



a Volunteer Organization  
Youth Sports Programs  
of Merrimack, NH

# Merrimack Youth Association support of Warrant Article (by Petition) for Field Development of Greenfield Farms 2024





# Article Language

## 2024 Town Warrant, Article 11 (By Petition)

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of development of town owned land on Pearson Rd into a multiple use athletic field, for the use of Soccer, Football, Lacrosse, Baseball, Softball etc.?

Reference: Tax Map 7C Lot 40-2

(by petition) (Majority vote required)



# Funding Method

A ONE TIME 22cents/\$1000 valuation Tax in FY25

For example;

A property valued at \$500K would pay a one year additional tax of **\$110** ( $500 * .22$ )

# Land Information



Property was given to the Town at no cost, as part of the Greenfield Farms Subdivision, which was to be used for the greater good of Merrimack residents



# Development Information



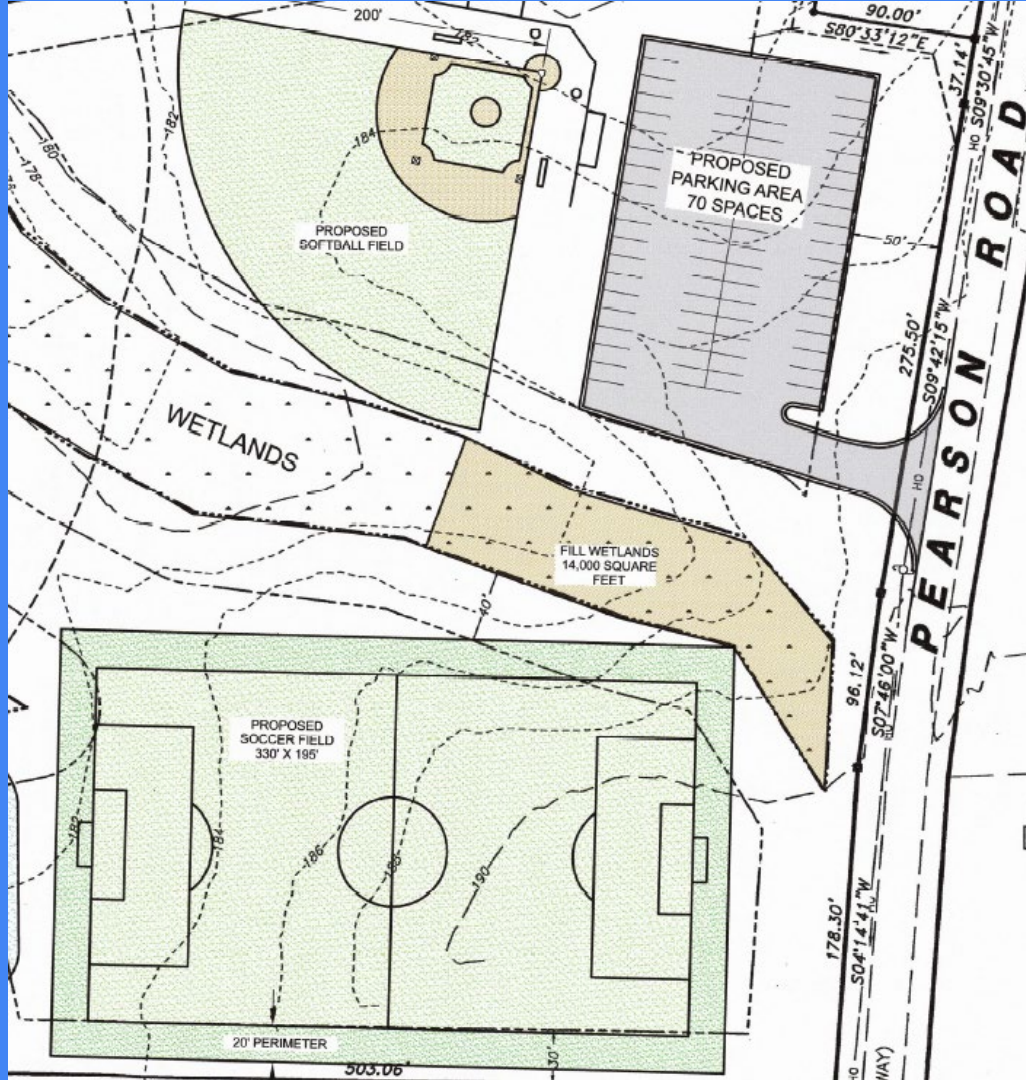
From: Dawn Tuomala  
Date: 02/15/2024

We looked at the estimate for building the fields and the parking lots and have come up with an estimate of \$965,000 for the construction. There will also be permitting through the State which could be up to another \$10,000. So I would plan on **up to \$975,000** in today's dollars.

Dawn B. Tuomala, PE, LLS, CWS  
**DPW Director**  
Town of Merrimack  
6 Baboosic Lake Road  
Merrimack, NH 03054  
(603) 424-5137

  
 CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN  
 PEARSON ROAD BALL FIELD  
 MERRIMACK YOUTH ASSOCIATION  
 MERRIMACK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
 MERRIMACK, NH 03054  
 SCALE: 1" = 50'  
 DATE: FEB. 14, 2024  
 CHECKED BY: DFB  
 DRAWN BY: DFB  
 SHEET NO. 1 OF 1  
 PROJECT NO. 1081

# Fields & Parking closer look





# Athletic Field Needs Committee Study from 2010

- **Executive Summary**

<https://www.merrimacknh.gov/athletic-fields-needs-committee-disbanded>

- Determined the Town and School District needs 21 new fields to meet the need for today and tomorrow
- Urgent need for 5 new fields
- Recommend funding Athletic Field Capital Reserve Fund with a minimum of \$150K/year for the next 15 years, OR, secure 15 year bond for \$2M

**To date, neither of these recommendations have been enacted**



# Concerns

- **RISK OF LOSS of donated fields**
