

A COMMUNITY PROJECT - A COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

HISTORIC WASHINGTON PARK

FROM GENERATIONS PAST TO
GENERATIONS AHEAD - A VENUE
STEEPED IN TRADITION.

THE LEGACY OF HISTORY HAS TAKEN ITS TOLL

For over a century, Washington Park in Detroit Lakes has been more than a ballpark — it has been a hub for community, memories, and dreams. As Minnesota's only baseball park on the National Register of Historic Places, it stands as a cherished piece of our heritage. Now, we're updating it with care — preserving its legacy while creating a safer, more accessible space for events, youth sports, and community connection. This is more than a renovation — it's an investment in a place where we all belong.

"This project is long overdue. This project is about more than just baseball — it's preserving a focal point of our community, and acknowledging our past while building for the future."

- Matt Brenk, Detroit Lakes Mayor

HISTORIC WASHINGTON PARK - A HISTORY LIKE NO OTHER

1897

1st reference to baseball being played in this location

1908

First Grandstand constructed (A,B,C)

1948

Construction and dedication of new stadium and lights (D)

1949

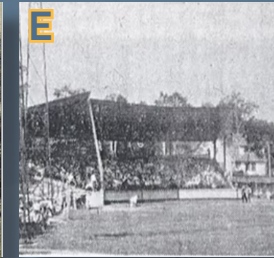
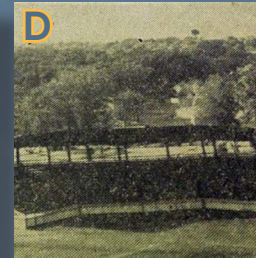
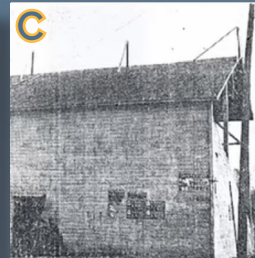
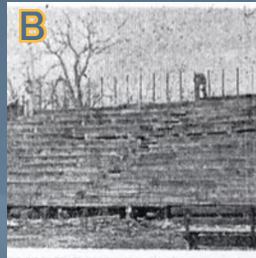
Washington Park hosts Minnesota Amateur Baseball State Tournament (E)

2008

Placed on the National Registry of Historic Places

2021

Informal group meetings begin planning for restoration



STATE APPEARANCES

AMATEUR 1928 1942 (3rd) 1943 (3rd) 1946 (3rd) 1950 1967
1983 1984 1992 (3rd) 2007 2008 2012 2014 2016

AMERICAN LEGION 1980 1996 (5th) 1997

"Washington Park helped to shape my youth. I'm excited to see future generations have the same, or better experience!"

- Matt Hedstrom, 1980 State Tournament Team Player

IT IS OLD, IT IS TIRED. IT HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE.



- The exterior of the stadium is rotted and falling apart creating esthetic and safety issues
- The concession stand and dugouts are rotting and dilapidated as well
- Other than for cold storage, the inside of the stadium is of no use
- There are several holes in the protective netting, creating a hazard for players, fans and passersby
- The lighting is inadequate, and unreliable creating more safety concerns



- The facility is not ADA compliant restricting use for those that require accessibility
- The playing surface constantly floods restricting the use of the facility
- Current seating arrangements are dangerous and uncomfortable
- It remains the only blighted structure in a now updated neighborhood
- 7 manhole covers create hazardous playing conditions
- All of these issues limit the use of the structure

"The best experiences of my life, from my youth to now as a parent, have been thanks to one place ...Washington Ballpark."

-Brandon Johnson, Ligers Manager



CAMPAIGN FOR WASHINGTON PARK

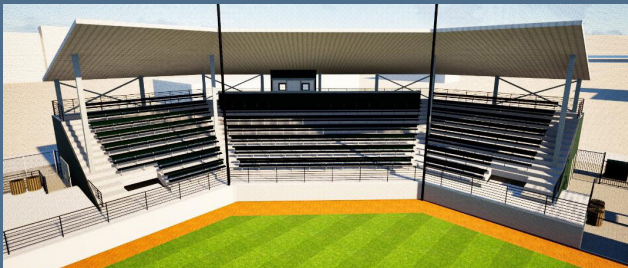
Game-changing updates to the park, featuring the following improvements:

