



Neighbors Upset At A-Rod's Private Field Of Dreams

By MONICA MORALES and JEREMY TANNER

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UPPER WEST SIDE, NY (PIX 11) —



Upper West Side residents near 65th St. who have been wondering why they aren't allowed to use the big, beautiful baseball field that has been fenced off for months now have an answer -- because it is reserved for Alex Rodriguez and the other residents of a nearby ritzy condo.

The baseball field was supposed to be part of Riverside Park South, a public facility built by Extell Development Co. in exchange for the right to construct its pricey high-rises.

Instead, Extell is keeping it locked up, reserved for the private use of its own residents.

Developer Gary Barnett said, "Rodriguez loved the building, the park and the water views, but we think that the clincher was the baseball field outside the front door."

New York Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez has made a deal to buy a four-bedroom condo on the 35th floor of the plush Extell high-rise called the Rushmore.

While the Yankees slugger is thrilled, many nearby residents aren't as enthusiastic about the private field of dreams.

One Upper West Side resident, who didn't give her name, said that it isn't fair and called it "selfish and disturbing."

Community Board 7 Chair Mel Wymore made a direct plea to the superstar slugger, saying, "A-Rod help us out. Make this ball field really accessible to the entire west-side. We want to play ball with you."

"Come on A-Rod, share the ball field," said Upper West Side resident Polo Cruz. "Maybe he can use his star power to help the people out."

The City's Parks department says Extell will eventually turn over the field to the City, but no time-line has been given.

A Parks Department spokesperson said, "The area where the ballfields are, south of 65th Street, is the site of a later park phase scheduled for construction and transfer to Parks sometime in the future."

A-Rod could not be reached for comment.