ATHLETIC FIELDS REMEDIATION AND RENOVATION

The Athletic Fields Capital Campaign Committee was formed last Summer (2019) for the sole purpose of launching a campaign to raise funds towards the restoration and improvement of the two athletic fields—the South Side Field and the Soccer/Baseball Field. Money raised in this campaign will offset costs and will reduce the total “ask for” from taxpayer funding.

Two major deficits with both athletic fields are no sports field lighting and poor field drainage after rain and snow.

 Darkness comes early in Down East Maine. There are no lights for these two fields. Games are scheduled as soon as school lets out. Parents and spectators leave jobs early to see games. Once it is dusk; game over. The flexibility and luxury of having a game “under the lights” never has happened here.

Is it fair to a team to get beat not because we don’t have the equipment, not because we don’t have the coaches, and not because our kids are lazy or somehow disaffected, but because our teams do not have the practice time? And why don’t they have the practice time? Because you can’t play soccer, or baseball, or softball in the dark or when the field is a giant mudpuddle.

Field drainage is important. Most of us never think about the condition of the field. If it looks okay, it must be okay. The last time our high school field had more than a lawn mower run over it was at least twenty years ago.

For several days after a rain, our high school field is a mess of slippery, gooey standing water. It takes days to dry out. When it does, it is not a grass field but a field of weeds and clay. Practices are curtailed, games postponed, or played in other towns. It happens in soccer and baseball at the High School and to a lesser extent on the South Side Field.

The remedy is to construct a proven system of drainage—nine inch deep trenches with perforated plastic pipe on a grid pattern spaced and buried throughout the high school field, starting with the field graded for proper drainage. Topsoil with grass seeding is the last step in this remedial work on the field.

Last but not the least, accessories and Incidentals such as fences to protect spectators from foul balls, cushions on the top of fences so that outfielders are not impaled as they chase that long fly in the outfield, dugouts for the teams, batting cages, pitcher’s mounds, and bleachers.

Around the State of Maine, we see teams far better than Down East teams. Our kids are just as good as anywhere else in the State of Maine, but our teams only get half the practice time because of these two deficits.
This is the itemized list.

**Soccer and Baseball Field at High School**

**Field drainage remediation and improvement.** The first step. After checking the grade of the field with a transit, some parts of the field are low, some high, and some just sloped the wrong way. The first step is to grade the field so that water naturally flows off instead of forming large standing puddles. Then dig drainage trenches and install perforated pipe. Put gravel over the perforated pipe, on top of that layer add perforated plastic, then add topsoil and re-seed. This first step for High School Field can be done at the end of baseball in 2020 and the field should be ready for soccer when school comes back into session in September. This work to be done by an experienced local contractor.

1. **Soccer/Baseball Field Drainage Remediation and Improvement:** $53,500.
   (One time cost to reclaim and establish a well-drained playing field)

2. **Infrastructure for soccer and baseball fields**
   **Fences** to protect spectators from foul baseballs and to prevent soccer balls from going onto Court street. Currently, not enough fencing in places and some fencing too low.
   - Fence $12,000.
   - Portable fence behind soccer goal $5400.
   - Fence Topper $1000.
   - Fence Screens $1500.
   - Backstop Screen $600.

   **Cost for fencing:** $20,500.

**Infrastructure:**

- Bleachers, mobile 2 each $9560.
- Dugouts 2 each : home team and visitor $15,000.
Batting Cage $2350.
Clay bricks for foundation of pitcher’s mound $690.
Mound Clay $585.
Soccer Benches $6,000.
Soccer Scorer Bench $1650.
**Cost for Infrastructure** $35,835.

**Miscellaneous:**
- Storage Building $15,000.
- Mower (both H.S. and South Side) $12,000.

**Cost for Miscellaneous** $27,000.

**Cost for High School Field: infrastructure.** $83,335.

**Stadium Lighting/Playing Field Lights** is the expensive final step. The lights are bought from **Musco Sports Lighting—really the only company with a quality product**—a durable, lasting product installed by factory trained Maine people. The price includes erection and installation by Musco. It does not include utility company prices to get power to the lights. It assumes standard soil conditions. Additional engineering costs for rocky, bottomless, or unsuitable soil may be additional. The lighting could be installed as soon as Fall 2020.

**Estimate for Soccer/Baseball Field Stadium Lighting** $425–$450,000.

**Grand Total for Soccer/Baseball Field** $586,835.

**South Side Field**—a smaller field with better drainage

Field drainage remediation and improvement—the first step. South side field is in much better shape than high school field. There are drainage issues but not as extensive. The field is smaller than the high school soccer/baseball field.
Total cost for drainage, lime, fertilizer, and grass seed $30,000.

Infrastructure

- Bleachers 2 sets $9500.
- Fence Topper $1500.
- Fence Screen $2000.
- Backstop Screen $600.

$15,660.

Lights $225,000.

Grand Total for South Side Field $270,660.