Grandstand Improvements

- Renovation of the entire exterior coverings
- More comfortable seating
- Press box & PA System
- ADA compliant seating & Restrooms
- Improved entrances / control for ticketed events
- Player Clubhouse & increased storage
- Coaches / Umpires Office
- New backstop and netting configuration for improved safety
- New Legacy Hall recognizing the history of Washington Park and its donors

Field Improvements

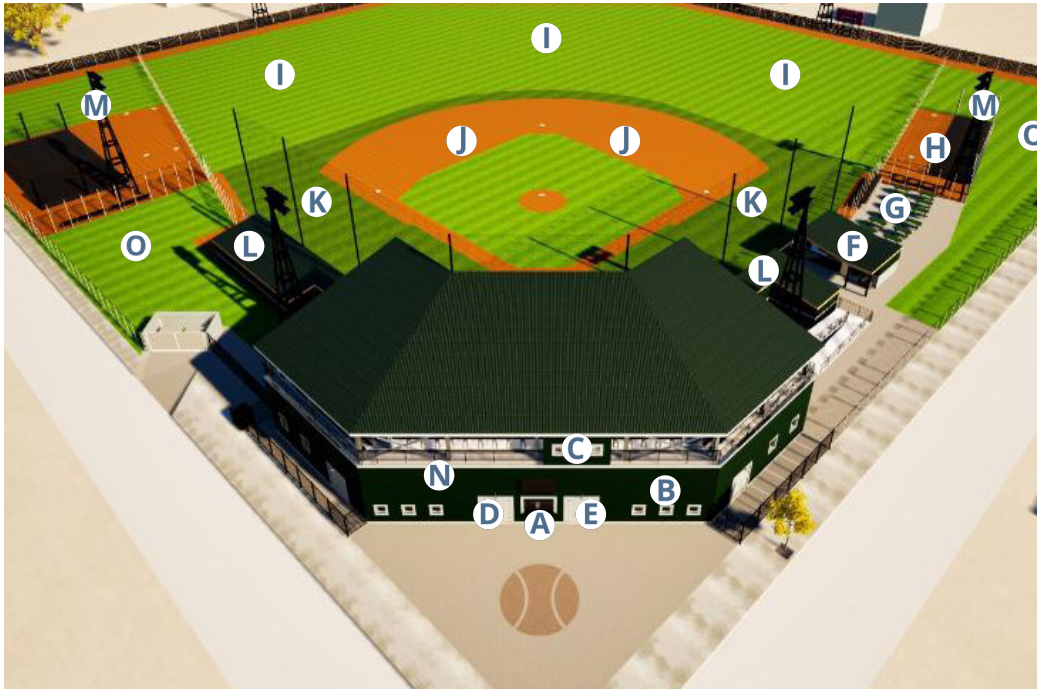
- Synthetic turf infield allowing for many types of events
- Grading of field and installation of drain tile (removing manhole covers!)
- Irrigation systems in outfield grass areas
- Expanded, protected dugouts with changing rooms
- 2 batting cages, soft toss area & pitching bullpens
- New, energy efficient lighting
- Concession stand with socializing / viewing plaza
- Protective screens in front of dugouts
- Player changing rooms in dugouts / expanded storage
- Secure coach / scoreboard room



"I love hearing and watching games from my porch — it's part of the neighborhood's soul. I can't wait to see it thrive and continue to be the heart of the neighborhood!" -Will Blasczyk, Washington Park neighbor

WASHINGTON PARK

About to be the Crown Jewel of Detroit



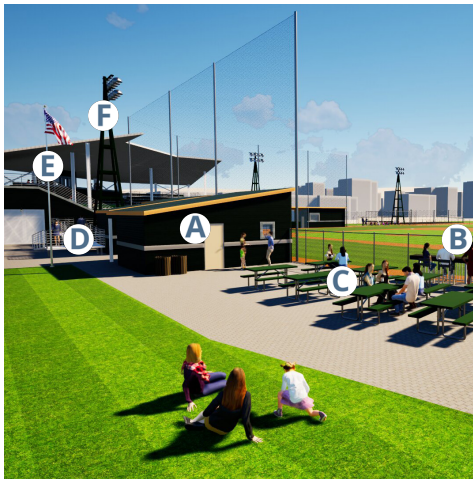
- A - Ticket booth / Entrances
- B - New exterior coverings
- C - Press box / PA system
- D - Legacy Hall - Donor Recognition (inside)
- E - Legacy Hall - Washington Park History (inside)
- F - Concession stand
- G - Viewing plaza / bar rail
- H - Visitor's bullpen
- I - Irrigation and drain tile installed
- J - Synthetic turf infield
- K - Backstop and safety netting
- L - Expanded, protected dugouts with changing rooms
- M - New energy efficient lighting
- N - Men's, women's and family restrooms
- O - Enhanced greenspace / play areas

"Washington Park has been the home of Laker baseball for decades. We are not able to host events many times because of poor field conditions. We are thrilled at the prospect of being a part of the updated Washington Park; one that the entire community can be proud of for decades to come."

