

Key Benefits:

- Increased play dates for baseball, football and softball from a lighted, artificial turf field.
- Future home of the elite Minnetonka Millers, Excelsior Legion and Mantle baseball teams.
- A new centralized location for MHS and Tonka Youth Football practices and Sophomore and JV games.
- Serves as a community gathering point and the centerpiece for MHS and the community's young adult and youth diamond and football sport programs.



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A New Multi-Purpose Athletic Field Complex at Minnetonka High School for the Benefit of the Minnetonka School District and the Minnetonka Community

June 30, 2006

MHS and Community Baseball, Softball and Football Programs to Benefit

The Project

Having received all final approvals from the City of Minnetonka and the Minnetonka School District Board (MSDB), the Minnetonka Diamond Club (MDC), the MHS Touchdown Club and Tonka Football Association, as community association partners together with the Minnetonka School District (MSD), have commenced construction of an approximate \$3,500,000 Multi-Purpose Athletic Complex that will completely renovate the existing inefficiently plotted and antiquated 5.5 acre Minnetonka High School (MHS) varsity baseball and girls' softball fields. This community initiated, privately funded, multiple use athletic complex will serve as the focal point for MHS and MSD baseball, girls' softball and boys' football programs in addition to serving as the home field for the Minnetonka Millers Baseball men's town team and the Excelsior American Legion and Mantle Baseball teams. The MHS Physical Education Department will also make use of the facility for selected activities during the school year.



The new baseball stadium and football practice complex will utilize a synthetic turf playing surface with lights and a 600 seat grandstand that will be used by baseball in the spring and summer months of the year and then converted to a MHS football practice and Tonka Youth Football game fields in the fall. The synthetic turf provides necessary durability and extended days of play due to its superior multi-filtered quick storm drainage system. Included in this current project is the initial phase of a planned two phase girls' softball field upgrade will incorporate re-grading and re-sodding of the current varsity softball field and the addition of a new 21 space parking area adjacent to their field. The second phase of this the project will include the construction of three four new softball fields that will service not only the MHS girls softball program, but the community's Minnetonka Girls Softball Association (MGSA).



How This Project Got Started

The initiator of this new project and sole operating manager for this new MSD community multi-use complex is the Minnetonka Diamond Club (MDC). The MDC is a private non-school and non-school district Section 501(C)(3) non-profit organization comprised of Minnetonka School District (MSD) community members, incorporated in October, 2003, for the distinct purpose of "supporting the Minnetonka High School (MHS) baseball team and other community related diamond oriented programs." The MSD comprises most of the City of Minnetonka and portions of nine additional cities in the western suburbs of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.



The MDC is run by an elected board and raises funds to support its operations principally from private and corporate donations obtained by direct solicitation and through hosting annual Spring Pancake Breakfast and other fundraisers. The MDC also initiates, solicits and manages a variety of baseball-training clinics to youth and high school aged student being instructed by the MHS coaches and players. The underlying belief is that when players have better skills and a clearer picture where their baseball career can lead, they will continue to play longer.

Support Our Community Project by Downloading a Pledge Form at www.tonkabaseball.org!



*Speaking for the
community, Pastor
Paul Petterson says,
“we will get this
stadium complex
done as a
community because
I need you and you
need me.”*

Why This Multi-Use Complex Is Needed

There are simply not enough baseball, softball and football fields to adequately service the youth and young adults of the Minnetonka School District. Without sufficient additional fields or increasing field capacity there could be a situation where youth and young adults will not be afforded the opportunity to play diamond sports or football at all or their participation would be severely restricted in hours of play possible.

In the last eight years the 13-18 year old baseball has seen an increase in participation from 185 to 435 kids. Softball has seen an increase from 350 to 550 youth and youth football has seen participation grow from 250 to 650 kids playing football.

The City of Minnetonka has addressed this issue and conducted an Athletic Field Needs Study, last updated in March of 2003, which dramatically illustrated the shortage of playing fields for baseball, football and softball.

