



## IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY AT SAN RAFAEL — HOME OF THE NECCO RAIDERS!

No – your eyes are not deceiving you – that is *brand spanking new, shiny asphalt* with bright yellow stripes at San Rafael Park! The parking lot is just one of the Master Plan improvements to make San Rafael Park the premier football field and community park in the area and those dreams are now possible with the *great news received earlier this summer...*

**The Kansas City Chiefs, the National Football League and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation announced that the NECCO Raiders Football Organization is the recipient of the NFL/LISC Grassroots Program Grant in the amount of \$100,000.** This grant comes by way of a lengthy process during which the Raiders were one of 80 organizations competing nationally for \$2.5 million in funds. The Raiders were one of 17 recipient groups around the country and were fully funded at the requested \$100,000.

This is a matching grant and the additional \$100,000 already secured for donated services and donations will provide approximately \$250,000 in facility and park improvements. The grant parameters give the Raiders 18 months to use the funds and a master timeline will be determined very soon. Additional funding pools including PIAC, sponsorships and private or corporate donors will also be approached.

Awarding of these grants was delayed by several months this year and so the opportunity to make significant pre-season changes (including re-aligning the field, grading, sodding and re-setting goalposts) will have to wait until after the season. The Master Plan donated by HOK and approved in April by the KCMO Parks and Recreation Board will guide this process and priorities.

The official announcement from the Raiders was delayed at the request of the KC Chiefs organization due to the changes happening in their upper management and their desire to partner on any press coverage and ceremonial activities at the field, including an initial ground-breaking and then final ribbon-cutting. We are currently considering 1-2 options and you will receive advance notice about the opportunity to attend.

This award is an extraordinary testament to the Simone family and the Raiders – all past, current and future players, coaches, fans and friends – who create magic every Fall at San Rafael. We are proud to now have the resources to create a field and football experience that matches the effort, intensity and reputation of the team. It is has been earned.

Look for more information soon but until then, button your chinstrap – game on!

More information at [www.leaguelineup.com/necco\\_raiders](http://www.leaguelineup.com/necco_raiders)

