

Athletic activities for urban youth are vital to community health. Soccer, as the world's most popular sport, is also a Portland favorite. Many youth soccer clubs exist in the state but are off limits to youth who are unable to travel long distances for practices or pay expensive club fees. Portland City United (PCU) ensures competitive, affordable soccer opportunities are available for talented youth in Portland.

A home field provides a central location for practices and games for the more than the 20 teams PCU manages. A home field reduces extra costs for field rentals and provides predictability for practice locations for the more than 500 families involved with PCU.

### **Project Benefits:**

- Buckman Park will be home to PCU for the life of the turf, estimated at 10 to 12 years.
  - Regular training and game day facilities.
  - Regular Goalkeeper/Striker Training through out the year.
  - Regular ADAPT Training through out the year.
  - Ability to host leagues and tournaments.
  - Give teams more space to train more effectively.
  - Provides a consistent surface which will help maximize player skill.
- Buckman Park will provide a quality training experience and professional game day facilities.H
  - Teams would have a regular training schedule that wouldn't change location or time from month to month.
  - Teams would have access to field equipment to help with training sessions including: game-size goals, small goals for practice, speed-agility equipment, and bathrooms.
- Buckman Park will be part of Portland's sporting community
  - PCU will offer a premier facility that will become part of Portland's sporting fabric.
  - Local school's, other sport teams, and community groups will seek out PCU for their facilities.

### **FAQ's:**

#### **Where is Buckman Park?**

Buckman Field is located between Benson High School and the Portland Tennis Center at the corner of NE Glisan Street and NE 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The field is within walking distance of the Max line and several frequent bus lines in addition to having plentiful parking spaces nearby.

#### **Why Buckman Field and why now?**

Buckman Field provides a central location for all of Portland to have access to. With a premium on field space being at a minimum, the ability to create more usable hours within the city of Portland is a must. With PGE Park becoming a professional soccer venue that won't have the access that it once had, and with the growth of spring sports at Lincoln High School, we have to find other facilities to allow players to play soccer during the winter and spring months. Lights are an important piece to our training from October thru March.

#### **What does the field mean to my family?**

PCU is an urban focused club that has relied on creative partnerships and unsatisfactory fields for both practices and games. Each year, PCU families pay for park rentals through their annual fee and then in the fall they are asked to pay additional funds to cover the rental of PGE Park. The field will mean these fees will become predictable and regular. Most importantly, fees will contribute towards PCU's ownership of the facility, building an asset for the future generations of soccer players in Portland. All training and events will now be centrally located at one site, and not spread out around the City as they have been in the past. Practices will be on a set schedule throughout the season and not always changing due to having to move field locations. Training sessions will be better. The surface will allow our players to be better technically. Training on some of the bumpy grass fields throughout the city make it difficult to practice proper technic, which holds us back when we look at basic skills including dribbling, passing and trapping.

#### **How is the field being paid for?**

The Buckman Community Field Project is a public private partnership between PCU, St. Mary's, and the City of Portland. Total cost of the project is estimated at 1.8 million dollars.

#### **How will the money that PCU raises be managed?**

An LLC will be created where all funds for the project will be deposited and distributed throughout the construction process. Each entity involved will have a member that sits on the LLC committee.

#### **How does the partnerships affect PCU's field time?**

In the fall PCU would have 2 nights a week for training and 8 to 5 pm on weekends for games. PCU would be the primary user in the winter and summer with Monday to Thursday evenings for training and 8 to 5 pm on weekends for games and scrimmages. The partnership provides Benson HS the field after school in the fall and spring until 6 pm on one of the fields, with extended hours on game nights. SMA would use the other field in both the fall and spring until 6 pm with extended nights for games.

#### **What does the city of Portland have to gain out of these new fields?**

The fields PCU has been using for practices and games will now be available to other organizations and sports to rent. In addition, the city gets a top class facility that rivals those in the suburbs. With all of the Portland suburb schools having turf fields this may help get families to stay in Portland. The community benefits by having over 2,000 rentable hours available for community use. This project has also set the groundwork for other similar projects for the future.