



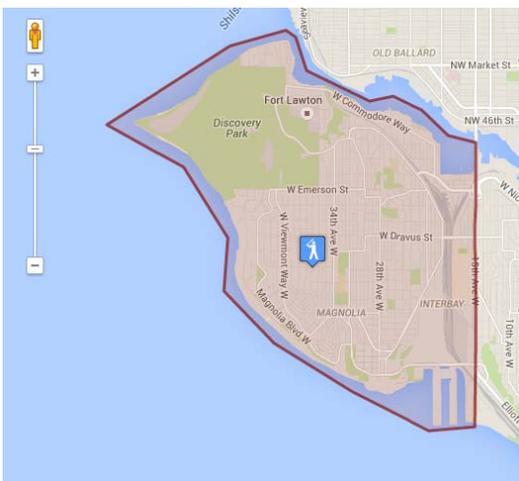
Magnolia Little League
3213 West Wheeler Street #143
Seattle, WA 98199-3245
October 7, 2016

David Graves
Senior Planner
Seattle Parks and Recreation
City of Seattle

Dear Mr. Graves:

On behalf of Magnolia Little League, an all-volunteer organization that provides community-based youth development baseball, girls softball and tee-ball for 540 children that reside or attend school in Magnolia, I am writing to support the inclusion of baseball and softball diamonds into the existing playfield at Smith Cove. Interestingly, on the design principles presentation deck (http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/ParksAndRecreation/Projects/SmithCoveParkDesignPrinciples_20160823.pdf) the slide labeled 1947, shows 2 baseball diamonds at the site nearly 70 years ago.

The 2016 season has been a tremendous success for Magnolia Little League. Our league registrations have increased each year for the last 5 years totaling 540 children (aged 5-14), 105 volunteer coaches playing on 50 teams this year. Additionally, 150 children play in our recreational Summer Ball program. This success has created a number of challenges that renovation of Smith Cove Playfields would address, namely more fields. Currently Magnolia Little League's field capacity is at 90%. This means that, as a league, scheduling and access to practice and games times has become a premium. With the current upward trends in our neighborhood, we anticipate Magnolia Little League to be serving 600 children by 2018. This will mean we will not have enough play fields to serve our community.



Smith Cove Park is within Magnolia Little League's boundary as determined by Little League International (pictured), and Magnolia Little League has been an active supporter with matching funds for the City of Seattle's application for both the Youth Sports Facilities Grants (YSFG) application and Washington State RCO Playfield/Park grant application. Magnolia Little League is the largest user of playfields by time and dollars in Magnolia. Our 2016 season from March through

July, generated over \$32,000 in fees for the Parks department. Our league has a strong legacy of stewardship with Seattle Parks & Recreation funding many improvements for the benefit all Seattle citizens including the bathrooms at West Magnolia Fields. It is our desire and mission to be an active contributor to Seattle Parks for all citizens.



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A full-sized playfield that could accommodate the needs of baseball, girls softball, soccer and lacrosse at Smith Cove is greatly needed. Providing this playing field would greatly help our mission of teaching life lessons through support, developing character and promoting active American values of citizenship.

Little League was granted Federal Charter July 16, 1964, by unanimous act of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Charter of Federal Incorporation is the highest honor the federal government can accord to any organization. Magnolia Little League takes this obligation seriously and works to provide places and opportunities to play for all children within our league boundary. Our organization looks forward to supporting the Smith Cove renovation in any way that we can.

Also, please know that with Catherine Blaine School curriculum night being held at the same time as the October 6 meeting, there were far fewer supporters of playfields at the October 6 meeting. There is strong community support from the Little League, as well as the soccer and lacrosse leagues. On a personal note, my grandfather returned home from the Second World War through Piers 90/91 after 4 years in the Pacific theater, the only time he ever visited Seattle. In addition to being a place to play, grow and learn through sports, Smith Cove is a place that provides an opportunity to reflect, remember and honor the millions of Americans, like him, who bravely served and sacrificed for our country.

Sincerely,

Max Effgen

Magnolia Little League President