

## Memo

**To:** Tom Baker  
**From:** John Wenzel  
**Date:** May 28, 2014  
**Re:** Improvements to VIX Baseball Field

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**Recommendation:** The Public Works Department is seeking approval from Town Council to improve the baseball field at VIX Park. The improvements will substantially increase the size of the user groups that can practice and compete on the field. The proposed improvements include:

- Removing the all of the grass from the infield area
- Eliminate the pitching mound
- Expand the infield dirt to accommodate 70' bases
- Extend the chain link backstop down the first and third base lines to stop errant baseballs.
- Construct team dugouts

**Policy Implications:** This is a maintenance related request, no policy implications are anticipated.

**Budget Implications:** A group of volunteers has offer to donate the required time and materials needed to preform nearly all of the improvements. The Parks Department intends to provide in-kind services in the form of equipment use, and labor to relocate sprinkler heads. We expect that the hard cost to the town will be less than \$500. This cost can be absorbed by the "maintenance and operations" line item of the Parks Department budget and does not require additional appropriation.

**Background:** A Representatives of the volunteer group presented their proposal at a Parks, Open Space, Trails, and Recreation (POSTR) Committee meeting, held on May 7, 2014. The POSTR Committee agreed that the baseball field was undersized and supports the proposed improvements.

Please see attached email message from Kyle Whitaker for additional information.

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Department Head

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Finance Director

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Town Administrator

**From:** Whitaker - DNR, Kyle [<mailto:kyle.whitaker@state.co.us>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 06, 2014 11:14 AM

**To:** John Wenzel; Mike Callas; Bob Gordon; Larry McDonald; Hannah Bihr; Glen Lund; Frank Mooney; [jim.lord@amfam.com](mailto:jim.lord@amfam.com); David Kotz; Jeff Gerber; Trish Herrera; Dan Larsen

**Subject:** Proposed Changes to VIX Baseball Fields

John,

As we talked on the phone a couple of weeks ago, we would like to improve the baseball field at VIX as a community project for the young men and their families that are passionate about baseball. As you know the baseball field as it is currently configured is very small and can only be used for 8-10 year old baseball, and even for that it is not the correct dimensions. The following is a brief summary of the improvements we would like to make:

- 1) Remove all of the grass from the infield area. While a grass infield is nice, it is very difficult to maintain properly on a municipal field that is utilized for multiple activities. After the grass is removed the entire infield would be regraded and infield dirt would be brought in and tilled into the top few inches of the infield.
- 2) Remove the pitching mound and create a flat field. The current mound is at 37' which is not the correct distance for any level of baseball. I'm not sure what the pitching distances are for the younger levels of girls softball, but they don't use a mound anyway. A flat field that does not have a mound can accommodate both baseball and softball at multiple pitching distances.
- 3) Move the outfield grass lip back to accommodate 70' bases and install base pegs at the 70' distance. The field is currently configured with 60' bases with the outfield lip approximately 10'-12' behind the bases. This would allow the field to be used up through the 11-12 year division for baseball and up through 15 year-old for softball.
- 4) Extend the chain link backstop 20'-24' down both the 1st and 3rd base lines. The current backstop ends approximately 10' short of the 60' bases. The backstop/fencing does not stop any errant throws to 1st or 3rd base. Extending the backstop will not only increase the play-ability of the field but will also increase the level of safety for spectators and players that are prone to being hit by errant throws.
- 5) Construct dugouts on both the 1st and 3rd base sides of the field. The dugouts would match the existing chain link material used for the backstop and would have concrete floors, wood rafters and metal roofing. The dugouts could be constructed with either gated entries on the home plate side of each dugout or an open entry on the outfield side of the dugouts.

Phase II of our proposal would be to work with the Town to find an area around the VIX field that we could construct a batting cage. We have all of the materials needed to put a very nice batting cage in, but would need an area that is approximately 12' x 70' that could be leveled to accommodate a concrete slab and supports for the netting.

Our proposal is to do all of these improvements at no cost to the Town, but work in cooperation with the Town to move or abandon existing sprinkler heads, meet the facility requirements of the Town, and provide a much needed facility for our community.

Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns or requests that can be addressed to make this all happen.

Regards,

Kyle Whitaker  
(970) 618-0373