



Baseball historian Bud Kerr says the natural grass at Nat Bailey Stadium is part of Vancouver's baseball lore. The turf was moved from Athletic Park, the city's first major ball park, which once played host to Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

"I always call that holy grass," Kerr said. Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig and other golden age players trod the turf during a game played just before they headed to Japan on an exhibition tour in 1934.

Many Vancouverites attended games at the Nat with their fathers or grandfathers and they are now taking their children. The memories of Nat Bailey Stadium have kept baseball culture alive in Vancouver for generations.

### 1.3 Nat Bailey Stadium – Current Operations

Because it has the retro feel and intimacy of ballparks past, as well as a dynamic central Vancouver location, Nat Bailey Stadium offers the perfect compliment of sports and urban life.

Various youth amateur teams play their games and tournaments at Nat Bailey and the University of British Columbia holds all of their practices, home games, and tournaments here.

In addition to amateur and professional baseball games, the stadium is a popular venue for other organizations. Throughout nine months of the year, a variety of events are held in the stadium such as the annual ALS run, weddings, film shoots, lot rentals, charity benefit games, kids clinics, softball tournaments, and company barbeques. The stadium is working towards hosting events that will keep it busy for twelve months of the year.



In all, there are more than 140,000 visits a year to Nat Bailey Stadium, located in Hillcrest Park, and it is estimated that, in addition to community good will and the joy of thousands of youngsters that play ball in the park, more than \$4 million is added to the local economy directly generated from its activities.

### 1.4 Vision for the Future

Nat Bailey Stadium has served the community of Vancouver well since its construction in 1951 but now is the time for renewal. Rules and regulations concerning safety in public spaces have changed since it was built and the stadium has outgrown many of its original facilities.

In order to maintain the integrity of the stadium while addressing its need for renewal, the Friends of Nat Bailey Stadium<sup>1</sup>, a non-profit society was born in August 2000. The clear mandate of this society is to preserve amateur and professional baseball housed in historic Nat Bailey Stadium.

<sup>1</sup> The Friends of Nat Bailey Stadium is sometimes referred to as the Friends.