



“Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs”
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Field Sustainability/Improvement Fund and Policy

Background

During 2017 and with the help of a representative from the UCONN Extension Services, a subcommittee comprised of Town officials, Parks and Recreation representatives and stakeholders analyzed and discussed how to address the ever growing need of sustaining and improving the long term conditions of the recreation fields at the RecPlex.

Realizing that the Towns operating budget would not likely be able to address these long term needs, the subcommittee developed a recommendation to create a separate fund and policy to begin addressing the financial and operating needs of the fields.

The Field Sustainability/Improvement Fund and Policy was approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission and subsequently by the Board of Selectmen in August, 2017. The following is a brief summary of this newly created and separate Fund and Policy. The Field Sustainability/Improvement Fund will not be used for routine field maintenance (mowing, seeding, fertilizing, aerating etc.) or other general town needs. It will be used solely for capital improvement projects located within the recreational complex and other recreational facilities.

With input from the stakeholders (youth and adult leagues) endorsed by the Parks and Recreation Commission, the following needs were identified:

Priority Needs

1. Irrigation at the Recreation Complex for the fields:
 - A. Approximate cost \$150-\$200,000 for installation and \$10,000 per year for water
 - B. Other irrigation/watering options for fields (approximate cost is unknown)
3. Additional lighting on more fields at the RecPlex (approximate cost is unknown at this time).
4. Specialized Field Services (approximate cost is unknown at this time).

Long Range Needs

1. Additional Land Purchase for fields (approximate cost is unknown at this time)
2. Rebuilding of the infrastructure of the fields.