  - **Kollsman/Elbit (2 Soccer, 2 Softball) and Getinge (1 Baseball)**

Although MYA has maintained a good relationship with these companies, the risk has very much increased that this land may be developed, or sold, which would leave the Town in a severe field shortage situation, thus kids field sports programs would need to be scaled back, or eliminated.





# Concerns

- **Children's Safety**

- Field surface quality of donated, non-town owned, fields have deteriorated to the point where the players are being exposed to unsafe conditions (rocky ground, ruts, mud, etc.), increasing the risk of injury of our kids

- **Parking Safety**

- Parking congestion, due to back-to-back game start schedules, causes unorganized parking, often involving street side parking, increasing the risk of severe injury or death of our kids



# Concerns

- **Number of school-age children projected to increase**
  - **From 2020 Town Study; estimated at 274-337 additional children**

## **Residential Development Projects & School Aged Children Estimates - June 2020 Update**

<https://www.merrimacknh.gov/planning-board/news/residential-development-projects-school-aged-children-estimates-june-2020-update>

### **Summary**

- **1,238 new residential units\***
  - 167 single family lots\*
  - 1,071 multi-family units\*
- **Estimated # of School Aged Children in total from the highlighted projects:**
  - Low estimate – 274
  - High Estimate – 337

*\* includes completed units at several projects partially completed, elderly housing units in Edgebrook not included in total*



# When & How Logistics

- Start the process of field development on July 1 2024 (with this FY25 Budget)
  - From: Paul Micali, Town Manager, Town of Merrimack  
Sent: Wednesday, February 21, 2024  
If the article passes the **project will go to bid**. The first thing is to get a complete set of plans for the project which will be worked on during the summer. The timeline to construct will be based on contractor's availability.  
**Est: Spring/Summer of 2025.**
- Secure proposed CIP Funds (\$292K) for lights in FY26



# FAQs

Question: The town should be doing this, MYA is a private organization that gets taxpayer money to build it then dumps responsibility for it back on the town?

Question: What are the annual upkeep expenses? How many hours and expenses does this add to Parks & Rec Budget yearly?

