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From "Asphalt to Action": Upcoming Ribboncutting in Washington, DC



Bill Mykins, LEED AP

On June 8th, the District of Columbia will celebrate the ribbon cutting of "The Fields at RFK"—phase 1 of an ambitious plan to redevelop the outmoded RFK Stadium site into a bustling campus. We hope you'll attend the community celebration.

While you wouldn't know it from the 27 acres of recreational fields and

amenities about to open to the public, the site where The Fields now sit was previously a sea of asphalt known as parking Lot 7. In the place of asphalt, the community now has an incredible space in which to gather, complete with multi-purpose sports fields; a pavilion for events, festivals, farmers markets, and the like; a large playground; restrooms; bike and walking paths; and more. This sportsplex and community park will also draw outsiders to the area for events like sports tournaments.

Events DC, the official convention and sports authority for the District, recently announced the exclusive operator for the fields, Capitol Riverside Youth Sports Park (CRYSP). A [press release](#) quotes Gregory A. O'Dell, president and CEO of Events DC, as saying, "CRYSP shares our forward-thinking commitment to finding innovative and creative approaches to better serve our city's neighborhoods by bringing sports and entertainment activities that will drive economic development and opportunities."

B&D led RFK's campus master planning and is currently serving as the owner's representative for the implementation. Projects like these are complex and years-long endeavors, but can offer cities and institutions immense value—both in an economic and community-building sense. In the case of the RFK Campus, an area of focus has been financing and partnerships, wherein development approaches are being tailored to the individual project (e.g., fields, market hall, sports and recreation complex, RFK memorial). The goal is to ensure the best product at the best price—whether that means self-developing, partnering with a private entity, or partnering with local and national public-sector entities. Such partnerships are increasingly being explored for sports and

community recreational facilities. One example of this is the College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York, which partnered with the City of Albany to build athletic fields; [read the full story](#).

You can also [read more about the larger RFK redevelopment project](#) and [check out the RFK Fields webcam](#). And again, hope you'll join for the ribbon cutting on June 8th; please [reach out to me](#) for more information.

B&Der Spotlight: Sanath Kalidas, PMP, LEED AP BD+C

Sanath Kalidas has been with Brailsford & Dunlavey since 2006. During his tenure, Sanath has collaborated with many owners to deliver an array of complex and exciting projects, including those in sports and entertainment, higher education, community recreation, independent schools, and workforce housing, with a total contract value in excess of \$1B. You know his work if you've seen transformative projects such as:

- Audi Field (DC) – served as owner's representative for the District
- Fairfax County Parks Authority (Virginia) – completed a system-wide recreation center strategic plan
- RFK Campus Redevelopment (DC) – completed master plan for Events DC



Sanath has a professional and academic background in architecture and construction management. His core competencies include advisory, program management, procurement, contract administration, risk management, and project controls. He is a Project Management Professional (PMP) and LEED Accredited Professional. He's also both a fan and player of cricket!

In addition to working on program management assignments, he has presented on contracts and project delivery methods at The Johns Hopkins University's Carey School of Business, at educational sessions on community recreation at the Virginia Recreation and Parks Society's annual conference, and on sustainable design initiatives and procurement for schools at the Green California Schools Summit & Exposition. Prior to joining B&D, Sanath completed his graduate studies at Carnegie Mellon University and worked in the construction management and architecture fields. Collectively, these experiences have enhanced his appreciation for and strengthened his understanding of successful program management strategies.

To learn more about Sanath's work, [read his recent article in Facility Manager magazine](#) on Audi Field and the D.C. United story.

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