

Tough Richmond Neighborhood Gets New Sports Field

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RICHMOND, Calif. (KCBS) -- A neglected part of Richmond that police knew all too well is finally getting some positive attention.

Oakland Raider Hall of Famer Jim Otto presided over Tuesday's groundbreaking of a new sports park at Martin Luther King Jr. Park off Cutting Boulevard, an area where gunshots and violence are not uncommon.

Kids in attendance were excited about the prospect of playing on the field.

 [KCBS' Dave Padilla Reports](#)

"They'll have a lot more people here instead of kids just running up and down the street," said one of the neighbor kids.

The NFL contributed \$200,000 for the field that will have high grade synthetic sports turf.

Joan Davis with the Richmond Children's Foundation said the sports park is sure to boost the morale of Richmond residents.

"The community's been waiting for this day for a long time and by the end of the year, when it's in place, the morale of this community is just going to go sky high," Davis said.

Currently, the fields are a mess with large patches of grass missing, and an adjacent baseball field is covered by geese, with no kids in sight.