

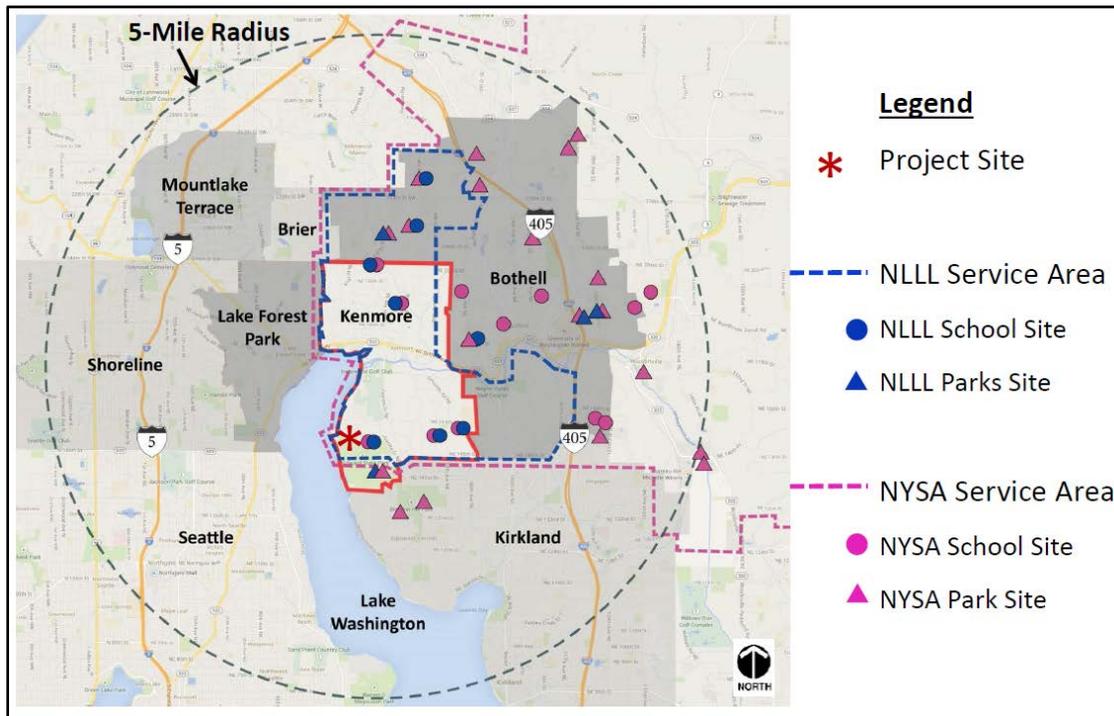


# City Of Kenmore, Washington

## Kenmore Youth Sports Leagues Ballfield Supply and Demand Analysis

### INTRODUCTION

Kenmore residents live in the North Lake Little League (NLLL) and Northshore Youth Soccer Association (NYSA) service areas. These are the largest youth recreational sports leagues serving Kenmore and they have experienced severe pressure in scheduling sufficient field time to meet the practice and game needs of their participants. This limited analysis of facility supply and demand focuses on these two leagues as the primary users of Kenmore fields, but it is recognized that existing and emerging active recreation activities continue to seek more sports field space in Kenmore and the region than currently available.



**Figure 1. Map of Service Areas for North Lake Little and Northshore Youth Soccer Association**

In 2016, Northlake Little League had 476 players on 45 teams. 58% of these players had a City of Kenmore address. In 2013, NLLL had 398 players on 34 teams. The number of teams increased by 32% while average number of players per team still remained above a target of ten. Rather than turn kids



As shown in Figure 2, there are over 60 fields within a five-mile radius, but twelve leagues and five school districts compete for their use. Most fields are school-owned.

Outdoor active recreational space is highly utilized in the region. The following partial list of recreational and school leagues within the vicinity of Kenmore indicates the ongoing popularity of these activities.

**Partial List of Regional Recreational Sports Leagues**

Northshore School District	Kidz Love Soccer
Seattle School District	Kirkland National Little League
Everett School District	North Lake Little League
Kirkland School District	North Bothell Little League
Monroe School District	Northshore Girls Slow Pitch Softball
Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association	Northshore Youth Lacrosse
Northshore Youth Soccer Association	Kirkland Youth Lacrosse
Pee Wee Soccer	RATS Rec Adult Team Soccer
Crossfire Select Soccer	ICWSL International Co-Wreck Soccer League

As can be seen in Figure 3, Seattle and Kirkland areas to the west and south of Kenmore are densely developed and fields in these areas are fully utilized by local teams, meaning that fields in these communities are not available to Kenmore leagues. An example of a close but unavailable facility is Big Finn Hill Park, a King County Park within Kirkland city limits. Big Finn Hill Park is not available for North Lake Little League use because of park policies that preserve priority access by historic users who consist primarily of Kirkland National Little League and Kirkland Lacrosse. NYSA does share scheduling at Big Finn Hill with Lake Washington Soccer Association and others during the fall season.

