate special events at the park including non-sports activities on the project field that are compatible with the new field surface. A large overnight event was recently hosted at Preston Park which included using the synthetic soccer fields for camping so we can work with any special event to meet their needs. King County already accommodates cyclecross at multiple sites, including Big Finn Hill and is also working to create a permanent cyclecross location with the region’s cyclecross organizations.

Public Comment or Question on Item 14 c-f (from City of Kirkland Staff): *Please provide an analysis prepared by a qualified professional that compares current parking demand and traffic to the completed project and proposed activities.*

Response: See letter from TSI attached.

Public Comment or Question on Item 14 a-g (from neighbors): Entrances to this park are accessed via Juanita Drive on the West and 84th Avenue NE on the East. Once tolls are placed on the 520 bridge, it is highly probable that increased traffic will occur on Juanita Drive.

Response: King County Parks, like all stakeholders in the area is concerned about the impacts to park users caused by potentially increased traffic due to 520 bridge tolling. The City of Kirkland plans to monitor traffic volumes in cooperation with the state and other jurisdictions post tolling. State forecasts do not anticipate large diversions, more likely on the order of a few percent. The attached report from the state gives more specifics beginning on page 28. Some routes might see traffic decreases. Kirkland expects that it will take 6-12 months for patterns to settle down and during this time there could be large variations in traffic volumes.

In the short term, any mitigation by the City of Kirkland will probably include operational changes like signal timing adjustments. Long term mitigation will be determined by the availability of funding and the nature of the impacts to be mitigated.

Public Comment or Question on Item 14 a-g (from neighbors): Presently, exiting the park by turning left onto Juanita Drive can be extremely difficult. Peak traffic times, which coincide with practice and games, will magnify this problem.

Response: There are currently the same size of practices and games during peak traffic times, as will be after the surface is improved. Current conditions are similar to other King County Parks located in high traffic areas. King County Parks makes modifications in scheduling if egress becomes problematic for users due to rush hour traffic. (See letter from TSI attached)

Public Comment or Question on Item 14 a-g (from neighbors): The inability to turn left will cause congestion in the parking lot. Will a traffic control system be required?

Response: Traffic controls are not required at this time, nor will they be required as a result of changing the surface of the field. King County Parks makes modifications in scheduling if egress becomes problematic for park users due to rush hour traffic.

Public Comment or Question on Item 14 a-g (from neighbors): Parking has been an issue with this park since its inception in 1984. The problem exists causing overflow parking in Thoreau Elementary and along neighborhood streets.

Response: Parking capacity at Big Finn Hill Park is fairly standard for King County's large multi-use parks. The park can reach capacity during certain days of certain seasons when all park activities are occurring at once. King County Parks makes modifications in scheduling if and when parking becomes problematic during any given season or for any specific time or event.

Public Comment or Question on Item 14 a-g (from neighbors): *Parking is extremely limited. There are currently 60 stalls that serve the soccer, baseball field, playground, picnic area and trails. All of these uses require parking.*

Response: Big Finn Hill can accommodate multiple recreation activities. King County Parks makes modifications in scheduling if and when parking becomes problematic during any given season or for any specific time or event.

Public Comment or Question on Item 14 a-g (from neighbors): *Due to the overlap of playing seasons, there will be an overlap of activities requiring parking.*

Response: Big Finn Hill can accommodate multiple recreation activities. King County Parks makes modifications in scheduling if and when parking becomes problematic during any given season or at any specific time.

Public Comment or Question on Item 14 a-g (from neighbors):

- *Lacrosse and baseball seasons overlap. The following statement was pulled from the Kirkland Lacrosse Website: "Regular season starts mid February and runs to early June. Conflicts with baseball season."*
- *Soccer and fall baseball seasons conflict. Soccer begins in the fall; many baseball teams have fall baseball.*
- *Lacrosse teams have a minimum of 20 players per team*
- *Baseball teams have between 9-12 players per team*
- *Bike enthusiasts using the trails will leave their cars for extended periods of time, as the bike trails in this park are extensive.*
- *Public transportation to this field is extremely limited. A regional park will draw people from all areas of King County. The likelihood that children or adults will take a bus to this field is unlikely.*

Response: Soccer and baseball often occur at the same time at Big Finn Hill. The same will be true for lacrosse and baseball in the spring. King County Parks makes modifications in scheduling if and when parking becomes problematic during any given season or for any specific time or event.

Public Comment or Question on Item 16 (from neighbors): *Only electricity is noted on the SEPA checklist. Water will be required for hosing the synthetic turf and King County represents that this is currently used on the existing natural turf field as noted in Item 6c of the SEPA checklist. With increased usage, how will trash be handled?*

Response: Water use on synthetic surfaces is minimal, only during spot cleaning with biodegradable cleaners for pet debris, vomit, etc. The SEPA checklist has been updated to reflect this minimal use.