



Take the Field

A Public-Private Partnership to Rebuild New York City Public School Athletic Facilities



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

February 2008

Dear Friends,

Take the Field is one of our city's great success stories. Formed in 2000 by Tony Kiser, Richard Kahan, and the late Preston Robert Tisch, this program has provided hundreds of thousands of New York City schoolchildren throughout the five boroughs with the chance to participate in sports and to play on beautiful new fields. These revitalized facilities provide athletic opportunities for our students in a positive and safe environment, and contribute to healthy, well-rounded activities throughout our City's diverse communities.

The spirit and commitment of Take the Field endure throughout the five boroughs. The organization has set a standard in public-private partnerships. On behalf of over eight million New Yorkers, I congratulate and thank Take the Field for this terrific contribution to the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Bloomberg".

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor



BEFORE



The football field at Port Richmond High School (Staten Island), one of 43 high school athletic facilities renovated by Take the Field, 2001.



BEFORE



Running track and tennis courts at Seward Park High School (Manhattan), another high school athletic facility renovated by Take the Field, 2001.



BEFORE



The baseball field at Walton High School (Bronx), completed by Take the Field in 2003.



Take the Field

A Public-Private Partnership to Rebuild New York City Public School Athletic Facilities



This book is dedicated to
Bob Tisch

(April 29, 1926 – November 15, 2006)

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Part One: Taking the Field

Take the Field (TTF) is a public-private partnership with the City of New York. It was founded as a design and construction company by three New Yorkers: Bob Tisch, Richard Kahan, and Tony Kiser. Its mission was to rebuild public high school athletic fields throughout the five boroughs.

To fund the construction, the City granted TTF \$3 for every \$1 the partnership raised from private sources. Matching funds created a powerful fund-raising mechanism for TTF. Under the terms of the partnership agreement with the City, TTF was able to conduct business as a private sector company, not as a government agency.

TTF was always on budget and never late in completing construction of a field. The overhead was never more than 3% of the total budget. For 63 months in a row, TTF paid all its vendors within 30 days, and it built 43 fields in five years.

The spirit and commitment of
Take the Field endure throughout the
five boroughs. The organization has set a
standard in public-private partnerships.

—Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg

Introduction

What if we told you it was possible to turn \$1 into \$4? Or \$36 million into \$133 million? And we said that all that money would be used to build 43 brand-new athletic fields for public high schools throughout the five boroughs of New York City. And then we said that at least 200,000 New Yorkers would get to use these fields. And we could do it all in five years, on time and on budget, with only 3¢ of every dollar going to overhead costs. You might not believe us, right? But that's exactly what we did with Take the Field (TTF).

It took good timing, some luck, and a team of great people to do this, but we



Tony Kiser and Richard Kahan

succeeded beyond our wildest dreams. It also took something else: a *public-private partnership*, consisting of the City of New York (the public partner) and Take the Field (the private partner). In this partnership, the City funded our program by matching every dollar we raised from private sources with \$3 of public money.

The public-private partnership is not a new idea, but it is one that is sometimes neglected or misunderstood. At its best, it is a powerful mechanism for leveraging money, doing business efficiently, and serving the public interest.

TTF is proof that the public and private sectors can work well together when they put their minds to it. Can our accomplishments with TTF be replicated elsewhere? The answer is yes. We hope this “playbook” will inspire civic leaders in other cities to do the same thing.

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is on the left and the second is on the right.

—Tony Kiser and Richard Kahan, 2008

What Is a Public-Private Partnership?

A public-private partnership is a cooperative venture between the public and private sectors in which each partner has expertise and resources to meet specific public needs. This type of partnership frequently exists for the purpose of designing, planning, financing, constructing, or operating large-scale civic projects that would usually fall within the responsibility of the public sector. These partnerships come into being when members of the private sector emerge with their own ideas about how to reshape public sector services in areas including education, recreation, and real estate development.

One well-known example in New York City is the Central Park Conservancy, a private sector not-for-profit corporation that manages Central Park in partnership with the City. Theories abound as to why these partnerships are formed. The best reason is simply that there are times when the public and private sectors can achieve better results by working together instead of apart.



Mayor Rudolph Giuliani with the co-founders of Take the Field: Tony Kiser, Richard Kahan, and Bob Tisch.

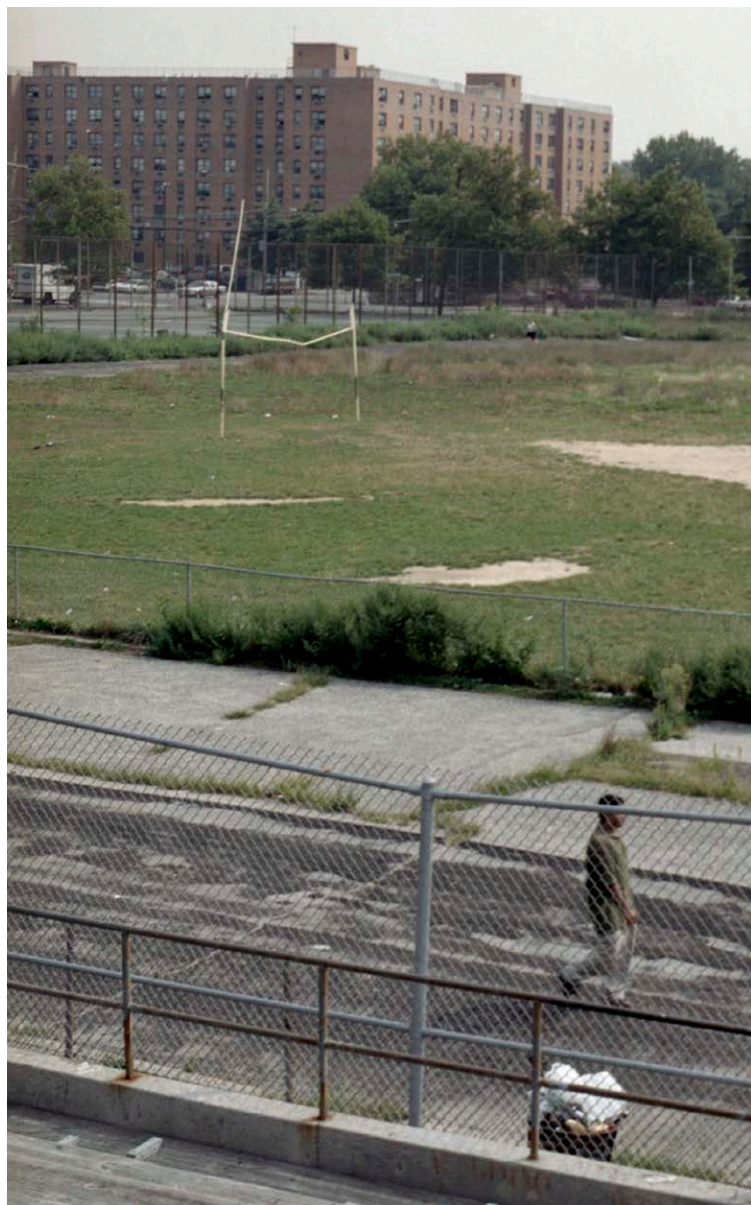


Mayor Michael Bloomberg with Steve Tisch, son of the late Bob Tisch, at Gracie Mansion, December 2005.

The Problem: Years of Neglect

“FORD TO CITY: DROP DEAD.” So read the headline of the *New York Daily News* on October 30, 1975, after President Gerald R. Ford vowed he would veto any federal bailout for New York City. The City economy eventually turned around, but the prosperity that followed bypassed the City’s public schools.

After 25 years of neglect, apathy, and budget slashing, the New York City public school system, once one of the great symbols of American achievement and mobility—especially for minority and immigrant families—was failing. Sports facilities, in particular, had fallen into a state of disrepair. Athletic programs had become the low priority, along with arts programs, in school budgets. Athletic fields looked like abandoned lots, strewn with broken glass and litter. Thousands of students were missing out on regular physical activity and team sports. Ironically, health experts at the same time were emphasizing the many benefits of exercise for young people.





Public high school sports fields and facilities in New York City had fallen into a deplorable state of disrepair after years of neglect. Some high school fields were so unusable that athletic teams were forced to practice indoors in the school corridors.

Call to Action

Between 1974 and 1999, spending on sports programs throughout the five boroughs of New York City radically declined. By 1999, when the New York City economy was flourishing, the City spent *less* on inter-scholastic high school sports than it did in 1974 when New York was on the brink of bankruptcy. It sounds like a joke, but it was a fact that many school teams had annual budgets of about \$100 each—an amount insufficient to cover the cost of one football helmet. In 2000, the year Take the Field was founded, the New York City Department of Education allocated less than 1% of its budget to sports education for grades K–12. Only 12% of all high school students participated in team sports, among the lowest percentages in the country.

Not only do sports teach things that are useful throughout life—such as teamwork, discipline, and a respect for rules—but physical activity is also essential to a long and healthy life.

—Mayor Rudolph Giuliani

You have a million kids with no kind of normal sports program and terrible facilities. That's a time bomb. Young people need places for recreation and activity, to participate in sports, or just to let off some steam.

