

## St. Paul Field

There have been several questions about what is happening to and on the field. As you know, we had a pretty significant landslide a year and a half ago that encroached on and damaged some of our neighbors' properties. We did some temporary repairs and built a temporary retaining wall to keep the issue at bay until we could determine what caused the slide and the best solution to keep the slide from happening again. One big issue that we were dealing with was that our insurance company would not cover the repair costs because this was determined to be "an act of God". As you can imagine, that threw a fairly big wrench into the issue.

The Archdiocese's Department of Property and Construction stepped in because, as you know, ultimately the Archdiocese owns all of the property in the Archdiocese. Anyway, Property & Construction brought in a number of specialists and contractors to help determine what caused the landslide. They brought in surveyors, soil engineers, civil engineers, land developers, and drilling specialists to determine what caused the landslide and how to resolve the issues. All this testing and exploring took several months, but ultimately, at the end, the specialists determined that the issue was two-fold. The field had a very poor drainage system while the majority of the field and the slope were made up of fill dirt. It was determined that repairs had to be done to the drainage system and that it would be necessary to regrade and repair the slope to avoid future landslides.

The City of Seattle has strict rules as to when work can be done on landslides – no work is to be done at all during the rainy season – which is why once all the temporary repairs were completed, work was put on hold until the city signed off on the work. Ohno Construction was hired to do the work. Their company specializes in building and repairing ball fields. What they are currently doing is re-grading the slope – that is why you see dirt piled on top of the field. They will be installing 2 new catch basins and 2 new storm drains, as well as laying new drainage pipe and building some berms. Finally, they are going to landscape the new slope with trees, shrubs, plants, and ground cover.

What is going to happen to the field in the long term is still up for debate. There have been discussions about a number of possibilities but nothing solid yet. The only thing that we all agreed upon was that we had to correct the issues that caused the landslides.