

# RECOGNIZING THE DEPLETION OF MULTI-USE PARKS AND GREEN SPACE

Peter Auth  
Santa Clara Unified School District



# CITY OF SANTA CLARA

Sub-region of the San Francisco Bay Area  
7.68 million people live in the entire bay area  
Santa Clara sits in South Bay, in the "Heart of Silicon Valley"  
Very culturally diverse population  
The housing boom has reached astronomical highs resulting in lack of green space and open public areas



# SANTA CLARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

- 27 Schools – Total enrollment 15,500 students
  - 17 Elementary Schools
  - 3 Middle Schools
  - 2 High Schools
  - 1 K-8 School
  - 1 Alternative High School
  - 1 Community High School
  - 1 Community Day School
  - 1 Early College High School
- 4% Socio-Economically Disadvantaged
  - 25% English Learners



# BE SLOW TO WRITE OFF THE IMPERFECT . . . .

"It is my enduring conviction that far too often we write off a backward child as hopeless, a clumsy animal as worthless, a *worn-out field as beyond restoration*. This we do largely out of our own lack of willingness to take the time and spend the effort to prove ourselves wrong: to prove that a difficult boy can become a fine man, that an animal can respond to training, *that the field can regain its fertility*." - Dwight D. Eisenhower

## Extreme drought conditions over the past 5 years

- Average of 330 days of sunshine per year

## 2008 Recession

- Re-allocation of district resources away from athletic fields, common areas, and playgrounds

## District wide layoffs

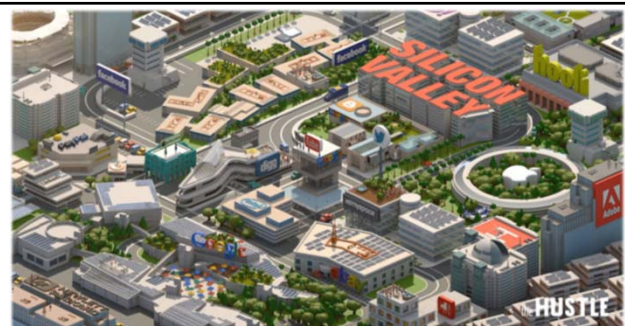
- Manpower allocations

## Shared Resources

- City and School District's utilizing shared open green areas, i.e. athletic fields, parks, playgrounds
- Scheduling conflicts: city leagues, sand lot kids, district athletics

"Silicon Valley makes it's mark"

THE PERFECT STORM



"Silicon Valley" equals "Tech Giants"  
Google, Apple, Amazon, and Facebook ...

## BURSTING AT THE SEAMS

- Surge of Economic Growth
- Housing Boom
  - Decline of accessible green space
  - Housing Costs/Transit/Highways
- Increased Population Explosion



## THE AFTERMATH



## NEGLECT



## RODENT INFESTATION



## COMPACTED SOIL

## THE "SIX WEEK" CHALLENGE

- Review existing project scheduling
  - budget, equipment, vacation scheduling
- Evaluate the current condition of the field
- Availability by vendors of the needed materials i.e. seed, top-dressing mix.....
- Asses the reality of expectations of coaches, administration and staff
- Team Buy In
- Collaboration – Administration-Staff-Students
- Planning – Phases I, II, III the Breakdown of
- Communication

## THE PROCESS WEEK 1-3

### Phase I

- Soil Sample Analyzed
- Irrigation Repair
- Rodent Removal "Gophers/Squirrels"
- Core Aeration
- Fill depressions and level
- Annual Rye/CB-Rye
- Starter Fertilizer
- Top Dress-Add Nutrient Matter

## THE PROCESS WEEK 3-5

### Phase II

- Adjust Irrigation - Adjust and Scale Back Timers
- Germination
- First Mowing at 3" - Bag Clippings
- Solid Tine Aerification
- Over-seed KB/Annual Rye

## ALMOST THERE WEEK 5-6

### Phase III

- Roll The Field
- Paint the Field Goals
- Paint the Field
- Present to School/Coaches/Team
- Keep the momentum going

## CONCLUSION



## Q/A

PETER AUTH  
 FACILITIES GROUNDS SUPERVISOR  
 SANTA CLARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 SANTA CLARA, CA 95051  
 (408) 210-2269  
 Pauth@scusd.net