—Tony Kiser, Take the Field co-founder

In the winter of 1999, the *New York Times* ran a series of feature articles titled “Dropping the Ball,” exposing the neglect of the City’s sports programs and the dilapidated condition of the high school athletic fields. The *New York Times* reporters Kirk Johnson and Jack Curry described how sports facilities had decayed and become the last priority for repair, how physical education classes had been drastically cut, and how team sports lacked funding.

The morning the *Times* story appeared, TTF co-founder Tony Kiser called his friend Richard Kahan, an urban planner and educational reformer, and said: “Let’s do something about this.”



A series of articles published in the *New York Times* in 1999 exposed the desperate conditions of high school sports. Without safe or usable outdoor playing fields, coaches resorted to holding baseball practice inside the gymnasium.

Take the Field Is Formed

That same morning, Laurie Tisch, the daughter of Bob Tisch, co-owner of the New York Giants and the vice-chairman of the Loews Corporation, telephoned her father, discussed the *Times* article, and said: “This is perfect for you. Why don’t you do something about this?”

Because of the *Times* articles, other New Yorkers were talking about the need to take action. The New York Community Trust, a leading community foundation managing over 1,800 funds, brought together about 30 prominent New Yorkers to discuss what



Bob Tisch with his daughter, Laurie, who inspired her father to do for public school athletics what she had done for arts programs.

might be done. At this meeting, Kahan and Kiser met Bob Tisch for the first time. Afterward, the three of them talked and agreed that they could get results if *they* took the lead and worked together.

Soon thereafter, they hatched the concept of creating a private not-for-profit design and construction company. They saw right away that this would be a multimillion-dollar undertaking and that they would need a lot of help from many different people. But how was it to be funded? Richard Kahan had a background in large-scale urban development projects, and Bob Tisch had a set of business skills and a vast network of contacts. Tony Kiser was the president of a foundation with a track record for funding innovative capital campaign projects. The question was, Could they raise all the necessary money themselves?

One of the first things they did was to meet with New York City Schools Chancellor Rudolph Crew (1995–99). Right away, the chancellor and other



Take the Field founders Bob Tisch, Richard Kahan, and Tony Kiser at the ground breaking ceremony, George Washington High School (Manhattan), 2001.

City officials agreed to help. The next stop was at the office of New York City real estate developer Marshall Rose, who had previously forged a public-private partnership between New York City and the New York Public Library when he was the library's chairman in the 1990s. Under his leadership, the library had undertaken a massive capital campaign to reinvigorate

the library system citywide. He described how the library had successfully proposed to the City a 3:1 challenge grant to help raise the capital. What this meant was that the City matched every dollar raised privately by the library with three dollars in public funds. Kahan, Kiser, and Tisch took Rose's advice and in short order met with Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, who eventually approved public funding on a similar matching basis for the start-up of Take the Field. This was the beginning of the public-private partnership between TTF and the Department of Education.

In April 2000, Take the Field was incorporated as a not-for-profit design and construction company. Its mission was to hire the designers, engineers, and builders to execute its plan to rebuild as many public high school athletic fields as possible in all five boroughs. It was off to a great start.



Create the Right Organization

The first step for TTF was to decide how to build the right kind of organization. Initially, TTF existed in name only. There was no office, staff, or operating structure. There was just an ambition to rebuild a lot of public school athletic fields. Fortunately for TTF, Richard Kahan had extensive experience as a builder of large urban projects, having been in charge of the New York State Urban Development Corporation (UDC) in the 1980s.



George Washington High School (Manhattan) ribbon cutting, early 2001. Take the Field co-founder Richard Kahan with actor Henry Winkler (aka “The Fonz”).

As president and CEO of the UDC, he had operated a \$3 billion statewide economic development program. Later, as chairman and CEO of the Battery Park City Authority, he had been responsible for the planning, design, and development of one of the largest urban development projects in the United States at the time. He had also been the president and CEO of the New York Convention Center Development Corporation and had led the design, financing, and construction process for the \$375 million Javits Center project.

Richard understood the need for TTF to do its work as a private builder without the burden of cumbersome government procedures. He obtained approval for TTF to work outside customary City regulations, and this agreement was a key reason that TTF went on to complete all of its projects on time and on budget.

First, though, Richard had to build a staff. His choice for the job of TTF’s executive director was his longtime colleague Mary Musca, with whom he



Mary Musca (top) and the dedicated staff of Take the Field with Dhani Jones (New York Giants). Staff members routinely visited sites and met with students, teachers, and coaches from each of the schools.

The Take the Field staff was just incredible. Their first concern was for the people who would benefit from such an initiative. And they handled every aspect of operations in order to ensure this.

—Mary Musca, executive director of Take the Field

had worked when he was chairman of the Riverside South Planning Corporation, a major public-private real estate project on Manhattan's Upper West Side. "I was ecstatic when Mary agreed to join us," he said. Over the next five years, Mary worked closely with all the different parties who built the fields: the construction manager, the engineers, the general contractors, and the Department of Education. Mary was a skilled diplomat, a good supervisor, and a well-respected manager. People simply liked working with her.

A Public Face

Bob Tisch was Mr. Outside. He rapidly became the public face of TTF and was a tireless fund-raiser. He knew people in government, sports, the hospitality and entertainment business, and politics. Everyone knew that Bob had the financial means to write a check for the entire amount needed to meet the matching funds requirement. But he didn't do this, because he believed it was economically and politically important to have a broad base of support. He was right. TTF lined up a diverse and influential group of benefactors, who not only became investors but also the project's cheerleaders. This broad base of funding generated political interest and reinforced the positive perception of our mission at City Hall.

The importance of athletics in the lives of high school students should not be underestimated. Take the Field's efforts to repair and rebuild public high school athletic facilities will have a positive and lasting impact on students' lives.

—Mayor Rudolph Giuliani



Bob Tisch with Derek Jeter and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani at the George Washington High School (Manhattan) opening.

Start at City Hall

It's great to have the mayor on your side, but it's also essential to get support from a wide variety of other City officials. The TTF founders spent a lot of time at City Hall meeting with members of the City Council, deputy mayors, and countless others.

The need to build a broad base of support for a project like this cannot be overstated. Yes, there must be money to do the work, but there also has to be plenty of political will to see the project through.

An initiative like Take the Field spurs an athletic, and subsequently educational, rebirth in our city. It's exciting to witness.

—Peter Vallone, New York City Council Speaker



New York's City Hall (top); Richard Kahan, former schools chancellor Harold O. Levy, former Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer, Bob Tisch, Bronx native and Chairman of Merrill Lynch David Komansky, and newly elected Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión at the opening ceremony at South Bronx High School (Bronx).

A Pilot Project

To generate support from public and private sources, TTF needed a showcase field, and one that would be within easy reach of the core funding community in Manhattan. George Washington High School in upper Manhattan was chosen as the pilot project. Several major league baseball players had their start at George Washington, the most famous being Manny Ramirez of the Boston Red Sox. Most impressive, though, was the baseball team's graduation rate: more than 90% of the team graduated on time versus 50% for the rest of the City.

Construction of the new field at George Washington High School was completed in July 2001 and cost \$2.3 million. At last, the George Washington Trojans had a baseball field worthy of their talent. And TTF had a sales tool to raise additional money and to start the big job of renovating 42 more athletic fields.



Take the Field co-founders with the mayor of New York at the ground breaking ceremony (top) for the pilot project: George Washington High School (Manhattan). The new field (bottom) was completed in 2001 and was a huge success.

Fund-raising

First, obtain seed money from private sources. A lot of it. This is the equivalent of venture capital, and enough is required so that work can start right away. Tony Kiser (through his family foundation) and Bob Tisch each contributed \$1 million to get things started. The \$2 million they contributed was in turn matched by the City, for a total of \$8 million. This was more than enough money to build the organization and complete the first project: the athletic fields at George Washington High School.

TTF regularly brought its potential donors to George Washington High School, at the northern end of Manhattan, to let them see for themselves how other school sites could be similarly transformed. George Washington was a showcase field, and for prospective funders to experience it firsthand was the best kind of sales pitch.

The completion of the George Washington field generated fund-raising momentum. Michael Bloomberg, before he became mayor, contributed \$1 million

through the Bloomberg Foundation. Other early supporters were the Leucadia National Corporation, the Annenberg Foundation, the Charles Hayden Foundation, the Booth Ferris Foundation, the Heckscher Foundation for Children, and the Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation. With many more millions of dollars of private funds now secured, TTF qualified for greater amounts of public money.



Above are members of the Heckscher family with Bob Tisch and Richard Kahan. Peter Sloane (not shown) and his mother, Virginia (second from left), championed TTF's cause early on and obtained significant funding through the Heckscher Foundation for Children.

Develop a Fund-raising Style

Take the Field invented a fund-raising technique that became known as “Breakfast with Bob.” Bob Tisch organized regular breakfasts at the Loews-owned Regency Hotel with potential donors. These were typical of the “power breakfasts” that his hotel restaurant had become famous for. Bob’s guests included sports team owners, politicians, members of the media, CEOs of New York corporations, real estate developers, and public relations experts. On the subject of TTF, he had gained a reputation for being determined and persuasive. As one breakfast guest turned donor put it, “Bob may have paid for breakfast, but it could still cost you a few hundred thousand dollars.”

