



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor Adrian Fenty and Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser announce the grand opening of the Riggs-LaSalle Premier Athletic Field

(Washington, DC) – Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Ward 5 Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr. and the DC Department of Parks and Recreation will host a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Premier Athletic Field at the Riggs LaSalle Community Center, 501 Riggs Road, NE on Friday, October 3, 2008 at 5:30 PM. This is DPR's first Premier Athletic Field and is also the largest multi-use artificial turf athletic field in the District of Columbia.

Immediately following the ribbon cutting ceremony, a pep rally will be held for the Lamond Riggs Steelers, a 40-year-old community organization which hosts 9 youth football teams, comprised of over 250 local young people. The two Lamond Riggs cheerleading squads will perform during the pep rally which kicks off their Homecoming weekend of activities.

The \$3.4 million Riggs LaSalle Premier Athletic Field project converted the existing football/soccer field and 60-foot baseball diamond to a 90-foot baseball diamond and new artificial turf playing surface, with inlaid game lines and markings. The baseball diamonds feature colored artificial turf infield cut-outs, using brown turf along the base paths and a combination of green and brown colored turf in the interior of the infield.

Other improvements made during the project include: lighting improvements, new seating for spectators, new press box, new scoreboard, new and repositioned dugouts for field safety, new goal posts, improved Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access, repairs and additions to existing fencing, new athletic field maintenance equipment.

This Premier Field joins the \$9.8 million, state of the art recreation center which was completed in April 2008 and has become the cornerstone of the community. It is one of the most environmentally sound DC government buildings with a LEED (Leadership Energy Environmental Design) certification of silver.

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