

Burbank Leader

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City, schools partner for parks

10 The City Council and Burbank Unified School District formed a partnership in 2008 to develop and share space for recreation and athletics, as land for new projects becomes scarce.

The 50-year agreement will allow for joint-use facilities to be developed at schools, some of which have fields and tracks that are degrading.

The city has so far pledged to contribute more than \$14 million for developments on school property, while the district has given \$4.1 million, for projects that are expected to total about \$18.4 million.

Community groups have attempted to close the gap in funding for the developments.

The Celebrate Gratitude Committee, spearheaded by former Mayor Michael Hastings to raise money for the projects, has raised more than \$1 million so far, with large contributions from the Cusumano family, the Walt Disney Co., and the Burbank Health Care Foundation.

Chief among the planned projects are the renovations of fields and tracks at both Burbank and John Burroughs high schools, which will include artificial turf fields and all-weather track surfaces.

Stadium renovations at John Burroughs High, including new bleachers, concession stands and better access for visitors with disabilities, will account for the largest chunk of funding — nearly \$12 million.