This facility will encourage the physical education that greatly increases children’s health, cultivates strong self-esteem, and promotes teamwork and discipline.

—Charles B. Wang, Brooklyn Tech alumnus



Bob Tisch with Charles Wang, co-founder of Computer Associates Inc., owner of the New York Islanders, and alumnus of Brooklyn Technical High School (Brooklyn). Wang was one of Bob’s breakfast guests and a major Take the Field donor. “Breakfast with Bob” started at the Regency Hotel on the Upper East Side of Manhattan, continued with a site visit to a school, and typically ended with a financial pledge.

Secure Matching Grants

In July 2000, Mayor Giuliani announced the public-private partnership between the City and Take the Field. By June 2001, \$4 million from private sources had already been matched by \$12 million in public funding. This inspired the mayor's office, with the help of the five borough presidents, to pledge an additional \$75 million to keep rebuilding more athletic fields.

In 2002, Michael Bloomberg became mayor, and for TTF the transition from one administration to the next was seamless. Bloomberg had been an early major donor and had a rooting interest in TTF's success. In 2004, his administration committed an additional \$11.5 million toward the last three projects. These financial commitments from both the Giuliani and Bloomberg administrations motivated other public officials throughout the City to contribute money from their own budgets to finance TTF projects in their boroughs.



Bob Tisch with Queens Deputy Borough President Karen Koslowitz and New York State Assembly member Barry Grodenchik in November 2003 at Flushing High School, one of 14 schools in Queens to benefit from the extraordinary commitment of the borough president's office.

Involve Citizens with Local Roots

One part of the fund-raising strategy was to find successful businessmen who had attended some of the TTF schools and who were now able “to give something back.” Bob Tisch was himself a native New Yorker and an alumnus of Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn. Because he had a strong connection to his own high school, he sought out like-minded business leaders to become donors.



Wall Street legend Leon Cooperman, one of many native New Yorkers to give back to his hometown, at Alfred E. Smith High School (Bronx), 2004.

I am a product of the New York City school system, and I have a strong attachment to it.

—Bob Catell, head of Keyspan Corporation



Bob Catell, head of Keyspan Corporation, at his alma mater, New Utrecht High School (Brooklyn), 2001.

Make Front Page News

TTF hired a well-known public relations firm in New York City, Dan Klores Communications (DKL). Its job was to get the TTF “story” into the media and to build visibility for TTF’s progress. DKL recruited celebrities for the field openings and “packaged” each event so that it was attractive to the press. Coverage appeared in national and local newspapers (the *New York Times*, *New York Post*, *Staten Island Advance*, and *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, among others) and on radio and TV. This was a “feel-good” story and publicity was always favorable and not so hard to get, as long as the occasions included some big-name sports figures.



Bob Tisch being interviewed by the MSG Network at the field opening at Flushing High School (Queens), 2003.



Students on the softball team at Benjamin N. Cardozo High School (Queens) celebrate the opening of their new field and making front page news, May 2003.



Recruit Professional Athletes

New York's professional sports teams supported TTF, and many of their players were leading advocates of the project. The teams themselves also contributed money, which in turn was matched by the City. It didn't hurt that Bob Tisch was the co-owner of the New York Giants, and he could ask for support not only from members of his team, but also from the Yankees and the Mets, as well as other professional athletes who would make personal appearances and speak at press conferences.

Take the Field is an excellent vehicle to combine and mobilize private and public sector dollars to combat the problem of limited and sub-par athletic fields for inner city youth. We are happy to participate.

—Joe Browne, NFL executive VP



Alfred E. Smith High School (Bronx) ribbon cutting, 2004. Students admire the championship ring of former New York Giants linebacker Harry Carson.



Tiki Barber (New York Giants) with students at William C. Bryant High School (Queens), 2001. New York Giants and other NFL stars made frequent appearances.

National Football League

The NFL's foundation, NFL Youth Football, committed \$1.1 million over five years to TTF. Many athletes made appearances at TTF events, which were covered by the media. The NFL's *Play It Smart* youth program, which uses football to advance personal and academic development, was introduced at several Take the Field schools, providing young athletes with specially trained coach-tutors.

Major League Baseball

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund (Major League Baseball's foundation) contributed substantial funds to rebuild playing fields at Beach Channel High School and Forest Hills High School in Queens. Like their football counterparts, professional baseball players made regular appearances at Take the Field events, giving students a chance to meet their sports heroes in person.

Sports teach discipline, and you must have discipline to be successful in life.

—Jason Sehorn, former New York Giant

Sports are a way to keep kids off the streets and doing something positive.

—Derek Jeter, New York Yankees



New York Yankees Mariano Rivera, Bernie Williams, and Derek Jeter lent early support at the opening of the new field at George Washington High School (Manhattan), 2001.

Sell Naming Rights

TTF was given permission by the Department of Education to name athletic facilities after individuals or organizations that made significant financial contributions to rebuilding the fields. In the past, the City had not allowed this, but it agreed to do so for TTF because it recognized the pivotal role played by private sector donors. TTF established a benchmark of approximately \$500,000 for naming rights to each of its fields. In all, fifteen of 43 fields were named after donors.

The *New York Post* is helping to create and sustain champions on the field and in the classroom through this effort.

—Richard Kahan, Take the Field co-founder



Joel E. Smilow Athletic Field To recognize Joel Smilow's generosity, the scoreboard on the new field at Adlai E. Stevenson High School (Bronx) bears his name. Smilow also sponsored a day camp for the neighborhood youth of the Soundview section of the Bronx.



New York Post Field The contributions of the *New York Post* helped to rebuild the baseball field at Benjamin N. Cardozo High School (Queens). In the spring of 2003, the new field was dedicated as "New York Post Field."



Coach Harry Ostro Athletic Complex TTF board member Dan Kaplan helped organize a fund-raising campaign to rebuild the athletic facility at Lafayette High School (Brooklyn) in honor of Harry Ostro, the legendary Lafayette football coach from 1947 to 1957.



Jackie Robinson Field The \$3 million facility at Forest Hills High School (Queens), dedicated to the memory of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, was sponsored by Major League Baseball, a prominent supporter of the endeavors and initiatives of Take the Field from the beginning.

List of the fifteen fields renamed in honor of their primary sponsors:

Abraham Lincoln High School
Fred C. and Mary Trump Athletic Complex

Adlai E. Stevenson High School
Joel E. Smilow Athletic Field

Alfred E. Smith High School
Omega Advisors Athletic Field

Benjamin N. Cardozo High School
New York Post Field

Boys and Girls High School
Paul Tudor Jones Athletic Facility

Brooklyn Technical High School
Charles B. Wang Field

Evander Childs High School
The Joseph and Josephine Gabelli Athletic Facility

Forest Hills High School
Major League Baseball's Jackie Robinson Field

John Dewey High School
The Heckscher Foundation for Children Athletic Complex

Lafayette High School
Coach Harry Ostro Athletic Complex; Doc Sherman Athletic Field

Murry Bergtraum High School
The Verizon Field

New Dorp High School
Staten Island Advance Stadium

P.S. 161 Don Pedro Abizu Campus
Bruce Paltrow Athletic Complex

South Bronx High School
Merrill Lynch Field of Dreams

South Shore High School
John C. Whitehead Athletic Field

Surveying the Fields

Most high school sports facilities were in extreme disrepair, often unusable, and sports programs were underfunded. Sports as a basic element of education had lost its status. Lessons such as sportsmanship, teamwork, and perseverance were no longer part of the educational experience.

New York City contributed money to each public school for sports programs, but rarely was it enough. There were insufficient funds for everything from sports equipment to transportation costs. Schools had been left to make up the shortfall themselves through bake sales, donations from local businesses, and grants from individuals and foundations.

TTF reversed this trend by building the fields, which in turn reinvigorated the sports program budgets throughout the school system. After all, how could the City invest over \$100 million of capital funding in TTF without also increasing operating budgets for public school sports programs?



Examining the irregular surface of the running track and field at Adlai E. Stevenson High School (Bronx), spring 2000.

Selecting the Projects

Starting in the spring of 2000, Richard Kahan and Pete Smith, the chancellor's liaison to Take the Field, along with Don Dross, the Department of Education construction project manager; Patricia Zedalis, the CEO of school facilities; and Josh Mazess, assistant to the CEO, completed a survey of all New York City public high school athletic fields. The only question was where to start construction.

In selecting where to build first, the key factor to consider was school management. The principal, the director of athletics, and the custodian at each school had to be committed to the success of the project. TTF recognized that if the first projects faltered, future funding could be in jeopardy. The best insurance against failure was strong leadership.

We knew it wasn't going to be a question of who needed a field; it was going to be a question of who needed a field the most.