The report indicated a lack of seven baseball and six football and ten softball fields for the City of Minnetonka. As a result of that study the City of Minnetonka set aside funds in their long term Capital Improvement Budget and asked the community to bring ideas forward to address these needs.

Phase 2 Will Include Up to Four New Softball Fields

MHS Girls' Softball and the Minnetonka Girls Softball Association are planning a complete renovation of the current MHS girls' varsity softball field and converting it and the surrounding tangential area to the new boys multi-use complex into 4 new softball fields. The plans are currently being drawn up and financing arrangements made to make this second phase of the project a reality someday. This new girls' complex would give MHS and MGSA the ability to retain elite girls softball players and to host tournaments..



What Is Included in the Cost

The renovated field will have support facilities consisting of spectator bleachers, a common concession/press box building, a small storage building and player dugouts. Also included at the upper level is a large spectator plaza for congregating and viewing of games. Tables and benches are planned for future furnishing of the plaza. The bleachers will be accessible by handicap walkways from both upper and lower levels; the primary walkway of which is approached from the upper north parking lot. Plans include a new scoreboard which will face the school and is well hidden from surrounding properties by the heavily wooded wetland areas. The size of the board is within the signage ordinance.

The field will be illuminated by a state-of-the-art lighting system. The metal halide six pole system will direct lighting inward toward the playfield. This orientation will reduce spill light into the surrounding area to zero foot-candles at 180 feet. The lights are also equipped with a shielding hood, which substantially reduces glare from the light source.

Who Will Use the Fields

The primary users will be the Minnetonka High School (MHS) Varsity/Junior Varsity baseball and softball teams, the American Legion/Mantle baseball summer programs, the Minnetonka Millers town team, the Senior/Junior Babe Ruth baseball programs, the Minnetonka Girls Softball Association (MGSA) and the MHS and Minnetonka Youth Football Programs. This community complex will significantly benefit the diamond sports and football community programs by centralizing their practice and game activities at the Minnetonka High School versus now having to travel to other communities in order to play their games.

The field will also be utilized by MHS Physical Education Department during school hours. The MDC will work diligently with the MSD to insure the facility is properly and fully utilized as long as the weather permits from the spring through late fall. The MDC also expects to host two or three baseball tournaments on this complex each year as well

There will be other unforeseen school and community applications for this unique community facility over the years. It will become a premier, central gathering point for parents, grand parents, relatives and guests to not only watch community athletic events but potentially participate themselves.

The Complex Will Actually Improve the Environment

This project at the Minnetonka High School will enhance the surrounding environment and improve the water quality of the adjacent wetlands. From inception of the project, strict attention has been given to assuring the wetlands and surrounding neighborhood environments are not adversely impacted.

The use of synthetic turf will positively impact the site environmentally as this playing surface will eliminate the current need for over 4 tons of fertilizer per year placed on the present grass field. The turf system which can absorb over 40 inches of rainwater per hour also incorporates a 12-inch granular sub-grade profile allowing storage of percolated water for better storm water management on this field. The quality of the storm water run off from the lower level parking lot is enhanced by the use of a grit chamber to separate any solids or contaminants before entering the current sewer system.

Although the field will enable an increased number of baseball, football and softball games at MHS, the affect on traffic is nominal as these games are typically scheduled on dates or at times or in months of the year which do not conflict with heavy MHS traffic demands. Existing parking spaces at MHS together with the new 21 space parking lot addition adjacent to the girl's varsity softball are believed to be adequate to accommodate all participants and guests at the Complex.

Baseball and softball games at the field will not be attended by fans in any comparable way to the heavily attended MHS football games. Baseball tournaments could involve several hundreds of fans. Youth football attracts more guests than baseball and softball.

All attempts have been made to comply with current MHS and City of Minnetonka noise and night time lighting restrictions. The sound system speakers are positioned to face inwards towards the existing bleachers and hills and thus away from community housing areas.