Question: Isn't there a budget for fields in the next few years with the town council?

Comment: This should be a bond instead of a one time spend.

Comment: The MYA relies on taxpayers all the time.

## **Answer:**

MYA is an all-volunteer, 501c3 not for profit, charitable organization. It reports to the town through the Parks & Rec department. MYA does not own any land or field, the town does. Parks & Rec is responsible for keeping track of the scheduling of town fields. The DPW is responsible to help with their upkeep (toilets, mowing, lining, etc., est at \$19K). Both these departments create an annual budget for this support.

(cont)



# FAQs

(cont)

The funding that the town grants to MYA is barely enough to cover the administrative costs associated with running the organization. All other monies come from registration and fund raising. Our goal is to keep registration cost as low as possible, so ALL children of Merrimack have an opportunity to participate, regardless of their family's financial situation. This is what "Community" is all about.

There is an overdue need for another field, especially because the Bud Plant is unwilling to donate the use of their soccer field, and are even unwilling to rent it to MYA. The soccer field land donated by Kollsman/Elbit on DW Highway is at a heightened risk of being lost, due to its current market value.

Since the 2010 field study, which recommended 21 new town fields, there have been ZERO built, and very little money set aside to do so. Roughly \$800K will be in the Capital Improvement Plan for next year, but it has been there for many years now, and has consistently been removed, which is what will most likely happen going forward.

A 5 year bond was an option, but a more costly one ( $\$.05/\text{yr}$  for 5 yrs =  $\$.25$ ), which is why it is going the way of the one time fee ( $\$.22$  for 1 yr), an overall savings for the Merrimack people.



# FAQs

Question: Why can't businesses in town sponsor MYA?

Question: Have you tried fundraising or grant writing?

Question: Why can't MYA do fundraisers and get donations?

## **Answer:**

MYA's attempts to secure a "Business Grant" of the size required to build a field came with a long term advertisement clause (signage, field logo, etc.), which the town has been resistant to, in an attempt to limit over commercialization of our rural community, and to not lose control over it.

Many local businesses already sponsor Merrimack sports, with things like sponsoring a team, financing a scoreboard, paying for a trip to a tourney, etc. Some require small banners and signs, but on a very limited, unobtrusive, way. This kind of fundraising subsidizes the programs so that registration rates can be affordable to all of our residents. Any left over funds are earmarked for "Program Development", which includes the betterment of fields, but is in the few thousands range, so would never be big enough to pay for a full field.



# FAQs

Comment: I drive by the fields all the time, and no one is on them.

Comment: A bit silly to spend 1M when there's a soccer field right around the corner.

**Answer:**

Here in New England, there are very short windows for sport seasons. As examples; in Spring, which is soccer, lacrosse, baseball, and softball, fields have to dry out, and be prepped, depending on the severity of weather, which limits start dates, and all have to be over before school lets out for the summer. In Fall, it's football and cheer, along with fall league for all the other sports, which doesn't want to start too early (to ruin people's family summer), and is limited due to early darkness. This causes field congestion at peak times, which limits play time, and adds to dangerous vehicle traffic patterns.



# FAQs

Question: Does HS Varsity Soccer play home games in Bedford? Why?

Answer: Yes, we've been busing them there to play for +/-10 years, due to no suitable field in town.

Question: What is the annual cost of busing the kids to Bedford and do we pay to host them in Bedford?

Answer: Average annual cost is \$6K.

Question: Is it possible to share costs with other towns using the field?

Answer: No. The only other towns coming to our fields are travel teams coming to play a Merrimack team.

Question: Why would MYA get scheduling priority first and schools second?

Answer: It depends who owns the land the field is on, the school district or the town. Since this new field is on town property, the town (thru MYA) gets first priority. However, cooperation with the School District has worked well for 50+ years, thanks to excellent teamwork between the town (MYA) and the schools.





# FAQs

Question: Are MYA programs allowed to use school fields?

Answer: Yes, but on a very limited basis. MYA uses the Middle School Soccer field on Saturdays and Sunday afternoons (after an adult league), but only after it dries out, which is usually late into the spring season.