—Pete Smith, chancellor's liaison to Take the Field

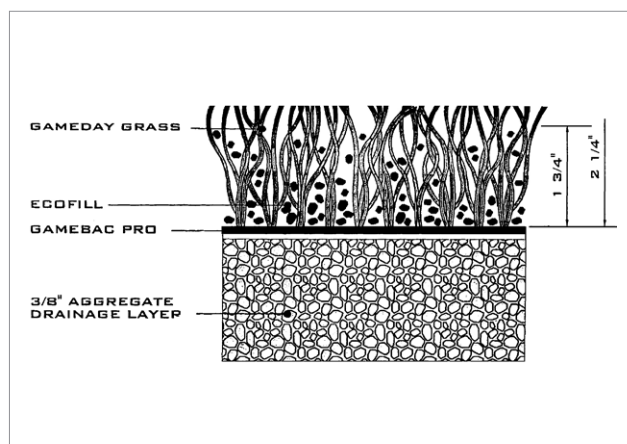


Surveying the poor conditions of the football field at Campus Magnet High School (Queens), 2001. Dirt, broken glass, and other debris were typical of conditions.

Design and Construction

In collaboration with each school, TTF developed customized architectural and engineering plans based upon their program needs. Every school site had different sports programs, not to mention unique construction problems requiring specific solutions. Certain sites, for example, were built on old landfill that required complex reengineering of the subsurface.

Construction of the new fields involved an extensive scope of work, including regrading and earth-moving, building new infrastructure, and installing proper drainage systems.



Drawing of “natural turf” construction detail.

The bulldozers first arrived in February of 2001, and the work was essentially completed by July. I don’t think that kind of expediency could be expected with the School Construction Authority.

—Robert Graham, Port Richmond High School principal

TTF hired one construction manager, TDX Construction, spearheaded by Jim Jones, to oversee the entire job on all 43 fields. TDX coordinated the bidding for the jobs and the on-site supervision of workers, and it ensured that construction went smoothly. The engineering plans and working drawings were created by LZA, a division of the international design and construction company Thorton Tomasetti. Patricia Zedalis, Pete Smith, and others representing the Department of Education served as liaisons to TTF, assisting with construction, contract negotiations, and school relations.



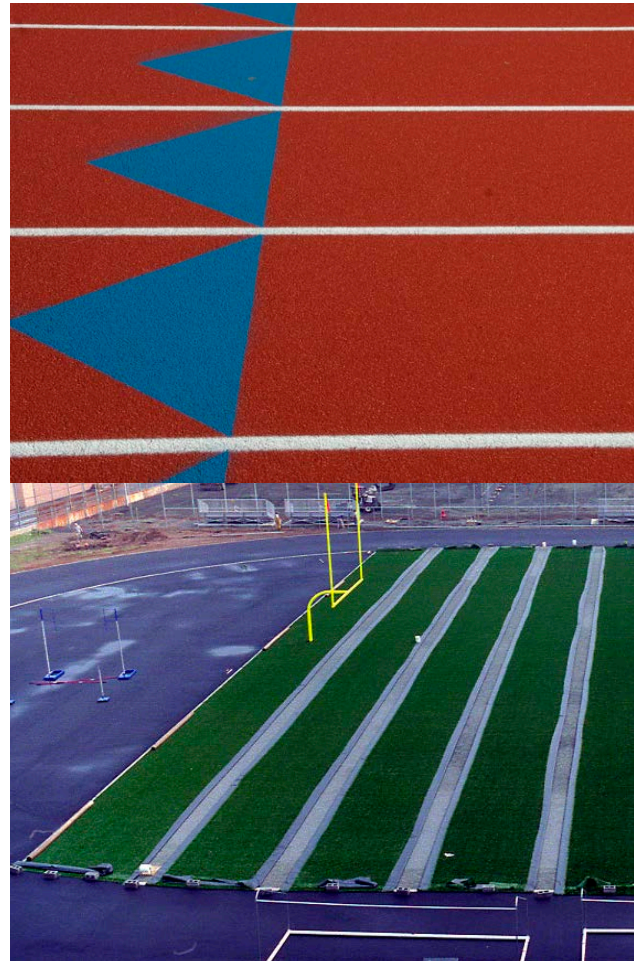
Landscaping and construction work at Benjamin N. Cardozo High School (Queens) and New Dorp High School (Staten Island).

State-of-the-Art Materials

TTF used state-of-the-art materials similar to those at professional sports stadiums, including rubberized asphalt for running tracks and artificial turf for all the playing surfaces. These high-tech materials are durable, attractive, and safe in high-use environments. True, the installation costs for artificial turf are higher than for real sod, but the long-term maintenance expenses are much lower. Artificial turf has a composition allowing it to drain quickly, and the surfaces have a “give” and uniformity that minimize injuries and better tolerate wear and tear. The new TTF fields not only looked beautiful, but they did not require constant watering, weeding, and fertilizing.

Our field was once unusable. You couldn't play soccer, football, anything really, for safety reasons. We hadn't even had a football team for 50 years. We couldn't believe we were finally able to create one.

—Jay Dickler, Jamaica High School principal



Take the Field built new facilities with state-of-the-art materials, including rubberized asphalt for running tracks and artificial turf for the fields.

Maintaining the Fields

These beautiful new fields impact the students, the school, and the community. Take the Field is a real private initiative that cares about public education.

—Joel Klein, New York City schools chancellor

TTF needed to assure funders that the fields would be properly maintained. The last thing donors would want to do was to make an investment in these facilities only to see them become worthless as a result of neglect. So a site inspection plan was put into place to identify and fix maintenance problems and to monitor community use.

The backbone of this inspection program was a long-term agreement with the Department of Education (DOE) to fix problems at sites within specified time periods. To date, the DOE has taken care of all maintenance concerns brought to its attention.



Trained custodial staff at each school repair the field; routine maintenance keeps the fields looking their best.

New Fields, New Life

As TTF completed each new project, it became apparent that entire communities, not just the schools, were being transformed. Schools rediscovered their athletic traditions, and everywhere the renovated facilities sparked new pride in the local communities.

The new facilities built by TTF helped to kick off a sports, physical education, and fitness revival in New York City public schools. The results so far speak volumes: morale at these schools has improved, athletic teams have been created where none had existed, and more students graduate on time.

We use those fields from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. Morale has improved at the whole school. When the kids go to Phys. Ed. classes, their eyes light up.

—Guy Yacavone, William C. Bryant High School athletic director



Playing softball at William C. Bryant High School (Staten Island), one of the first Take the Field projects to be completed.



Field drills at Canarsie High School (Brooklyn).



Physical education classes at South Bronx High School (Bronx).



Relay race at Grand Street Campus (Brooklyn).



Football players on the field at Adlai E. Stevenson High School (Bronx).



Before the soccer match at Forest Hills High School (Queens).

Open to the Neighborhood

In years past, the community use of public school facilities was minimal. TTF wanted to change that and believed it was essential that neighborhoods have regular access to the facilities. Prior to TTF's arrival on the scene, relations had been difficult between public schools and community groups. Neighborhoods had complaints about the confusing and expensive permit process and the dangerous condition of the fields.

Determined to improve relationships between the schools and their communities, TTF negotiated with the Department of Education to allow neighborhoods year-round use of the facilities at no cost. School activities would take priority, and local groups would have an agreed-upon schedule of use during non-school hours. "Power-walking" seniors could use the track, Little League teams would get to play, and community league softball had a place to go.

One measure of the successful collaboration between schools and their



The local community spends a day at South Bronx High School (Bronx) during the South Bronx Olympics, 2004.

This innovative venture is resulting in a physical reformation of long-neglected public school athletic facilities and a renaissance in downtrodden neighborhoods.

—Congressman Charles B. Rangel

communities was the absence of the vandalism that had been a fact of life at all the previous fields. In decades past, communities that did not enjoy regular access to the fields had little interest in their upkeep. Now, however, local communities adjacent to the sites act as de facto guardians.

Community groups such as the NFL Youth Football Program, local YMCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, Pathways for Youth, the New York Junior Tennis League, Harlem RBI, the Police Athletic League, and the New York City Police and Fire Departments now have modern facilities for games and practice.



One of the teams in the Fordham-Bedford Little League (Bronx).



Girls play soccer as part of the New York Scores program at P.S. 161 (Manhattan) in Central Harlem.

Lasting Legacy: Letter from Pete Smith

Dear Richard, Tony, and Mary,

The fields are still beautiful and every time I show up to inspect one of them, an athletic director or coach wants us to help them get a field at another school. Because of Take the Field, other groups have stepped up to partner with the Department of Education. Most recently, *Out2Play* has renovated 16 elementary school playgrounds at a cost of about \$150,000 per site. It intends to do 130 playgrounds.

Take the Field showed people that it was possible for outside groups and the Department of Education to get things done together. There really are no words to describe the impact the new fields have

had on thousands of kids. We helped some of the worst and poorest schools in the city. Kids who never had anything all of a sudden had first-class sports facilities.

I still see the kids running around and using these fields during my inspections. It really is a sight to see. I remember when the fields were unusable, with rocks and glass everywhere. These kids appreciate what they have, and that's all thanks to Take the Field.



Pete Smith
Chancellor's Liaison to Take the Field



Three cheers for New Utrecht High School (Brooklyn).



