

Kennedy Park Playing Surface Improvement Proposal

Alex Hagen on behalf of Association de Futbol Lafayette (AFLA)

5/1/14

Objective

Kennedy Park in Lafayette, IN includes one soccer field, which has become the home (and only) field for the AFLA. The objective of this proposal is to

- propose improvements to the playing surface to be funded by and undertaken by the AFLA,
- describe requested support from the Lafayette Department of Parks and Recreation to preserve the quality of the playing surface,
- lay out possible future improvements not undertaken by this plan that may further improve the playing surface,
- and enumerate success metrics by which the AFLA may report back to Lafayette Department of Parks and Recreation to demonstrate the efficacy of the improvement.

Introduction

The AFLA is a group of adult soccer players that have organized for years to play a summer league of soccer. While the league has seen up to 18 teams (~ 300 players), recently the playing space has limited the league to 12 teams (~ 200 players). The league operates from late April to September, with each team playing one game on Sunday, weekly. Along with the players involved, the league also must employ referees each week to officiate games. The league fees required of each team are used to organize the league, buy equipment, and pay for referees. The league does not take profit from any fees. While the league does not have non-profit status, the step of becoming a non-profit organization is targeted for the coming year.

Kennedy Park, in the 2500 block of Sequoya Drive in Lafayette, IN, has been provided by the Lafayette Department of Parks and Recreation to the AFLA for use as the AFLA's sole playing field. The park consists of a playground and green space with room enough for one full size soccer field. The AFLA has provided two full size soccer goals for the playing surface, paints lines, mows when required before games, and brings corner flags for the surface.

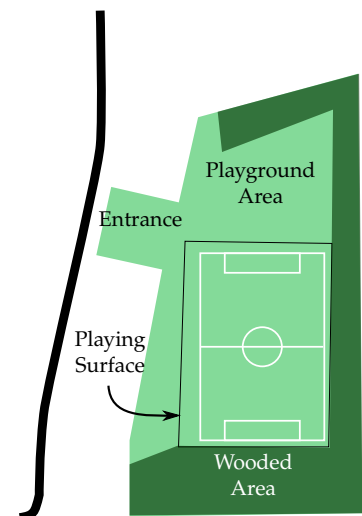


Figure 1: Kennedy Park Layout with Available Playing Surface and Proposed Field

Unfortunately, the playing surface is suboptimal. The field has not been irrigated nor graded for many years. The roughness of the playing surface has lead to local teams playing in close towns which have better playing surfaces (Crawfordsville and Frankfort). Also, the limit to one field has limited the amount of teams able to join the league¹ (only 5 games may be reliably played during a day because of daylight limitations and fear of further damaging the field).

¹ Several teams have been turned away because of the strict limit to the number of teams that can be accomidated.

The following proposal will describe steps that the AFLA desires to take to improve the field for playing. It will then enumerate ways that the Lafayette Department of Parks and Recreation may support the AFLA and help the AFLA's attempt at stewardship of the field. It will then describe other possible improvements that may be revisited in the future. For completeness, the proposal will end with metrics that the AFLA can apply to report to the Department of Parks and Recreation in the future to demonstrate the success of the improvement to the field.

Summer 2015 Field Improvement Proposal

If the approval of the Department of Parks and Recreation is recieved with satisfactory response to the support desired in the next section of this proposal, the following are steps that will be taken to improve the Kennedy Park playing surface by the AFLA.

1. Surface Grading (according to Quote {})
 - (a) Level low areas/grading
 - (b) 15 tons of topsoil deliviered and applied to provide level playing surface
2. Turf Repair (according to Quote {})
 - (a) Seed/over-seed throughout summer of 2015
 - (b) Straw applied to improve grass growth
3. Turf Acceleration and Maintenance (according to Quote {})
 - (a) Lawn Aeration
4. Field Stewardship
 - (a) Cancellation of games during unduly wet weather.
 - (b) Slight movement of field at least once per year to let goal and central areas "rest".
 - (c) Field not used by AFLA before April 15th nor after October 15th to allow for sufficient growth and rest of field.

- (d) Repair of field with topsoil and seed as needed by AFLA through field life.
- (e) Oversight as possible by AFLA against any blatant acts of field destruction².

² Such as driving cars on field, bon fires, digging.

5. Community Stewardship

- (a) Removal or reporting of any persons engaged in illegal activity during AFLA games.
- (b) Removal of persons using expletives during AFLA games.
- (c) Field left free of trash and other debris after AFLA games.

Desired Support for AFLA Kennedy Park Improvement

The AFLA has restricted ability to oversee the Kennedy Park field, and as such, may require some support from the Department of Parks and Recreation to ensure longevity of the playing surface. If possible, it is desired that the Department of Parks and Recreation provides the following in some capacity.

1. Approval for AFLA to use field at McCallister Center in Lafayette for Summer 2015, while improvement of Kennedy Park field makes surface unplayable.
2. Availability of Kennedy Park field to be decided by AFLA³.
3. Ability of AFLA to apply signage to fields to limit use of playing field when the field is on "rest" period.
4. Change of mowing schedule to late week to ensure short grass for Sunday games.
5. Implicit future approval of small repairs to the field (< \$500) allowed by the AFLA without proposal process through Department of Parks and Recreation⁴.

³ AFLA given the ability to refuse official entities from practicing and playing on the Kennedy Park playing surface.

⁴ To allow for repairs like aeration, etc. to be completed in a timely manner.

Possible Further Improvement of Kennedy Park Playing Surface

Also proposed are ideas for further improvement of Kennedy Park playing surface if the current improvement project does not sufficiently improve the field, or if the improvement to the field necessitates further action. These actions would not be undertaken until a further proposal and approval process is completed.

- Laser grading of field with crown to decrease water retention.
- Irrigation of field to keep field playable during dry periods of summer⁵.

⁵ It was stated that infrastructure may already be present under the field to allow for this.

- Further and repetitive aeration of field.
- Improvement of facility for fans, including better restroom and water fountain facilities.

Success Metrics to Prove Efficacy of Improvement to Kennedy Park Field

The AFLA understands its responsibility to the Department of Parks and Recreation to prove the success of the improvement project. Proposed below are certain metrics that will show that the playing field has improvement, and may be used in reasonable combination by the Department of Parks and Recreation as metrics to determine continued support.

- League expansion⁶.
- Increase of fan attendance.
- Application and approval of AFLA as non-profit organization.
- Decrease of local teams playing in neighboring cities leagues.
- Playoff games played at Kennedy Park.
- Decrease of teams playing in local indoor facilities during summer.
- Addition to AFLA several teams mainly composed of players affiliated with Purdue⁷.

⁶ i.e. increase from 12 teams to 18 teams, or several game days per week.

⁷ Such as faculty/staff or summer student teams.