

sports

Complex to supply needed sport area

By Sue Hanneman
Of The Print

"It's been a struggle all the way, every way we go," stated Red Soils Youth Complex co-creator Jim Tucker, in reference to the three-year battle to acquire land for use as a recreation area for the youth of Clackamas County.

But the end of the struggle is now in sight with groundbreaking on the 20-acre site an estimated two weeks away, and a completion date targeted for 1982. The community-sponsored, \$325,000 complex is planned to meet the ever in-

will contain six ball parks (four major fields and two minor ones), and four full-sized soccer fields. The fields are to remain open and in operation year round, starting with baseball and softball, followed by soccer.

The large land area owned by the county includes about 100 acres, 20 of which have been leased on a year-to-year basis to the junior baseball organization for \$1 annually, for the recreational use. The land was not previously being used, and no immediate use was planned. The Cinderella overhaul from an unproductive plot of land into playing fields



Staff photo by Sue Hanneman

'Until the ground's broken, the people aren't going to believe it.'

creasing demand for youth recreation programs.

Due to the ever expanding participation in youth-oriented programs throughout the county, the youth complex is being created to provide recreational facilities with aims to promote sound athletic programs for the area's youth.

The site is located next to the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department complex between Molalla Avenue and Kaen Road, just off of Warner Milne Road. As now planned, the site

should have no outstanding or negative effect on the area, according to project organizers.

It will, however, provide precious recreational space to keep up with the growing demand of the public. "We now have only eight fields available for practice and games," stated Jim Tucker, who is the co-creator and member of the Committee for Youth Sports. "We have an extreme need for the use of these new fields," he added, pointing out the 50 to 70 teams which will be involved with the site after comple-

tion. "All have a need for organized, laid out fields."

According to Doris Hill, project coordinator, the fields will serve large numbers throughout the community. "With the 50 teams that will be using the fields, the average participants involved at one time will include 5,000 parents and 2,800 youths." Hill's point of view runs closely with Tucker's, as she echoes his words by saying, "The growth is so tremendous in this area, we have a dire need for the fields."

Currently, youth teams play on eight fields scattered throughout Oregon City, including Kelly Field, local school fields and Clackamas Community College. But the patchwork arrangement cannot keep pace with the exploding public demand, especially when local budgets are suffering cutbacks.

Hill believes the new fields are essential, especially now with the budget cuts. "There are not parks or recreation areas other than the Oregon City pool this year because of the budget cutback," she said. Indeed, many believe that additional fields can and will be an investment for the youth of Clackamas County.

Paul Fiskum, community recreation supervisor at the College, is the person in charge of scheduling the field usage as well as other recreational activities for the College. Fiskum, paying special attention to the campus softball fields which are scheduled six days per week from May through August, wrote in the 1980 Community Recreation Annual Report, "The recreation facilities continued to receive maximum utilization during the past fiscal year. While the number of

facility use requests forms processed are virtually the same, a greater number of requests had to be denied this year than last."

Until the Red Soils Youth Complex is completed, existing fields will remain overcrowded. To help combat this, the recreation director for the city of Oregon City, Les Packalak, has had to place an 80 percent residence requirement on the adult softball teams, restricting further the persons allowed to participate. The baseball and girls softball teams have had to restrict the number of players they can serve because of the number of fields available for their use.

After establishing the need and worth of such a complex to be built, co-creators Jim Tucker and David Steele have been faced with the burden of funding the project. Steele stressed, "The whole project is to be funded entirely by donations from the people throughout the community," including sponsors in the business area, and fund-raising projects such as dances and beer gardens that are organized by Doris Hill. Fund-raisers are still being held in an effort to reach the estimated \$325,000.

The project is a non-profit package, established, say its creators, for the benefit of thousands of various aged children, as well as for the community at large.

Much time, manpower, equipment and money have been donated by the city, local schools, clubs, organizations and the National Guard officials to construct the complex. The complex so far has functioned on the total volunteer effort directed with aims in providing the county with an ex-

ceptional recreational area to serve thousands of people year round.

"This is just a tremendous project, and I think that the more people who are aware of this, the more they will become involved," beamed Hill.

Indeed, the struggle and hard work are paying off for all those involved with the youth project, since the project is months ahead of schedule and proceeding well. "I'm pleased that we are four months ahead at this point," added Hill. "You could not have done this three years ago. It just seems to be the right time."

With the actual groundbreaking in sight, David Steele summed up his feelings on the subject after four to five years of planning and work by saying, "It will sink in when the ground's broken! Until the ground's broken, the people aren't going to believe it."

Women's Basketball Awards

All League Selections

Second Team

Jamie Hill

Third Team

Cindi Johnston

Honorable Mention

Lou Ann Garvin

Team Honors

Most Valuable Player

Jamie Hill

Cindi Johnston

Most Inspirational

Carolyn Raimondi

Best Offensive Player

Lou Ann Garvin

Best Defensive Player

Angel Humphrey

Most Improved

Carolyn Raimondi