Proud members of the New Dorp High School (Staten Island) football team.



Victory for the South Bronx High School (Bronx) football team.



Part Two: Examples of Fields

Take the Field, New York City's premier public-private partnership, achieved almost unimaginable results. TTF cut through red tape to build outdoor public school athletic facilities quickly and efficiently. The maintenance program is so effective that the oldest fields look as good as the newest ones, and the community use program has become a citywide model for free access to fields for nonprofit community youth groups.

Take the Field is proud of its accomplishments. Bob Tisch always said, "We want to complete this mission in under five years." That is exactly what TTF did. Mission accomplished. On time and on budget. The following pages highlight some of the projects.

This used to be a dirt spot with broken glass and open sewage drains in the middle of the field. Today, sports participation is almost double, and the kids have something in their community that they can really be proud of.

—Santiago Taveras, South Bronx High School principal

George Washington High School



Before the rehabilitation of the outdoor baseball field, team practice had to be held indoors.



Borough:
Manhattan

Neighborhood:
Washington Heights

Constructed:
2001

Cost:
\$2.3 million

Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field
Events, Baseball/Softball
Field, Scoreboard,
Storage Building



The new athletic facilities at George Washington High School were completed in July 2001.



The baseball team of George Washington High School; the new scoreboard and a new storage building, designed by Jack L. Gordon Architects.

Murry Bergtraum High School



The old, worn-out field was a parking lot for abandoned cars.



Borough:
Manhattan
Neighborhood:
Lower East Side

Constructed:
2003
Cost:
\$3.6 million
Lead Sponsor:
Verizon

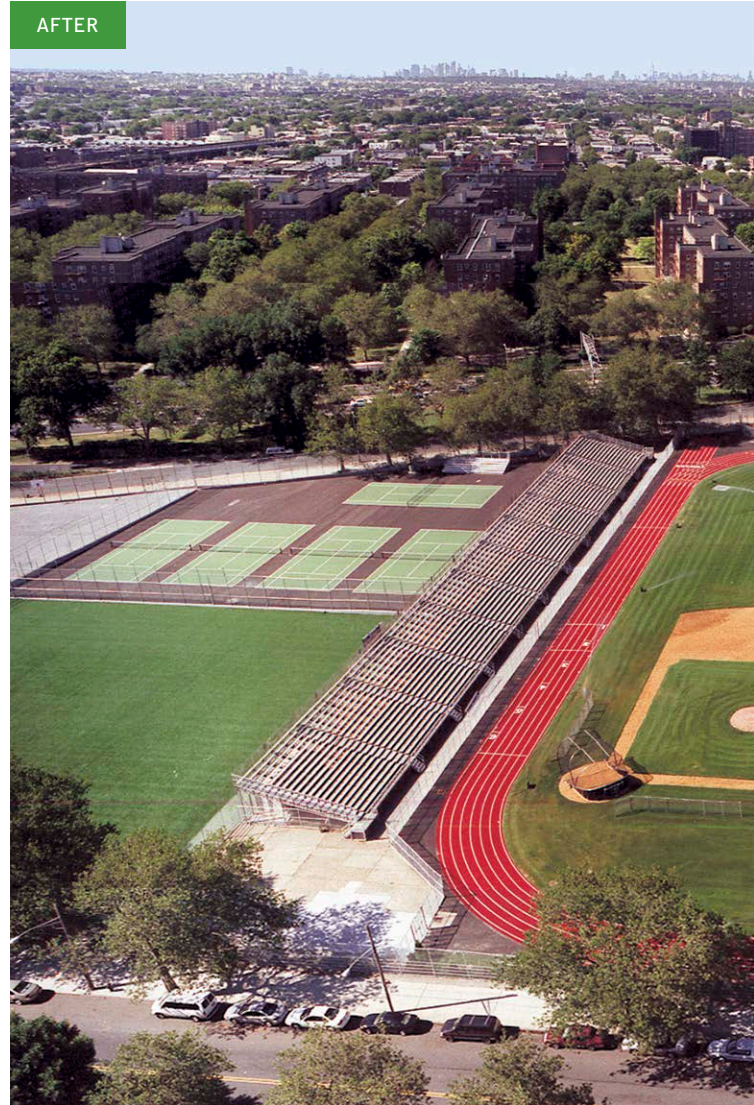
Facilities:
6-Lane Track, Field
Events, Baseball/Softball
Field, Bleachers,
Scoreboard



The new field at Murry Bergtraum High School on Manhattan's Lower East Side is picture-perfect, with views toward the East River, the Brooklyn Bridge, and Wall Street.

Community groups, such as the baseball team of the Fire Department (FDNY), have free access to The Verizon Field for games and practice.

Abraham Lincoln High School



The uneven running track was unusable in its prior state.

Borough:
Brooklyn

Neighborhood:
Brighton Beach/
Coney Island

Constructed:
2002

Cost:
\$2.6 million

Lead Sponsor:
Donald Trump

Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field
Events, Baseball/Softball
Fields, Tennis Courts,
Bleachers, 2 Scoreboards



Bleachers run the full length of the new track and field, which is situated between the tennis courts and the main building of Abraham Lincoln High School.



Donald Trump, who donated \$500,000 toward the new field at Abraham Lincoln High School in Brooklyn, receives a jersey from two students at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Boys and Girls High School



The old field was a worn-out patch of dirt.



Borough:
Brooklyn
Neighborhood:
Bedford Stuyvesant

Constructed:
2002
Cost:
\$3.6 million
Lead Sponsor:
Paul Tudor Jones

Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
8-Lane Track, Field
Events, Baseball/Softball
Field, Bleachers,
Scoreboard



The field at Boys and Girls High School has been transformed from being one of the worst to one of the finest in the city.

Brooklyn Technical High School



An abandoned lot covered with broken glass was the site converted into a gleaming new field.



Borough:
Brooklyn

Neighborhood:
Fort Greene

Constructed:
2001

Cost:
\$3.5 million

Lead Sponsor:
Charles B. Wang

Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
4-Lane Track, Field
Events, Bleachers,
Scoreboard



After 78 years, Brooklyn Technical High School, one of New York City's top public schools, finally has a field of its own.

Principal Bill McCasky, Bob Tisch, and Charles Wang with a student at the dedication ceremony; members of the student football team celebrate.

Grand Street Campus



Borough:
Brooklyn

Neighborhood:
Bushwick

Constructed:
2003

Cost:
\$5.7 million

Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field
Events, Baseball/Softball
Field, Tennis Courts,
Handball Courts,
Bleachers, Scoreboard



Tennis courts, handball courts, and a brand-new field are among the features of the Olympic-quality facility at Grand Street Campus.



Graduate students from the Design Build Studio at the Parsons School of Design conceived and built a modern field house.

New Utrecht High School

BEFORE



The old field suffered from neglect.

AFTER



Borough:
Brooklyn

Neighborhood:
Bensonhurst

Constructed:
2002

Cost:
\$1.3 million

Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
Baseball/Softball Field,
Bleachers, Scoreboard

Lead Sponsor:
Keyspan Corporation



An aerial view of the freshly completed field at New Utrecht High School, in the Bensonhurst neighborhood of Brooklyn.



Bob Catell with the cheerleading squad of New Utrecht High School. Turf adds bright green spaces to the city.

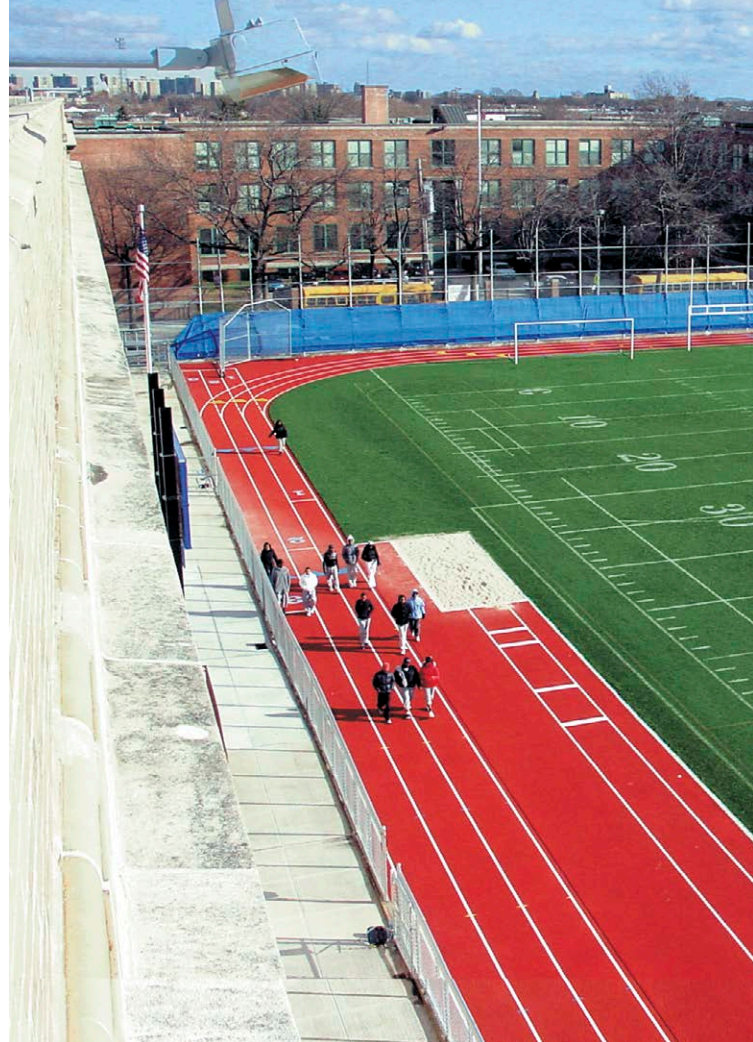
Samuel J. Tilden High School

BEFORE



A dilapidated field and warped running track were in desperate need of repair.