Question: I used to play at Anheuser Busch when I was young. Can they be engaged again?

Answer: As recently as Fall 2023, MYA was engaging with InBev to use their fields, asking for weeknight and/or weekend use for youth soccer. We were offered 2 hours on Monday evenings, with stipulations on limited use and having to pay a rental fee.

Comment: Not much parking there,

Answer: This is the best that can be done, which is about 70 parking spaces.

Question: Turf or Grass?

Answer: Grass.



# 2022 Field Build Estimate Detail (reference only)

7/13/2022 PROJECT ESTIMATE

## CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATE - Greenfield Farms Ball Parks

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	806,923.50
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NO.	ITEM NO#	DESCRIPTION	UNIT	UNIT COST	QUANTITY EST	EST COST
1	201.1	CLEARING AND GRUBBING	AC	\$ 10,000.00	8.40	84,000.00
2	203.1	COMMON EXCAVATION	CY	\$ 11.50	13,560.00	155,940.00
3	206	DRAINAGE SWALES (GRASS LINED)	LF	\$ 15.00	1,015.00	15,225.00
4	304.301	CRUSHED GRAVEL - 6" THICK	CY	\$ 15.00	519.17	7,787.50
5	304.401	BANK RUN GRAVEL - 12" THICK	CY	\$ 27.00	1,038.33	28,035.00
6	403	HOT BIM MACHINE METHOD	TON	\$ 77.70	529	41,130.50
7	604	HEADWALL - 12"-18" PIPE	EA	\$ 1,800.00	2	3,600.00
8	605	6" PVC AGGREGATE UNDERDRAIN	LF	\$ 33.00	1,760	58,080.00
9	605	UNDERDRAIN FLUSHING BASIN	EA	\$ 700.00	8	5,600.00
10		DETENTION BASIN	EA	\$ 10,000.00	1	10,000.00
11	608	SIDEWALK INCL 12" CR. GRAVEL BASE W/ 2" BIT. - 5' WIDE	LF	\$ 15.50	100	1,550.00
12	608.54	DETECTABLE WARNING DEVICES, CAST IRON	SY	\$ 450.00	1	400.00
13	608.2	4" CONCRETE SIDEWALKS	SY	\$ 47.50	7	332.50
14	610.05204	4" CLDI CL52	LF	\$ 80.00	220	17,600.00
15	611.71004	4" GATE VALVE WITH BOX	EA	\$ 1,000.00	2	2,000.00
16		4" TAP WITH SLEEVE AND VALVE	EA	\$ 2,100.00	2	4,200.00
17	615	TRAFFIC SIGN	SF	\$ 45.00	1	45.00
18	628.2	SAWED BITUMINOUS PAVEMENT	LF	\$ 5.00	24	120.00
19	632	RETROREFLECTIVE THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMENT MARKING , 12"	LF	\$ 3.50	12	42.00
20	632	RETROREFLECTIVE PAINT PAVEMENT MARKING , 4"	LF	\$ 0.50	1,400	700.00
21	645.7	STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENETION PLAN	UN	\$ 3,500.00	1	3,500.00
22	645.71	MONITORING SWPPP AND EROSION CONTROLS	HR	\$ 90.00	20	1,800.00
23	646.512	LOAM AND TURF ESTABLISHMENT + FIELD PLAYING SURFACE	SY	\$ 6.00	40,656	243,936.00
24		SILT FENCE	LF	\$ 3.00	1,400	4,200.00
25		SILT FENCE REMOVAL	LF	\$ 1.50	1,400	2,100.00
26	692	MOBILIZATION	UN	\$ 15,000.00	1	15,000.00
28	699	MISCELLANEOUS TEMPORARY EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL	U	\$ 5,000.00	1	5,000.00
29		ENGINEERING CONSULTANT	U	\$ 20,000.00	1	20,000.00
30	-	CONTINGENCY AND ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS AS NEEDED	U	\$ 75,000.00	1	75,000.00