-Rob Nielsen, DLHS Activities Director

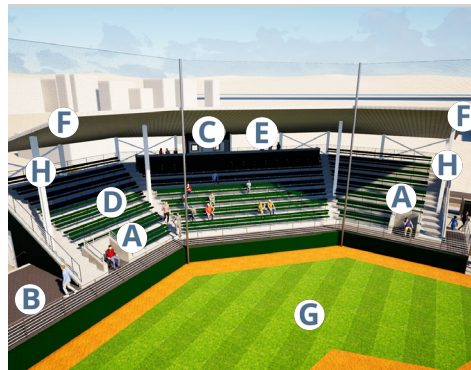
WASHINGTON PARK: THE SPECIFICS

A view from the plaza



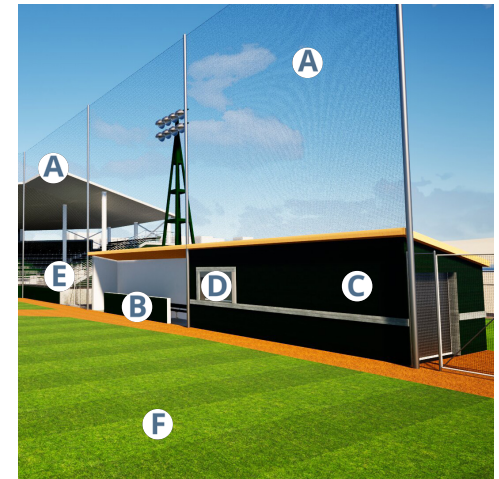
- A - Concession stand
- B - Bar rail
- C - Plaza and seating area
- D - ADA compliant entrance ramp
- E - Flag pole
- F - Energy-efficient lighting

Looking in from above



- A - ADA compliant seating
- B - Raised viewing platform
- C - Open air press box
- D - Removal of backs off of every other row to improve leg room
- E - Standing platform / bar rail
- F - Expanded netting for the safety of players, spectators and nearby traffic
- G - Multi-purpose synthetic turf
- H - Public address system

The home team's new digs



- A - Expanded netting for the safety of players, spectators and nearby traffic
- B - Expanded netting for player safety in front of dugouts
- C - Additional storage for field maintenance
- D - Secure coach / scoreboard room
- E - ADA compliant seating
- F - Multi-purpose synthetic turf

"Washington Park... have you pitched in?"

DONOR GIVING & RECOGNITION

PROJECT COSTS

- \$1,500,000 - Stadium renovations
 - Redo entire exterior and interior
- \$750,000 - Field renovations
 - Turf infield, drain tile, irrigation
- \$500,000 - Field amenities
 - Dugouts, concession stand, batting cages, bullpens, safety netting, batter's eye
- \$350,000 - New lighting

TOTAL PROJECTED COST - \$3,300,00

FUNDING RESOURCES

- \$600,000 - City of DL - American Legion Campground Fund
- \$400,000 - Anonymous donor to DL City Parks
- \$350,000 - DL Public Utilities Commission (lighting)
- \$250,000 - DL Schools - Facilities Lease Agreement
- \$1,700,000 - Private and public donations

TOTAL PROJECTED COST - \$3,300,00

\$500,000	\$250,000	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$25,000
STADIUM NAMING RIGHTS	FIELD NAMING RIGHTS	HALL OF FAME	DIAMOND LEVEL	GRAND SLAM LEVEL
\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$999 & BELOW
HOME RUN LEVEL	TRIPLE LEVEL	DOUBLE LEVEL	SINGLE LEVEL	FRIENDS OF WASHINGTON

In the newly created LEGACY HALL within the stadium, all donations over \$1000 will be recognized!

All donors will be recognized in the Groundbreaking Program

Go to www.cityofdetroitlakes.com/washingtonparkproject to make a donation or pledge!

For more information, contact Kelcey Klemm @ Detroit Lakes City Hall 218-846-7123 or KKlemm@cityofdetroitlakes.com