AFTER



Borough:
Brooklyn

Neighborhood:
East Flatbush

Constructed:
2003

Cost:
\$1.9 million

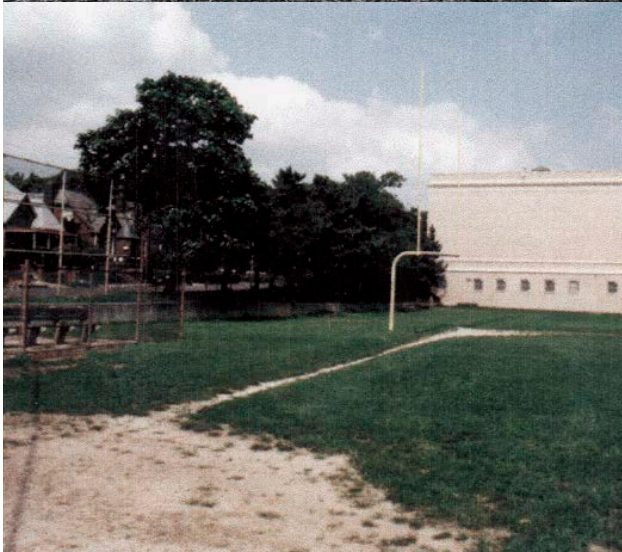
Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
3-Lane Track, Baseball/
Softball Field, Handball
Courts, Bleachers,
Scoreboard



The new multipurpose field and running track, lined with new bleachers, were completed in 2003.

Far Rockaway High School

BEFORE



The condition of the old track and field was so abysmal that the track team was forced to hold practice indoors.

AFTER



Borough:
Queens

Neighborhood:
Far Rockaway

Constructed:
2001

Cost:
\$2.4 million

Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
4-Lane Track, Field
Events, Baseball/
Softball Field, Tennis
Courts, Bleachers



The new field at Far Rockaway High School is a vision of open green space for the school and neighborhood.

Forest Hills High School



More dirt than grass on the baseball field; more water and mud than runners on the track.



Borough:
Queens

Neighborhood:
Forest Hills

Constructed:
2003

Cost:
\$3.0 million

Lead Sponsor:
Major League Baseball

Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field
Events, Baseball/Softball
Field, Tennis Courts,
Handball Courts,
Bleachers, Scoreboard



The new athletic complex at Forest Hills High School boasts a soccer field, track, and tennis courts, among other facilities.



The Forest Hills soccer team at play; Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig, Sharon Robinson (daughter of baseball legend Jackie Robinson), and New York Mets owner Fred Wilpon at the field dedication ceremony.

Jamaica High School



The spectacular new \$2.4 million sports facility at Jamaica High School, completed in 2001.

Borough:
Queens

Neighborhood:
Jamaica

Constructed:
2002

Cost:
\$2.4 million

Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field
Events, Baseball/Softball
Field, Handball Courts,
Bleachers, Scoreboard,
Storage Building

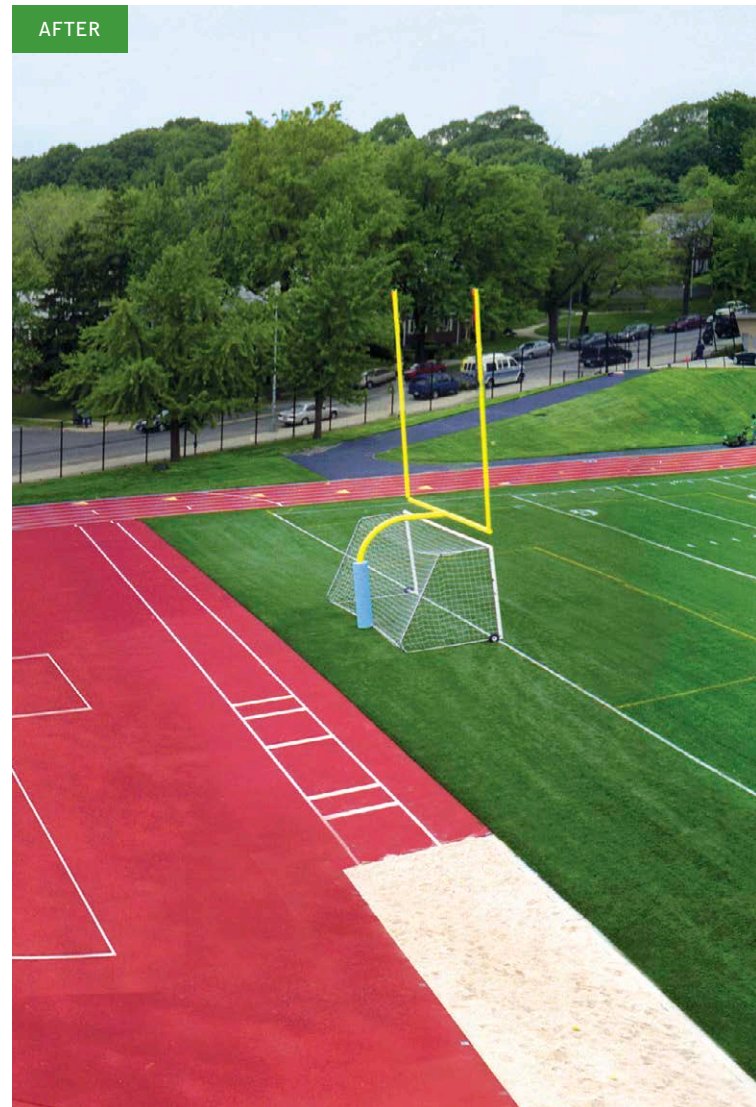


The newly formed Jamaica High varsity football team plays a game on its home field. On weekends and off-hours, FDNY's football team has access to the new field.

Martin Van Buren High School



The run-down field and bleachers



Borough:
Queens

Neighborhood:
Belle-Rose

Constructed:
2003

Cost:
\$2.5 million

Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field
Events, Baseball/Softball
Field, Tennis Courts,
Handball Courts,
Scoreboard, Storage
Building



The brand-new, refurbished field and 6-lane running track provide an even and safe surface for teams sports, physical education, and just plain fun.

Adlai E. Stevenson High School

BEFORE



The field and running track at Adlai E. Stevenson High School were in a state of utter disrepair, one of the worst in the city.

AFTER



Borough:
Bronx

Neighborhood:
Soundview

Constructed:
2002

Cost:
\$4.4 million

Lead Sponsor:
Joel E. Smilow

Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field
Events, Baseball/Softball
Field, Handball Courts,
Bleachers, Scoreboard,
Community Park



The new field at Adlai E. Stevenson High School, in the heart of the Bronx, is where drag races, dog fights, and bonfires were once the norm.

Alfred E. Smith High School



The Keep Out sign on the gate to the bleachers tells all.



Borough:
Bronx

Neighborhood:
South Bronx

Constructed:
2003

Cost:
\$2.8 million

Lead Sponsor:
Leon Cooperman/
Omega Advisors

Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
4-Lane Track, Field
Events, Baseball/Softball
Field, Tennis Courts,
Handball Courts,
Bleachers, Scoreboard



An aerial view of the newly completed Omega Advisors Athletic Field at Alfred E. Smith High School, 2003.



A football game on the new field at Alfred E. Smith High School in the South Bronx.

New Dorp High School



Borough:
Staten Island
Neighborhood:
New Dorp

Constructed:
2003
Cost:
\$4.6 million
Lead Sponsor:
Newhouse Family/
Staten Island Advance

Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
8-Lane Track, Field
Events, Baseball/Softball
Field, Tennis Courts,
Handball Courts,
Bleachers, 2 Scoreboards



An aerial view of the Staten Island Advance Stadium and adjacent athletic facilities at New Dorp High School, completed in October 2003.



Richard E. Diamond, publisher of the *Staten Island Advance*, at the ribbon cutting ceremony, New Dorp High School, October 2003; the New Dorp High School football team plays a game at home in the new Staten Island Advance Stadium.

Port Richmond High School



Before the \$3 million makeover, the fields were overlapping and the asphalt track was completely potholed.