**Long Term Regional Trends – Increasing Competition for Fields; Increase in Lighted Turf Fields**

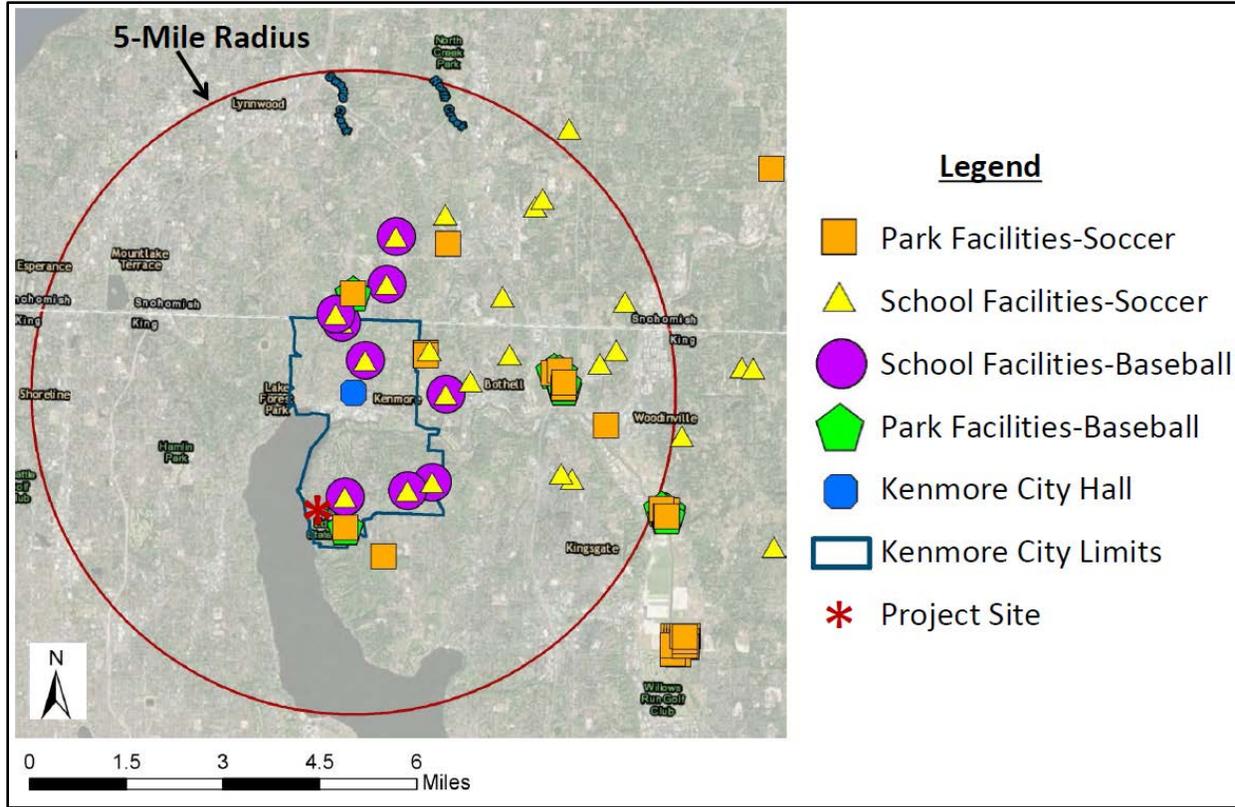
As housing infill continues both north and east of Kenmore over time, local demand for Snohomish County, City of Bothell and east King County fields will increase. Kenmore can expect to lose access to fields outside of its local area. Land prices also increase with infill. Both trends underscore the need to provide local city fields without delay. Factors including regional weather and daylight hours, maintenance costs, player safety, and significantly greater hours of use per field (over 30%) have created a region-wide trend towards lighted turf fields wherever feasible.

**Existing Local Field Supply**

The City of Kenmore owns one sports field located at Moorlands Park. The city also holds a long-term lease through 2025 on two more baseball fields at Bastyr University. Other fields are supplied by Snohomish County Parks, Bothell Parks and Northshore School District. A map of the fields used by Kenmore’s NYSA and NLLL teams is shown in Figure 3.

North Lake Little League serves the Kenmore, southwest Bothell and a part of Brier/south Snohomish County. It primarily uses the following fields: Bastyr (2), Forsgren (2), Bothell/North Creek (4), Northshore School District (8). Games are primarily played at park fields rather than school district facilities. Elementary school fields work for practices but are not sufficient or safe for games due to district maintenance levels. There is one turf field in Kenmore, at Inglemoor High School; this field is utilized primarily for school use, but NYSA is able to schedule a limited number of games there.

Northshore Youth Soccer Association schedules fields throughout the Northshore School District and Maltby area. Its local teams are included in the “Inglemoor Club” which generally serves players enrolled in the local elementary schools of Kenmore, Arrowhead, Moorlands, Woodmoor and Cedar Park Christian School.



