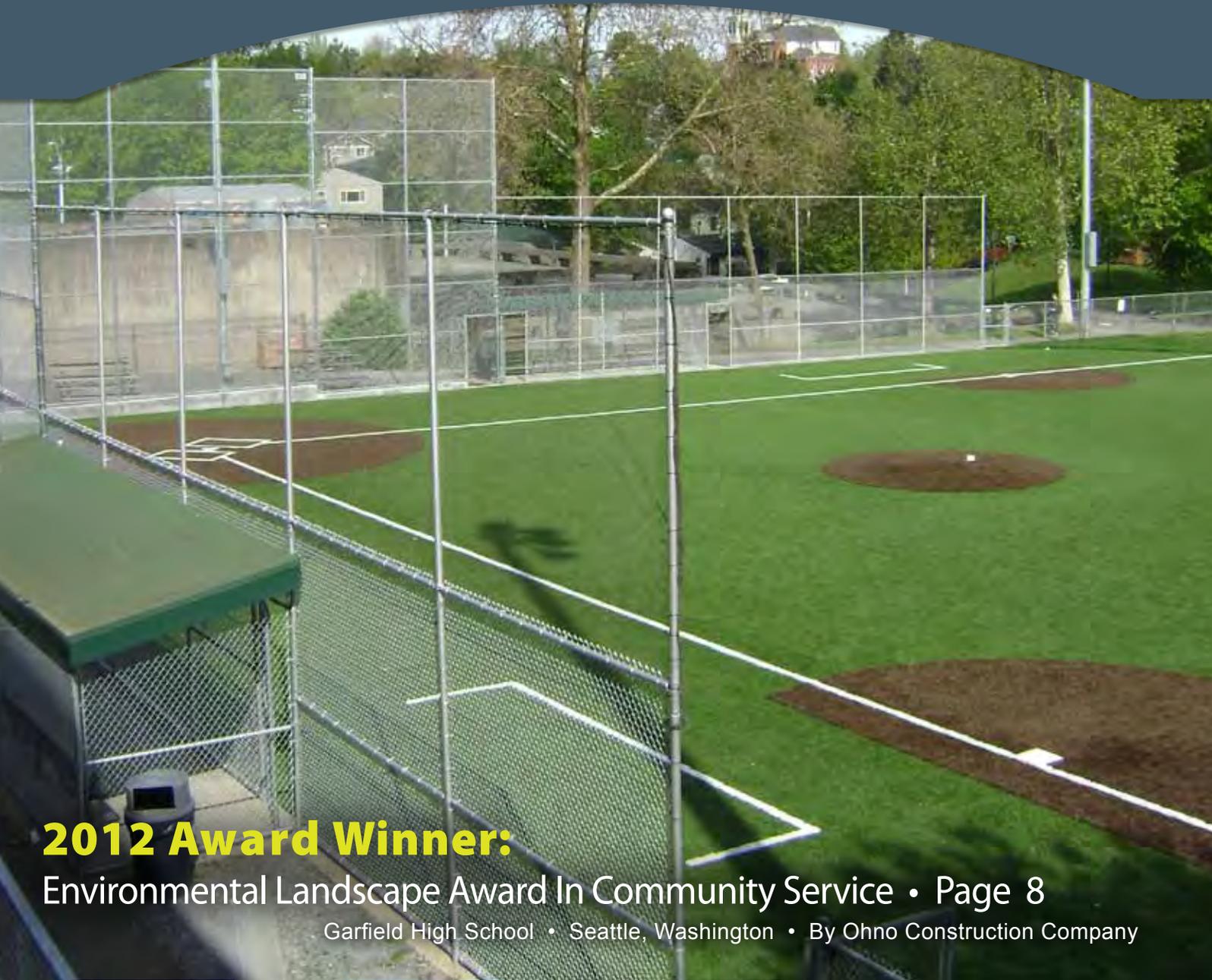


# NORTHWEST LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONAL



## 2012 Award Winner:

Environmental Landscape Award In Community Service • Page 8

Garfield High School • Seattle, Washington • By Ohno Construction Company

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## Garfield High School's "Field Of Dreams"

# Ohno Construction Hits A Home Run On Baseball Project

*Cover: The new backstop and wing fencing provides a new "face" for Garfield High School's baseball facility.*

Seattle's Garfield High School has a long and proud tradition when it comes to its sports teams. But the lack of recent public funding left its baseball field a "Field of Nightmares" characterized by muddy stretches punctuated by occasional pathetic tufts of grass.

Count on WALP member Ohno Construction Company to come to

worked closely with Seattle Parks Department to identify levels of community use, features that would be important to a quality facility, and cost parameters. Ohno brought considerable experience in athletic field construction (from Safeco Field to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and a lot more in between) to the table and used that expertise to develop a cost-



*The new synthetic turf batter's box and base paths complete the all-weather qualities of the infield. Batter up!*

the rescue with a project that generated a lot of community support and funding to solve the problem. In the process, Ohno earned a Grand Award in the 2012 WALP Environmental Landscape Awards Program in the Community Service Category. The project also contributed to awarding special recognition to the firm for its overall scope and quality of work.

The mighty Garfield Bulldogs were in danger of looking more like Chihuahuas when it came to their baseball field. The practice and playing seasons were severely limited, and the largely empty lot had become a magnet for all sorts of illicit evening activities in the Seattle Central Area's campus. The school has long been known for its ethnic and racial diversity and had a proud athletic heritage that helped to create pride in the extended neighborhood.

Donations of time, talent, synthetic turf, and lots of other material helped to create a usable baseball facility for the broader community through a consortium of private and public partners.

Leading the charge to make the transformation was Ohno Construction of Seattle. They took the challenge on as a design/build project and

effective plan.

The plan involved removal of the existing backstop and fencing, regrading the entire surface, creating an enhanced drainage system, installing new fencing all around, and installation of new synthetic turf.

"Preconstruction services included assessment of the site conditions, looking at drainage issues, creating a safety plan, building a budget, developing a construction schedule, finding subcontractors, and selecting from value engineering options," said Barbara Ohno. "The project was funded entirely by donations except for the new fencing."

Along with Ohno Construction's contributions of manpower, equipment, services, and funds, the company also led the effort to secure donations from other sources for materials, services, and money. They collaborated with the Seattle Parks Department to secure endorsement of the Seattle Mariners for fundraising purposes as well.

In all, nearly \$175,000 was donated by the partnership that was created to make the project a reality.

> *Continued on next page*



Before

1



2



3

Photo 1

*Before: Muddy field prohibits play at Garfield High and encourages bad things after dark.*

Photo 2

*After: Some synthetic turf and improved facilities extend the playability and the season that enables access for additional community groups such as Little League.*

Photo 3

*Note the new foundation for the backstop and fencing posts. A complete transformation.*

All of the high school's varsity home games are played at the Garfield High School Baseball Field, along with a host of Little League events which draw large and enthusiastic crowds to an area that once was totally vacant after dusk. The field has helped to turn around this decaying area of the neighborhood that formerly lagged behind other areas in adequate

youth sports venues.

Congratulations to Ohno Construction Company for the quality of their work and for the contribution they have made to making Seattle a more livable community! We're proud of you and you hit this one out of the park!