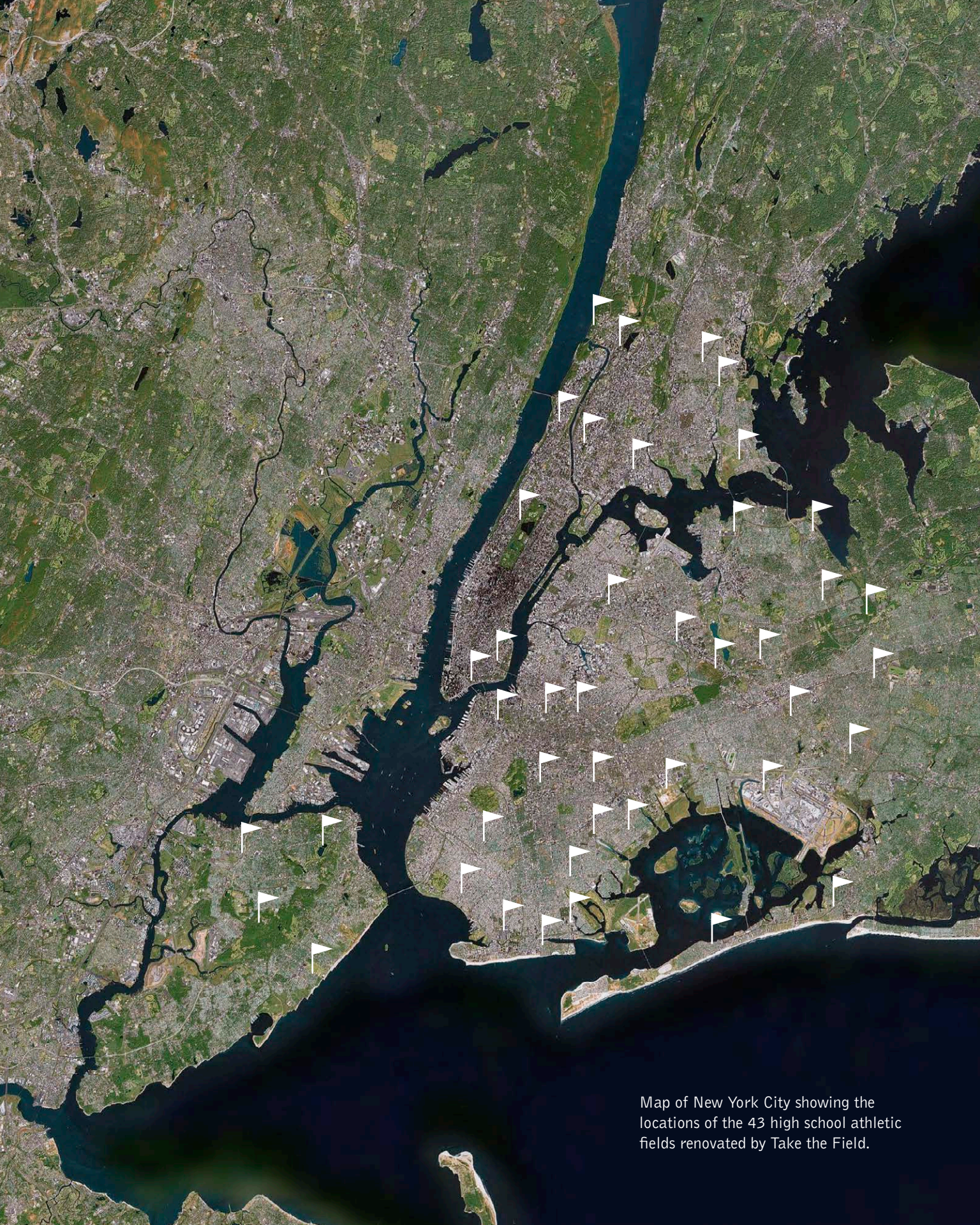
Borough:
Staten Island
Neighborhood:
Port Richmond

Constructed:
2001
Cost:
\$3.2 million

Facilities:
Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field
Events, Baseball/Softball
Field, Tennis Courts,
Bleachers, Scoreboard



The new athletic complex at Port Richmond High School, complete with separate facilities for tennis, baseball, and football, now matches its spectacular setting. The Port Richmond Raiders' football stadium seats 500 spectators.



Map of New York City showing the locations of the 43 high school athletic fields renovated by Take the Field.

Complete project list

BRONX

Adlai E. Stevenson High School

Joel E. Smilow Athletic Field
1980 Lafayette Avenue
Bronx, New York 10473
Neighborhood: Soundview
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/
Softball Field, Handball Courts,
Bleachers, Scoreboard, Community
Park

Alfred E. Smith High School

Omega Advisors Athletic Field
333 East 151st Street
Bronx, New York 10451
Neighborhood: South Bronx
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
4-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/
Softball Field, Tennis Courts,
Handball Courts, Bleachers,
Scoreboard

Christopher Columbus High School

925 Astor Avenue
Bronx, New York 10469
Neighborhood: Pelham Parkway
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
4-Lane Track, Baseball/Softball Field,
Bleachers, Scoreboard

Evander Childs High School

*The Joseph and Josephine Gabelli
Athletic Facility*
800 East Gun Hill Road
Bronx, New York 10467
Neighborhood: Wakefield
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
Baseball/Softball Field, Scoreboard

John F. Kennedy High School

99 Terrace View Avenue
Bronx, New York 10463
Neighborhood: Kingsbridge
Facilities: Baseball/Softball Field,
Bleachers, Scoreboard

South Bronx High School

Merrill Lynch Field of Dreams
701 St. Ann's Avenue
Bronx, New York 10455
Neighborhood: South Bronx
Facilities: Soccer Field, 5-Lane Track,
Field Events, Baseball/Softball Field,
Bleachers, Scoreboard

Walton High School

2780 Reservoir Avenue
Bronx, New York 10468
Neighborhood: Kingsbridge
Facilities: Baseball/Softball Field,
Batting Cage, Bleachers, Scoreboard

BROOKLYN

Abraham Lincoln High School

*Fred C. and Mary Trump Athletic
Complex*
2800 Ocean Parkway
Brooklyn, New York 11235
Neighborhood: Brighton Beach/
Coney Island
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/
Softball Fields, Tennis Courts,
Bleachers, 2 Scoreboards

Boys and Girls High School

Paul Tudor Jones Athletic Facility
1700 Fulton Street
Brooklyn, New York 11213
Neighborhood: Bedford Stuyvesant
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
8-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/
Softball Field, Bleachers, Scoreboard

Brooklyn Technical High School

Charles B. Wang Field
School: 29 Fort Greene Place
Brooklyn, New York 11217
Field: 510 Clermont Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11238
Neighborhood: Fort Greene
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
4-Lane Track, Field Events, Bleachers,
Scoreboard

Canarsie High School

1600 Rockaway Parkway
Brooklyn, New York 11236
Neighborhood: Canarsie
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
Baseball/Softball Field, Tennis
Courts, Handball Courts, Scoreboard

Grand Street Campus

850 Grand Street
Brooklyn, New York 11211
Neighborhood: Bushwick
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/
Softball Field, Tennis Courts,
Handball Courts, Bleachers,
Scoreboard

James Madison High School

3787 Bedford Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11229
Neighborhood: Ocean Parkway
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
Baseball/Softball Field, Tennis
Courts, Handball Courts, Bleachers,
Scoreboard

John Dewey High School

*The Heckscher Foundation for Children
Athletic Complex*
50 Avenue X
Brooklyn, New York 11223
Neighborhood: Coney Island
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field Events,
Baseball/Softball Field, Tennis
Courts, Handball Courts, Bleachers,
Scoreboard

Lafayette High School

*Coach Harry Ostro Athletic Complex;
Doc Sherman Athletic Field*
2630 Benson Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11214
Neighborhood: Bensonhurst
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
4-Lane Track, Field Events,
Baseball/Softball Field, Tennis
Courts, Handball Courts, Bleachers,
Scoreboard

New Utrecht High School

1601 80th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11214
Neighborhood: Bensonhurst
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
Baseball/Softball Field, Bleachers,
Scoreboard

Old Boys High School

School: 832 Marcy Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11216
Field: 708 Maple Street
Brooklyn, New York 11203
Neighborhood: Wingate
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field Events,
Baseball/Softball Field, Tennis
Courts, Volleyball Courts,
2 Scoreboards

Samuel J. Tilden High School

5800 Tilden Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11203
Neighborhood: East Flatbush
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
3-Lane Track, Baseball/Softball
Field, Handball Courts, Bleachers,
Scoreboard

Sheepshead Bay High School

3000 Avenue X
Brooklyn, New York 11235
Neighborhood: Sheepshead Bay
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
3-Lane Track, Baseball/Softball Field

South Shore High School

John C. Whitehead Athletic Field
6565 Flatlands Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11236
Neighborhood: Canarsie
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field Events,
Baseball/Softball Field, Bleachers,
2 Scoreboards

