



Soccer Field Dedication Scheduled

Rapids Area Soccer, Inc. (RASI) is a local nonprofit organization dedicated to developing and nurturing the sport of soccer within the greater Wisconsin Rapids area for the benefit of our youth. RASI President Ahmad Musallam shared that there are hundreds of kids participating in the sport of soccer through the recreation group, the competitive group, and various school programs every year. Over the 2016 summer, RASI finalized the development of two full size soccer fields north of the varsity field near Washington Elementary School. Prior to this upgrade, the area was mostly overrun with buckthorn invasive species. The new soccer fields were developed in coordination with the WRPS Buildings and Grounds Department and the City of Wisconsin Rapids. The community is invited to a dedication of these new soccer fields to be held on **Saturday, September 17, 2016 at 10:45 a.m.** near the varsity soccer field bleacher area at Washington Elementary.

The dedication will take place between games during the LHS boys' soccer tournament. The recreation youth soccer teams are holding games on that day as well. Having the new soccer fields in place made it possible for both the recreation soccer and high school teams to play on the same day.

Just a little history about the project...in 2011, the WRPS Board of Education approved the plan for RASI to develop the area. Rapids Area Soccer began fundraising for the project in 2012, and began the work to obtain the required permits for development of the soccer fields. The area was cleared late in 2013. The installation of the soccer fields continued since that time with the removal of tree roots, leveling of the area, addition of two water wells, installation of the sprinkler system, and finally seeding, fertilizing, and fencing.

Rapids Area Soccer, Inc. has been responsible for the cost of this project, which was made possible through extensive fund raising. RASI has been involved in multiple projects over the years at the fields, including lighting installation and the construction of the concession building. Local foundations, businesses, friends of soccer, and all Rapids area soccer groups contributed toward the funding of this field expansion project. Dedication plaques honoring the groups and individuals who funded the various projects are on display.

RASI has expressed gratitude to Wisconsin Rapids Public Schools, City of Wisconsin Rapids, Mid-State Technical College, local foundations and businesses, friends of soccer, and the entire community for their continued support of youth soccer in our area! Come join us on September 17th!

