# **Maryland community** solves spill/glare concern

n increasingly important issue when lighting an outdoor athletic facility is the need to minimize spill light and glare. As cities and suburbs continue to expand, it's becoming more common that parks and sports fields are placed next to homes, roads, and airports. Along with specific property line concerns, there is the general consideration of the environmental impact associated with lighting a field.

Fairland Regional Park in Silver Spring, MD, required this type of strict light cutoff. "We wanted to specify a fixture that emits the minimum amount of light off site", says Butch Payton, project manager/civil engineer for the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission. The existing soccer and softball fields at Fairland were not lit and had houses located only 200 feet from the soccer field.

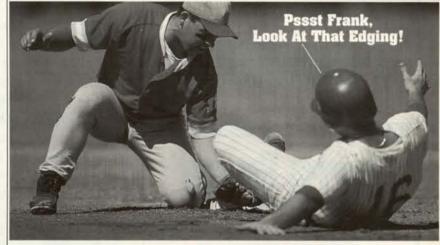
"As a whole, communities don't like to have fields lit because there's an influx of people at night and because there's light spilling onto their property," Payton says. "We had to assure the community that the light would not be excessive. Once the lights were installed, there were no complaints. The fixtures met the specifications, with no negative environmental impact."

The commission hired Hubbell Lighting, Inc., Christiansburg, VA. Hubbell's SLS, Sportsliter Solutions Group, used its spill and glare control fixture to reduce light trespass at the park. The fixture is precisely engineered using internal louvers that redirect the light. By achieving maximum light cutoff internally, the SLS spill/glare control fixture also avoids increased dirt depreciation and wind loading problems found with external

Heather Johnson, senior application engineer for Hubbell Lighting, designed the lighting layout for Fairland Regional Park. "The internal glare louvers were designed to minimize the brightness of the source of light from a distance," says Johnson. "When you take the brightness away from the light, that makes the neighbors happy. We also wanted to increase the efficiency of the design by putting more light on the field where it's wanted and less light on the surrounding property."



Minimizing spill glare and light is an important issue.



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