Thomas Jefferson High School

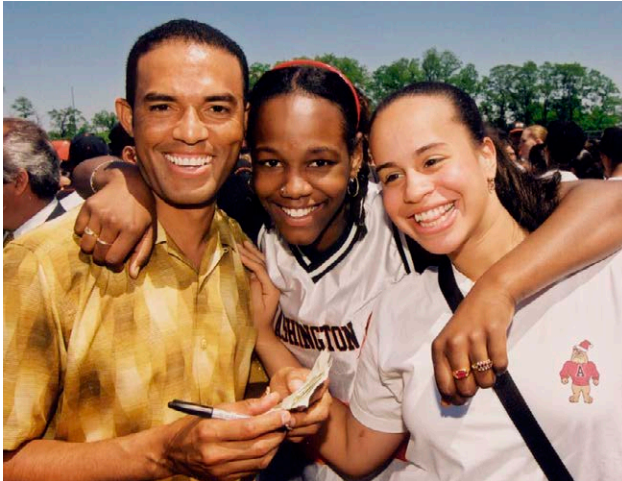
School: 400 Pennsylvania Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11207
Field: 12508 Flatland Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11208
Neighborhood: Starrett City
Facilities: Soccer Field, 6-Lane Track,
Field Events, Baseball/Softball Field,
Tennis Courts, Handball Courts,
Bleachers, 2 Scoreboards

MANHATTAN**George Washington High School**

549 Audubon Avenue
New York, New York 10040
Neighborhood: Washington Heights
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/
Softball Field, Scoreboard, Storage
Building

Murry Bergtraum High School

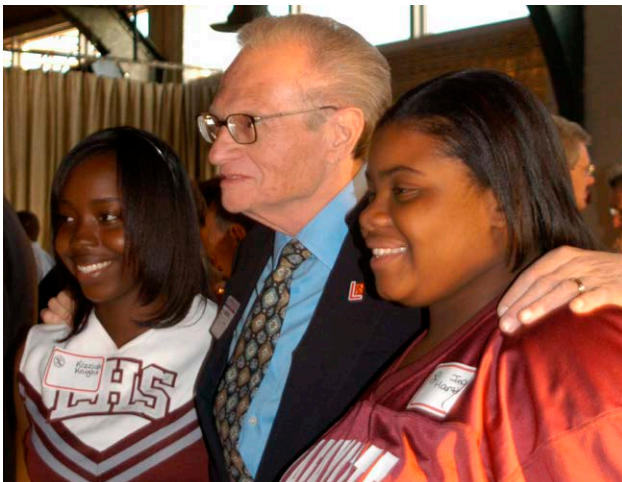
The Verizon Field
School: 411 Pearl Street
New York, New York 10038
Field: 171 Cherry Street
New York, New York 10002
Neighborhood: Lower East Side
Facilities: 6-Lane Track, Field Events,
Baseball/Softball Field, Bleachers,
Scoreboard



George Washington High School ribbon cutting, early 2001. Pitcher Mariano Rivera (New York Yankees) with students.



Flushing High School ribbon cutting, 2003. Former New York Giants tight end Howard Cross with students.



Lafayette High School fund-raiser. Alumnus and TV talk show host Larry King with students.



Take the Field celebration at Gracie Mansion, December 2005. Mayor Michael Bloomberg with members of the Bayside High School band.



Christopher Columbus High School ribbon cutting, October 2002. Dhani Jones (New York Giants) and Take the Field co-founder Bob Tisch with students.



Forest Hills High School Jackie Robinson Field dedication, March 2004. Pitcher Tom Glavine (New York Mets) auto-graphs a glove for a student.



William C. Bryant High School ribbon cutting. Ed Kranepool, former New York Mets player, with students.



Abraham Lincoln High School ribbon cutting, 2002. Left to right: Richard Kahan, Bob Tisch, Jason Sehorn (New York Giants), Donald Trump, Melanie Knauss, Frank Gifford (NFL Hall of Famer), Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz.

P.S. 161 Don Pedro Abizu Campus*Bruce Paltrow Athletic Complex*

499 West 133rd Street

New York, New York 10027

Neighborhood: Central Harlem*Facilities:* Soccer Field, 3-Lane

Track, Little League Baseball

Field, Basketball Court, Children's

Playground

Seward Park High School

School: 350 Grand Street

New York, New York 10022

Field: Essex and Grand Streets

New York, New York 10022

Neighborhood: Lower East Side*Facilities:* 4-Lane Track, Tennis

Courts, Basketball Courts, Volleyball

Courts, Handball Courts, Covered

Seating Area with Chess Tables

QUEENS**Bayside High School**

School: 32-24 Corporal Kennedy Street

Bayside, New York 11361

Field: 204-29 29th Avenue

Bayside, New York 11360

Neighborhood: Bayside*Facilities:* Football/Soccer Field,

6-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/

Softball Field, Bleachers, Scoreboard

Beach Channel High School

100-00 Beach Channel Drive

Rockaway Park, New York 11694

Neighborhood: Rockaway Park*Facilities:* Football/Soccer Field,

8-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/

Softball Field, Basketball Courts,

Handball Courts, 2 Scoreboards

Benjamin N. Cardozo High School*New York Post Field*

57-00 223rd Street

Bayside, New York 11364

Neighborhood: Bayside*Facilities:* Football/Soccer/Lacrosse

Field, 6-Lane Track, Field Events,

Baseball/Softball Field, Tennis

Courts, Bleachers, 2 Scoreboards

Campus Magnet High School

207-01 116th Avenue

Cambria Heights, New York 11411

Neighborhood: Cambria Heights*Facilities:* Football/Soccer Field,

6-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/

Softball Field, Bleachers, Scoreboard

Far Rockaway High School

821 Bay 25th Street

Far Rockaway, New York 11691

Neighborhood: Far Rockaway*Facilities:* Football/Soccer Field,

4-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/

Softball Field, Tennis Courts,

Bleachers

Flushing High School

School: 35-01 Union Street

Flushing, New York 11354

Field: 27-01 149th Street

Flushing, New York 11354

Neighborhood: Flushing*Facilities:* Football/Soccer Field,

4-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/

Softball Field, Bleachers, Scoreboard

Forest Hills High School*Major League Baseball's**Jackie Robinson Field*

67-01 110th Street

Forest Hills, New York 11375

Neighborhood: Forest Hills*Facilities:* Football/Soccer Field,

6-Lane Track, Field Events,

Baseball/Softball Field, Tennis

Courts, Handball Courts, Bleachers,

Scoreboard

Francis Lewis High School

58-20 Utopia Parkway

Fresh Meadows, New York 11365

Neighborhood: Fresh Meadows*Facilities:* Football/Soccer Field,

6-Lane Track, Field Events,

Baseball/Softball Field, Tennis

Courts, Handball Courts, Bleachers,

Scoreboard

Jamaica High School

167-01 Gothic Drive
Jamaica, New York 11432
Neighborhood: Jamaica
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/
Softball Field, Handball Courts,
Bleachers, Scoreboard, Storage
Building

John Bowne High School

63-25 Main Street
Flushing, New York 11367
Neighborhood: Flushing
Facilities: Baseball/Softball Field

Martin Van Buren High School

230-17 Hillside Avenue
Queens Village, New York 11427
Neighborhood: Belle-Rose
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/
Softball Field, Tennis Courts,
Handball Courts, Scoreboard,
Storage Building

Newtown High School

School: 48-01 90th Street
Newtown, New York 11373
Field: 90-20 56th Avenue
Elmhurst, New York 11373
Neighborhood: Lefrak City
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/
Softball Field, Tennis Courts,
Volleyball Courts, Handball Courts,
Bleachers, Scoreboard

Springfield Gardens High School

143-10 Springfield Boulevard,
Springfield Gardens, New York 11413
Neighborhood: Springfield Gardens
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Baseball/Softball Field,
Tennis Courts, Basketball Courts,
Handball Courts, Scoreboard

William C. Bryant High School

48-10 31st Avenue
Long Island City, New York 11103
Neighborhood: Long Island City
Facilities: Soccer Field, Baseball/
Softball Field, Tennis Courts,
Volleyball Court, Handball Courts,
Bleachers, Storage Building

STATEN ISLAND**Curtis High School**

105 Hamilton Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10301
Neighborhood: St. George
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
4-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/
Softball Field, Handball Courts,
Bleachers, Scoreboard

Michael J. Petrides High School

715 Ocean Terrace
Staten Island, New York 10301
Neighborhood: Sunnyside
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/
Softball Field, Tennis Courts,
Basketball Courts

New Dorp High School

Staten Island Advance Stadium
465 New Dorp Lane
Staten Island, New York 10306
Neighborhood: New Dorp
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
8-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/
Softball Field, Tennis Courts,
Handball Courts, Bleachers,
2 Scoreboards

Port Richmond High School

85 St. Joseph's Avenue
Staten Island, New York 10302
Neighborhood: Port Richmond
Facilities: Football/Soccer Field,
6-Lane Track, Field Events, Baseball/
Softball Field, Tennis Courts,
Bleachers, Scoreboard

Web resources

A resource for those who want to learn more about the program, www.takethefield.org covers everything from the origins of the organization to a step-by-step tutorial on how to obtain a field permit.

Also included are an easily navigable Flash map of all 43 fields, links to press articles, an overview of the maintenance program, and a list of links to organizations dedicated to rebuilding open spaces in New York and throughout the United States.



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This book celebrates Take the Field's success with the hope of inspiring civic leaders in other cities to undertake similar public works.

www.takethefield.org

