

<https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/light-up-keach-park-soccer-field>

Official New Hampshire Chapter Campaign

Light Up Keach Park Soccer Field in Concord

Keach Park soccer field needs lights for night-time play but city leaders have delayed the project until 2031! Concord communities deserve a safe place to play and gather now.

Why This Matters

Change for Concord is a diverse group of young adults, aged 18-30, working to improve the quality of life for young people in Concord. Change for Concord and NH Sierra Club are working together to further racial and social equity in the city of Concord, NH.

For several years, Change for Concord has been requesting lights at Keach Park to create safer spaces for young people to play. There is a growing demand for lights on at least one soccer field. In 2017, Change for Concord gathered signatures to show the strong community support for Keach Park improvements with lights to be designed and installed by 2020. Instead of progress, the plan has been met with delays.

In 2018, the plan for lights was approved for construction in 2020 by the Council. A series of delays pushed construction to 2022, then 2025, then again to 2029, and most recently it was delayed to 2031 in last year's budget. That is 14 years.

Keach Park provides access to recreational activities and social engagements for a community that includes many young adults, immigrants, and refugees. Soccer is the most popular sport played at Keach Park, and often friends will meet up and play a pickup game at the end of the day.

Many of these players have jobs or school to attend during the day, so it is important for the park to be accessible in the evening. Especially in the fall after daylight savings time, by the time everyone gets to the field and teams are picked, it is dark when the ball starts rolling leaving less than a half hour to play.

Lights on a field would significantly increase the opportunity to play longer and engage in healthy and community building activities while decreasing the misuse of the park. Additionally, lights allow for people to make positive choices and it would enhance safety at the park.