How This Project Being Financed and the Scheduling Managed for the Minnetonka Community

This project is a community based initiative conceived and managed by the Minnetonka Diamond Club (MDC) under an Operating Agreement with the MSD and is being funded principally through private contributions from MDC activities, the City of Minnetonka, corporations, private individuals and friends of Minnetonka diamond sports, MHS and MGSA girls softball and MHS Touchdown Club and Minnetonka Youth Football Associations. Approximately 10% of this project's funding is being financed by the MSD through its capital improvement and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) funding facilities. No funding for this project will be obtained at the expense of the school district's general operating funds or classroom teacher or instructional dollars.



Certain field operating revenues will also be used to meet annual debt service and operating requirements. Additional operating funds are anticipated from advertising sold to corporate entities and will be of a nature but will be of a nature appropriate for a high school athletic field and in compliance with MSD Advertising Policy Guidelines.

The facility will have to have to obtain a waiver from the City of Minnetonka as well in order to place advertising banners on these athletic fields. The MDC believes a waiver can be obtained as the advertising on the stadium fences will be literally non-viewable from the school, city roads or surrounding neighborhoods and only visible by the attendees of the respective sporting events.

When all necessary coordination is in place Soccer and Lacrosse will be relocated to the upper fields at MHS resulting in significantly more practice and game availability for these sports throughout the year. These fields will be thoroughly reconditioned by the MSD so they will be the best of possible condition to support competitive and successful MHS and community soccer programs.



MHS Head Football Coach Dave Nelson says, "this new practice facility for MHS football and game fields for the Tonka Youth Football program gives us the much needed facility improvements for our greatly expanded MHS and youth football programs."

Support Our Stadium Project by Downloading a Gift Pledge Form at www.tonkabaseball.org or call 952-484-7299 today!



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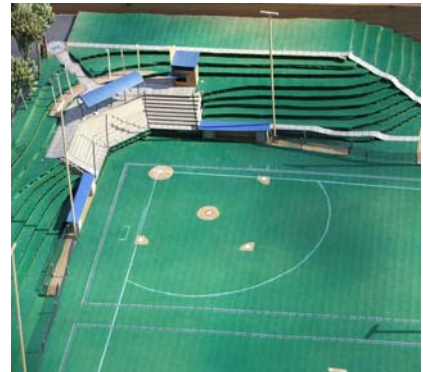
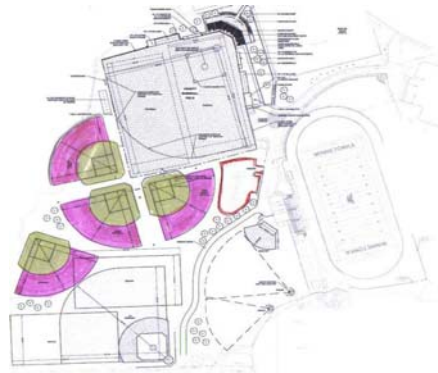
Get Additional Information
at our Website at
www.tonkabaseball.org



When Is This Project Scheduled to Start

Assuming all necessary approvals are completed and the weather permits, construction of this project is expected to commence June, 2006, and be finished by October, 2006. There should be no interruption of 2006 MHS boys baseball and MHS girls fast pitch softball.

The Master Plan and the Baseball Stadium Configuration



An Intended New Paradigm for Community Development Centered on Athletic Complexes

The expertise the MDC has obtained in conceptualizing, planning, organizing and funding a project such as the one at MHS is something we are interested in giving to inner city high school and youth athletic systems in the hopes that these communities may achieve a similar result for their efforts. A partnership of suburban and urban baseball, softball and football enthusiasts will keep kids actively engaged in these sports in lieu of other potentially non productive uses of their time.

Contacts for Additional Information

Jon Guy, President, of the Minnetonka Diamond Club. You can him at JWSurfer@aol.com or 952-484-7299. The MDC Web site is at www.tonkabaseball.org for other stadium complex information and follow the MHS Baseball Skippers each week.

For the Minnetonka Public Schools, Janet Swiecichowski, Director for Communications, 5621 CR 101, Minnetonka, MN 55345, 952-401-5095, janet.swiecichowski@minnetonka.k12.mn.us.

Help Support this MHS and Community Field Complex for our Kids. Personal and Corporate Pledge Form at www.tonkabaseball.org . Or, volunteer to help!