**Figure 3. Map of 2016 Field Usage by NYSA and NLLL**

Kenmore leagues have priority use of Moorlands Park and Bastyr University fields, but share the remaining Northshore School District, City of Bothell and Snohomish County Park fields with other leagues. NLLL shares school fields with three other groups: North Bothell Little League, Northshore Little League and Northshore Girls Slow-pitch Softball Association. NYSA shares school fields with other leagues as well.

Note on rainouts: The fields at Saint Edward Park will greatly reduce game cancellations due to rainouts which, in effect, reduce the effective field supply. Bastyr fields are particularly affected by rainfall, often reducing the number of games that can be played during regular schedules. For example, 80 NYSA games were cancelled in one weekend last year due to rain. Although the Bastyr facility can support three soccer games at a time, only two are scheduled because of the necessity to “rest” grass fields sufficiently in order to maintain healthy field grass conditions during colder seasons, especially.

**Local Trend – Loss of Fields**

In the last ten years, youth teams have lost full or partial use of fields at Brier Park, St. Edward State Park and Moorlands Park due to deteriorating field conditions and development. Bastyr University reduced its field supply from four to two in 2010 in order to expand its campus. Saint Edward had two fields which have been lost to youth leagues because of insufficient maintenance needed for safe play.



Figure 4. 1994 Aerial View of two infields and pitcher’s mounds at Saint Edward Park

## **FIELD DEMAND**

### **Demand for Game-Quality Fields**

The greatest shortfall in field supply in Kenmore is for game-quality, accessible fields. Games are primarily played on weekends, and practices occur after school during the week. Providing new game fields will also substantially relieve existing shortfalls in the number of practice fields.

NLLL scheduled 118 3-hour time slots per week in 2016 and needed 20 more 3-hour slots to meet their demand for practices and games.

One way to evaluate field demand in Kenmore is to calculate how many fields the city would need to provide if it were to supply enough fields to meet the needs of its own residents. 274 players in NLLL and 703 soccer players had Kenmore addresses in 2016.

*Formula: “Kenmore Players” divided by 20 players per game equals total games per Saturday.*

*Calculations:*

*274 NLLL/20 = 14 games*

*703 NYSA/20 = 36 games*

*Formula: Total games per Saturday divided by games per field per day equals **number of fields needed.***

*Calculations:*

Little League:

14 games/4 NLLL games per day per field = **Demand is for 4 fields** to serve existing North Lake Little League use.

Northshore Youth Soccer Association:

36 games/6 NYSA games per day = **Demand is for 6 fields** to serve existing Northshore Youth Soccer Association use.

Similar calculations for practice indicate a NLLL need for three unlighted fields or two lighted turf fields, (due to longer available playing times on lighted turf fields). Note: Lighted grass fields are not functional due to excess wear on living grass with the increased hours of use made possible by lights. Lighted fields need to be turf to capture the benefits of extended playable hours.

**Accessible Fields**

While not included in the need calculation below, the Challenger League is Little League's division for disabled players. Kenmore has no accessible facilities suitable for league. Challenger teams currently play on a dirt field at a church in Bothell. Turf fields at Saint Edward Park could help accommodate Challenger League use for their one-month-long season.

**Tournament Play**

Kenmore has no turf facilities for tournament play. Kenmore players are reliant on turf facilities in Woodinville, Bothell, and King County. Kenmore does not provide its proportionate share of tournament facilities.

**NEED CALCULATION**

To determine how many more game-quality fields are needed to meet current demand in addition to the existing supply, the calculated demand is subtracted from the number of fields are currently utilized.

Formula:

*Current Field Demand minus Existing Field Supply equals Number of Additional Fields Needed.*

Little League:

4 – 3 = **1 field** needed to meet North Lake Little League's current demand for game-quality fields. Please see note above about rainouts. The second Saint Edward Park field will relieve rainouts as documented need with existing grass fields at Bastyr University.

Northshore Youth Soccer Association:

6 – 4 = **2 fields** needed to meet Northshore Youth Soccer Association's current demand for game fields. The oversize outfields at Bastyr support the facility's use as three soccer fields and so is counted as three soccer fields in the demand analysis calculations, although current practice is to reserve the third field for use when the other two become unplayable due to wear.

These calculations are consistent with the 2013 Kenmore Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan projection that four new fields will be needed to serve the city by 2035.

## **CONCLUSION: SAINT EDWARD PARK FIELDS**

At full availability, the restoration of the two fields at Saint Edward Park into lighted turf facilities would meet the calculated current need for both game-quality and practice fields for both NYSA and NLLL. With the currently-proposed field reservations for cricket and general public use on weekdays and weekends in July and August and Memorial Day weekend in May, Kenmore resident soccer players will continue to experience a practice field supply shortfall of three fields during those periods. Even with the reduced hours and days proposed in the draft lease agreement between the City of Kenmore and Washington State Parks as of June 19, 2017, however, two lighted turf fields at Saint Edward Park will add much-needed new capacity. They will substantially reduce current shortfalls in field supply for youth soccer and Little League in the City of Kenmore, and supply Kenmore's proportionate share of top-quality game and tournament facilities.

