















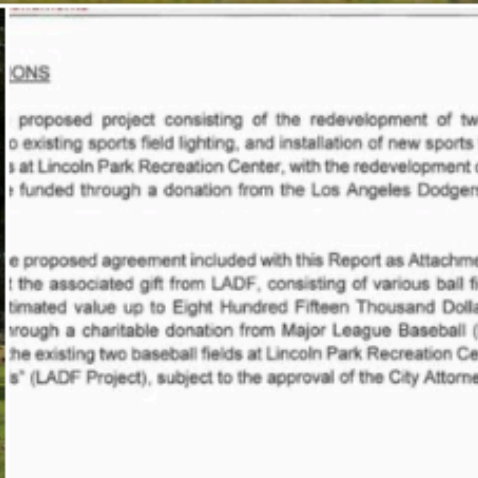
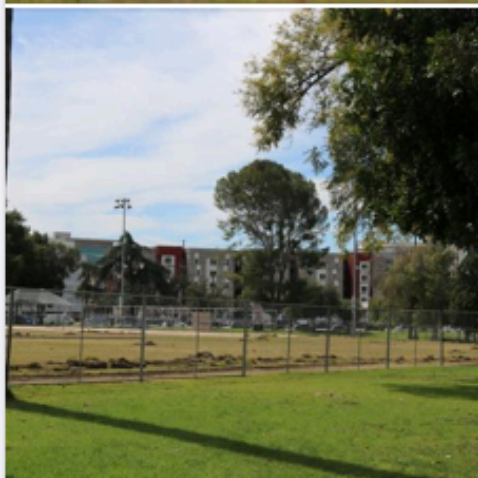
Lincoln Park Los Angeles

March 20, 2020 · 🌐



Lincoln Park's baseball field will soon be transformed into a Dodger Dreamfield. The project's completion date is tentatively set for July. The Dream field funding was donated by the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation in association with Major League Baseball. The generous cost is \$815,000

A tremendous and heartfelt thank you to the Los Angeles Dodgers and MLB.





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Some of these fields are locked up unless there is a park sanctioned league playing which is unfair to all the kids that just want to play and have fun but they cant because the only park in the area is a "Dodger dream field".

2:13 AM · Jun 22, 2020 · Twitter for Android



Readers React: Money shouldn't stop kids from playing baseball

To the editor: Once upon a time, boys of all economic and ethnic backgrounds could use public parks in Los Angeles and its environs to play Little League baseball free of charge. Now the city of Los Angeles is selling the use of a baseball field subsidized in part by the Dodgers to well-heeled families who do not live in the neighborhood. (["Donors help east Hollywood youth baseball team regain field access," Feb. 24](#)).

Good thing that Jackie Robinson, Ozzie Smith and Eddie Murray grew up in the golden era of public parks in Los Angeles County.

Joel Ruben, Redondo Beach

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To the editor: Hey, Magic Johnson, can you hear me?

Considering that 3.8 million fans attended Dodgers games and bought overpriced beer and hot dogs at the stadium last season, it would be nice if the Dodgers picked up the tab for the city permit fees for all the children's leagues participating

in the Dodgers Dreamfields program.

Then, those who are savvy enough to work the system will not be the only ones to have access to public facilities.

Milt Rosenberg, Los Angeles

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Money shuts out youth baseball team from using public field

By [Louis Sahagún](#) Staff Writer Feb. 23, 2015 5 AM PT

The L.A. Bulldogs youth baseball program has always struggled financially in its hard-pressed corner of east Hollywood.

Parents and community supporters raise enough money for uniforms and equipment by selling caramel apples, jalapeno cheese popcorn and bottled water so their kids can play at Lemon Grove Recreation Center — on a ball field created as part of the Dodgers Dreamfields program.

But this year the team is being locked out of the Dreamfield by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. The city said it sold the rights to use the field during the premium weekday hours of 6 to 9 p.m. to a girls softball league founded by parents in the upscale Hancock Park area of Los Angeles.

“Money talks,” Bulldogs coach Miguel Jimenez said Thursday night of the permits snatched up by the Wilshire Girls Softball Assn. Behind him, his team assembled for practice on a 20-foot-wide strip of grass between the

ballpark perimeter fence and a parking lot.

The Bulldogs had always played on the field for free, while the girls league paid hundreds of dollars a year for permits to use the park at certain times. This year, the league bought up all available time slots — and the city advised Bulldog supporters not to try for a permit because all the slots were taken.

On Thursday, as their parents watched from an adjacent curb, the Bulldogs — ages 8 to 12 — tossed balls back and forth beside parked cars and swatted balls against the Dreamfield's chain-link fence from three feet away.

Inside the park, parents of the Wilshire Girls Softball team gathered on the grandstands to watch their daughters perfect their pitching, batting and base-running skills under the Dreamfield's towering floodlights.

"It's tough to keep kids interested in baseball under these conditions," said Chris Barksdale, pastor at Hope Hollywood Church and father of an 11-year-old Bulldog. "It was bad enough that we don't compete for big trophies because we can't afford to play in those tournaments."

Rose Watson, a spokeswoman for the parks department, declined to comment except to say, "Everyone has the opportunity to permit our facilities when they are available."

After inquiries by The Times, however, city officials on Thursday notified the Bulldogs that the field was available from 6 to 9 p.m. Mondays and from 8 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays — provided the team pays \$436 for a permit.

"We can't afford both of those days," said Johanna Samiento, who is in charge of the Bulldogs' finances. "We've already spent most of our budget on baseball bats, balls and uniforms."

"The bottom line is this," she said. "They're killing baseball. Only those who can afford it will be able to play in a Dreamfield."

In an interview Friday, Adam Glickman, president of the Wilshire team, said he plans to seek approval from his board of directors to donate a portion of his team's Friday night slot to the Bulldogs.

"I sympathize with the Bulldogs," Glickman said. "There are some unfortunate realities in running a sports league in the middle of the city."

Glickman added that he doesn't believe "there was malice or monkey business by the city. It was just a misunderstanding that should be easily rectified."

He said the recreation center asked him a few days ago "if I had a problem with local kids playing on the field out behind

an inside fence where there's a batting cage and some green space. I said, by all means, I have no problem with that."

None of that conversation, however, had reached Bulldog players or their parents. They said that a week ago city workers turned on sprinklers to force the team off the grass.

"The last time they locked us out I asked park administrators for an explanation," Barksdale said. "They said it was a liability issue. I pointed out that we are fully insured. But they wouldn't budge."

Among those locked out was Juliana Jimenez, 12, who lives a few blocks away.

"I don't get it," Jimenez said. "We grew up here. We're the neighborhood baseball team."

The Dodgers Dreamfields program is operated by the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation with a goal of providing baseball fields where youngsters can learn the game in a program administered by the city or county in a safe environment.

The Bulldogs have learned to take advantage of opportunities to use the field, such as one that arose at 7:30 Thursday night: The Wilshire team left the field after 11/2 hours of practice and Lemon Grove administrators were nowhere in sight.

The Bulldogs trotted onto the field and played ball for an hour.

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