

Re: Opposition to Proposed Running Track/Soccer Field in Lincoln Park

Honorable Richard Daley
Mayor
City of Chicago
121 N. LaSalle
Chicago, IL 60602
Fax: 312/744-8045

cc: Honorable Vi Daley
Alderman, 43rd Ward
City of Chicago
735 W. Wrightwood
Chicago, IL 60614
Fax: 773.327.7103

cc: David Doig
Superintendent
Chicago Park District
541 N Fairbanks Ct.
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Mayor Daley,

Since the park's inception in 1860, concerned citizens of Chicago have worked alongside city officials, contributing to the planning and evolution of Lincoln Park, a park described by the original proponents as the "lungs of the city". In 1991, the Chicago Park District and the Lincoln Park Steering Committee, a committee formed to ensure Lincoln Park's long-term viability, adopted the Lincoln Park Framework Plan.

Today, a group of Chicagoans under the banner of *Keep Lincoln Park Public* has formed to protect the life sustaining "breath" of Lincoln Park. The South Field area of the Park currently welcomes a multitude of recreational activities, including family picnics, community fairs and events, Frisbee, baseball, daily Boys and Girls Clubs activities, dog walkers, volleyball, tai chi, etc. A proposal to build a synthetic eight-lane regulation sized running track and AstroTurf soccer field is in direct contradiction to the Framework Plan. **Construction of this project will effectively eliminate the enjoyment of these populist activities, replacing this flexible, multi-use area with a structured, restricted one.**

This sports complex proposal flies in the face of stated Land Use Policies adopted by the Chicago Park District in the Lincoln Park Framework Plan. These Land Use Policies under the heading of Open Park Space, state that the goal of land use policies is to **"respect and enhance existing land** uses of historic significance and prohibit new facilities and land uses that are unrelated to historic land uses and that are not dependent upon being in Lincoln Park."

Keep Lincoln Park Public takes the position that this track and field/soccer facility is unrelated to historic land uses of Lincoln Park and is not dependent upon being in Lincoln Park and therefore suggest a facility of this nature would be better suited for a location other than Lincoln Park. We are not opposed to the building of such a facility, nor do we disagree that a facility of this nature would be beneficial to the City of Chicago. In closing, Lincoln Park is like no other city park in Chicago -- **it belongs to all of Chicago's citizens** and therefore any development and land use proposals must be held to a higher standard.

Name (please print)

Address

City, State

Zip Code

Signature

Date

Keep Lincoln Park Public
<http://www.klpp.com>