



**MEDIA ADVISORY:** May 14, 2015

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## NFL/LISC Grassroots Program and Minnesota Vikings to Award Edison Community & Sports Foundation with \$100K Grant for Edison High School

*Grant supports a new field surface at Pete Guzy Field—a key component of a larger effort to transform the school's surroundings into a "Green Campus" and model for environmental sustainability*

**MINNEAPOLIS** – On Tuesday, May 19, Minnesota Vikings players, cheerleaders and mascot Viktor the Viking will present the Edison Community & Sports Foundation with a \$100,000 grant for Edison High School field renovation efforts on behalf of the National Football League (NFL) Grassroots Program (a partnership between the National Football League Foundation, the Minnesota Viking and LISC). The check presentation will be followed by a fun skills competition for youth athletes.

Thanks in part to a partnership between the NFL, the Minnesota Vikings, LISC, the Edison & Community Sports Foundation, the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Minneapolis Public Schools, and the City of Minneapolis, the Pete Guzy Athletic Field at Edison High School has been re-graded and sodded, goal posts, new drain tile and an innovative irrigation system have been installed. To keep the field in good shape all season, rainwater from the nearby gymnasium roof, new solar canopy and plaza will be diverted into an underground cistern. That water will be used to irrigate the playing field and new landscape plantings. The project area will include interactive signage and outdoor environmental classrooms for school and community use, and Edison students will monitor water flow and water quality to assess the project's impact.

Edison's Guzy Field renovation is part of a larger "Green Campus" that's been implemented around the school over the past few years. The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Minneapolis Public Schools, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, the Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association, and other groups have spearheaded numerous improvements to the area, including renovations of nearby Jackson Square Park and the Holland Flood Mitigation Basin—two blocks that have been redesigned as a community recreational area, with an amphitheater and gathering space—as well as various efforts to collect and clean storm water, preventing excess runoff into the Mississippi River.

The NFL's Grassroots Program is part of the NFL Charities Youth Football Fund, a \$150 million effort of the NFL and its teams – such as the Minnesota Vikings – in partnership with the NFL Players Association to ensure youth across the country have the opportunity to enjoy the game of football.

- WHAT:** Minnesota Vikings players will participate in agility drills with Edison student athletes after Edison Community & Sports Foundation, MPS, and Edison High School representatives accept a \$100K grant through the NFL Grassroots program which will be used to convert Pete Guzy Field into a highly visible example of environmental stewardship for benefit of students and community.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, May 19 from 3:30 – 5 p.m. (Rain or shine.)
- WHERE:** Minneapolis Edison High School – Pete Guzy Field  
700 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418
- WHO:** Kevin Reich, Minneapolis City Council  
Trent Tucker, Minneapolis Public Schools  
Carla Steinbach, Edison High School  
Doug Snyder, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization  
Niles Schulz, Edison Community & Sports Foundation  
Matt Croaston, Office of U.S. Congressman Keith Ellison  
Andriana Abariotes, Twin Cities LISC  
Lester Bagley, Minnesota Vikings  
Edison High School student athletes and marching band  
Minnesota Vikings players past and present, Vikings cheerleaders & Viktor the Viking

#### **About the NFL Youth Football Fund**

Established in 1998 by the NFL and the NFL Players Association, the NFL Youth Football Fund seeks to use football as a catalyst to promote positive youth development, support youth and high school football needs nationwide and also ensure the health of grassroots football in future generations. Through the YFF's youth football initiatives and support programs, youngsters are provided with opportunities to learn the game of football, get physically fit and stay involved in productive after-school activities with adult mentors.

#### **About LISC**

LISC combines corporate, government & philanthropic resources to help nonprofit community development corporations revitalize neighborhoods. Since 1980, LISC has invested \$14.7 billion to build or rehab more than 330,000 affordable homes and develop 53 million square feet of retail, community and educational space nationwide, leveraging nearly \$44.1 billion in total development activity. For more information, visit [www.lisc.org](http://www.lisc.org).

#### **About Edison Community & Sports Foundation**

Established in 1983, the Edison Community & Sports Foundation consists of Edison High School alumni and community who originally organized to honor coaches and past athletes while building scholarship funds for Edison students. Today's Foundation has expanded to support Edison High School in a broader spectrum while keeping the past connected to the future. For more info, visit [www.edisonsportsfoundation.org](http://www.edisonsportsfoundation.org).

#### **About Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS)**

Minneapolis Public Schools promises an inspirational education experience for over 35,000 students in safe, welcoming environments established for all diverse learners to acquire the tools and skills necessary to engage confidently in the global 21<sup>st</sup> century community. For more information, visit [www.mpls.k12.mn.us](http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us).

#### **About Mississippi Watershed Management Organization**

The MWMO provides for management of water quality, water quantity, & habitat through the development and implementation of projects, activities, & policies that respect ecosystem principles and reflect changing community values. The MWMO assists & cooperates with units of government, non-profit agencies, and a variety of groups in managing its water resources to achieve this vision. For more information, visit [www.mwmo.org](http://www.mwmo.org).

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