



West Hartford Girls Softball League Capital Needs + Equity Goals

June 29, 2023



2022-2023 League Improvements

- Increased Spring enrollment from 214 in 2022 to 265 players in 2023
- 10U All-Star Team won District Championship in 2022
- 8 Summer Teams in 2023
 - 10U Travel & LL District All Stars
 - 11/12U LL District All Stars
 - 12U Travel (2)
 - 15U Travel
 - 18U Travel (2)
- First Fall Ball Season in 2022 - 12U & 10U
- Sold out Team Sponsorships for 2023 Spring Season (22)
- Refreshed Snack Shack Menu in 2023
- Added Umpires to Minors Division (3/4 Grade) in 2023
- Revised Rulebook in 2023
- New Website (whsoftball.com) in 2023 with Standings & Postseason
- Mid-season survey - increased parental satisfaction rate
- Developed 9 new Committees - increasing Volunteer engagement:
 - Best Practices, Diversity & Equity
 - Rules & Competition
 - Fields & Facilities
 - Player & Coach Development
 - Communications
 - Fundraising & Sponsorship
 - Food & Entertainment
 - Equipment & Uniforms
 - Travel Programs





Short-Term Goals (accomplished by Spring 2024)

- **10 permanent dugouts added to 4 Sterling Fields and 1 Norfeldt Field**

This would include construction of permanent fencing, overhead cover and permanent benches along 1B and 3B sides of the 5 fields.

Our goal is for work to be done in the fall. As these spaces are outside of the field footprint, it should not affect fall football per WH DPW. Justin Andrews (DPW) has pricing based on Fisher Meadow Field in Avon.

Estimated Cost: \$50,000 per field (2 dugouts per field)

WHGSL will explore alternative costs based on FastPitch Nation model



- **Additional shed/storage option at Sterling Field**

This would eliminate our current expense of \$225 per month for our additional storage at UHaul site. Excess storage at Sterling Field building is utilized by WH Youth Football League.

Estimated Cost: \$4,000 - \$5,000



**West Hartford Little League Baseball Dugouts
on 100 King Philip Drive**

- **Larger Permanent Storage unit/small shed at Norfeldt Field**

Estimated Cost: \$1,000 - \$2,000

- **Manual Scoreboards on all 4 Sterling Fields & Norfeldt Field**

Similar scoreboard to the WHLL scoreboard at Kennedy Park

Estimated Cost: \$1,300 per scoreboard

- **Another Permanent Batting Cage at Sterling Field**

(near Field 4 – corner of Price Blvd/Sidney Ave)

Estimated Cost: \$Unknown

- **Pitching Area - Dedicated area with 5-7 Pitching Rubbers** of all distances (35', 40', 43') and permanent Home Plates with High Fence (10' – 12' behind home plates)

Estimated Cost: \$Unknown



**Sample Dugouts at Fastpitch Nation Park on
1001 Day Hil Road in Windsor, CT**



Proposed Items for Town to Address by Spring 2024

- **Fence at Norfeldt Field along Trout Brook Drive**

Would provide protection for spectators and families from heavy traffic on Trout Brook Drive.

Estimated Cost: \$Unknown

- **Norfeldt Field Parking** - not utilizing this parking lot for Celebrate West Hartford staging during the height of our season

- **Hot Water in the Restrooms at Sterling Field**

- **Close off Sterling Field from Track Area**

Similar to partitioning at Glover Soccer Park Complex on Flatbush Avenue. Space is often used as a dog park and other activities (golf, vandalism).





Mid-Term Goals (3-5 Years)

- Permanent Electric Scoreboard at Norfeldt Field
- Permanent Structure at Norfeldt Field with real Bathrooms, running water, electricity, press box and storage plus small scale snack shack.
- Permanent Structure at Sterling Field (second level of existing structure with press box and electric scoreboards attached facing each Field 1 & 2)
- West Hartford Schools, Town and WHGSL work together to fundraise and pursue higher quality, higher compensated coaches at the HS Level (Varsity, JV & Freshman).
- A new Golf Cart or Utility Vehicle at Sterling Field.
- Long-Term Goals (5-10 Years)

Long-Term Goals (5-10 Years)

- Lighting at Norfeldt Field
- Indoor Practice Space like WH Youth Baseball's facility in Bloomfield.

Potential Other Projects

- Temporary outfield fences on the Sterling Fields (1 & 2 to start)
- Fences in place for Spring & Summer seasons and removed before Football Season
- Estimated Cost: \$1,500 per Field



Above: Custom permanent scoreboards at fields designated for West Hartford LL League Baseball and WH Youth Baseball League



Above: West Hartford Youth Baseball League's indoor practice and training facility.



Above: West Hartford Youth Baseball League's lights at Wolcott Park on New Britain Avenue.