These fields are a regional resource used by everybody—not just Machias residents. The fields are open to all comers from any town. There is no locked gate. No one checking IDs. On a Sunday afternoon in the summer, college students are playing soccer at the high school field. On a Saturday morning in the fall, pre-school and grammar school children and their parents from many towns are there playing soccer.

That being said, these activities require coordinated scheduling with Mr. Sinford as well as field preparation with soccer nets, liming the ball and soccer fields, cleaning up, mowing, and trimming grass. Things just do not run themselves.

The Athletic Fields Capital Campaign Committee is reaching out and asking for contributions—no donation is too large and no donation too small. For those who generously give we will name one of the fields or both fields after you if you wish.

Contributions are accepted by check or cash to the Athletic Fields Capital Campaign either at the Town Office or the Superintendent’s office on Upper Court street. All donations are Tax Deductible. All donations will be held in one of the local banks. Authority to spend the money will be by the Committee. Town Manager will provide oversight but the authority to spend is at the discretion of the Committee not town government. Report of the Ball Fields Improvement Committee will be in the annual Machias Town Report.
As the Committee has worked through the planning process, continuing athletic field maintenance is a real concern. How can these two fields be maintained year after year? What assurance is there from the present school and town administration that these fields will be any better taken care of afterwards than they have been for the past twenty years. How can we assure donors two or three years after being restored that the fields will continue to be well maintained? What purpose is served if we raise the money without a sure plan for maintenance and upkeep over the next year? over the next five years? the next ten years?

One possible answer is to create an Athletic Fields Authority. This organization removes town and school administration from the details and activities of fertilizing, aerating, mowing at the proper height, trimming wherever necessary, keeping dugouts clean, preparing a budget, developing a fee schedule, pre-planning maintenance, coordinating athletic schedules. When done properly, well-maintained and groomed playing fields make money for the town. They make money because other towns want to play on them and will pay a user’s fee. They make money because when teams come to Machias they eat at Machias restaurants, stay overnight at our motels, and buy gas locally.

Current Membership on the Athletic Fields Capital Campaign Committee includes:

- Scott Porter, Superintendent of Schools
- Mitchell Look, Curriculum Coordinator
- Robert Sinford, Athletic Director
- Wendy Schoppee, Alumni Co-ordinator
- Michael Gooch, Alumnus and landscaper
- John Donne, Landscaper
- James Whalen, Selectman
- Bruce Smith, Citizen
# Machias School System

## Athletic Fields Capital Campaign

### Sponsorship Levels:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Available</th>
<th>Price</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diamond Level: Soccer Field/Baseball Field Naming Rights:</strong></td>
<td>1 Sponsor Available</td>
<td>$500,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Name dedication and/or corporate logo printed on facility material, programs, and posted on website during the construction period and for one full year afterwards.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Recognition at the facility ribbon cutting ceremony.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Naming rights and/or corporate logo displayed on soccer/ball field signage for 20 years</td>
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<td></td>
<td>First right of refusal to continue naming rights upon expiration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Limited payment plan available.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Platinum Level: South Side Field/Facilities Naming Rights:</strong></td>
<td>3 Sponsors Available</td>
<td>$250,000.00 EACH</td>
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<td>Name dedication and/or corporate logo printed on facility material, programs, and posted on website during the construction period and for one full year afterwards.</td>
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<td>Naming rights and/or corporate logo displayed on field/facility signage for 20 years.</td>
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<td>First right of refusal to continue naming right upon expiration.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Gold Level: Either Field</strong></td>
<td>3 Sponsors Available</td>
<td>$100,000.00 EACH</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Name dedication and/or corporate logo printed on facility material, programs, and posted on website during the construction period and for one full year afterwards.</td>
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<td>Recognition at the facility ribbon cutting ceremony.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Naming rights and/or corporate logo displayed on field/facility signage for ten years.</td>
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<td>First refusal to continue naming rights upon expiration.</td>
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Emerald Level: Either Field
12 Sponsors Available

- Recognition at the facility ribbon cutting ceremony
- Corporate logo displayed on scoreboard for five years.
- First refusal to continue scoreboard logo rights upon expiration.

$60,000.00
EACH (4 SIGNS
Baseball/ Soccer
Scoreboard)

$20,000.00
EACH (4 signs
on Softball
Scoreboard)

$10,000.00
EACH (4 signs
on Scoreboard)

The Announcer Level: Sound system & Scorers Table Rights
1 Sponsor Available

- Recognition at the facility ribbon cutting ceremony
- Corporate logo displayed on Scorers Table for 10 years
- First refusal to continue sound system and scorers table rights upon expiration.

$15,000.00

The Alumni Level: Buy a Bench or Brick Level

- Personal or corporate name engraved on one of ten benches that will be dedicated to the project.
- Personal or corporate name engraved on Bricks that will become part of the exterior cafeteria patio eating space for students.

$1,000.00
EACH Bench

$750.00
EACH for 12”x 12” brick

$500.00
EACH for 6”x 12” brick