



# CHARLIE BULLMAN PARK

## 719 New Haw Creek Rd

### Asheville, NC



## 2025 REBUILD PROPOSAL

The last few days of September in 2024 were life altering, devastating and tragic for much of Western North Carolina. Over the last few months we prioritized our focus and our efforts to helping those that lost jobs, that were without water, without homes and with the grief of losing family and neighbors. Baseball and our beloved Charlie Bullman Park had to be pushed to the back of our minds. Even while that work and that sting is not passed, we now are focused and dedicated to rebuilding our local park so we can continue to serve the community and provide a place for children to play baseball and softball.

Tragedies, disappointments and failures in life are measured by the comeback and the strength of the rebound. We are **determined** that our future will be stronger because of what we have endured in 2024!

Included within this proposal are projects, both necessary and vital for the rebuild and longevity of Charlie Bullman Park. For it to remain a baseball and softball facility for our community, so much work and focus will be required. Projects are listed below and detailed in priority order. Priority order for specific projects was established because some will be requirements for continued use of the park and others will be added benefits to provide a more up to date opportunity for baseball and softball players.

Your attention and willingness to even read through and consider our proposal is appreciated and valued. Any assistance or guidance for these projects is welcomed and accepted. Projects are as follows:

- Existing Lighting inspections and repairs.
- Complete fencing replacement around both fields and for "Open-Air" Dugouts to be rebuilt
- General Field and Grounds Repairs
- Batting Cage rebuild
- Paint and repair to exterior of field house/concession building and maintenance shed

### Backstop, Fence and Dugout Replacement:

**Due to the high water and strength of that water, all fences and dugouts at the park were undermined and their support foundations were exposed and damaged. Other sections of the fence were damaged and torn through by the debris flow that ravaged the park.**

- The concrete and block footers of the dugouts saw significant amounts of water take dirt, rock and concrete from underneath them. This has made the dugouts unrepairable and not safe for anyone to be in or around them. Multiple large holes and missing material have created soft floors and unstable walls.
- It is necessary that all current dugouts be completely demolished and rebuilt. Dugouts will be rebuilt using an "open-air" design that utilizes a concrete pad floor and a simple sloped style roof with fencing around the exterior of the footprint. Gates will be located onto the field and a simple opening will be built into the fencing to allow access into the dugout from the outside of the field.
- The current fences and backstops on the property will also have to be demolished and rebuilt. The anchors and foundation of the fence posts were either undermined and swept away or damaged by the force of the water and debris moving around them. These ideally would be rebuilt using high vertical backstops and fencing to line all right and left field territories. Typical outfield fencing would also be necessary to the height of approximately 48" - 60". Fence covers/guards for all points of possible danger, on field, would be required to cover any potential safety hazards on or around the playing surface.



# **CHARLIE BULLMAN PARK**

## **719 New Haw Creek Rd**

### **Asheville, NC**



---

## **2025 REBUILD PROPOSAL Cont'd**

### **General Field and Grounds Repairs -**

- The large amounts of dirt and rock material that were swept away by the flood waters is astounding.
- General needs to create a functional playing surface are numerous. New infield dirt will have to be properly installed on both fields and in low places on the outfields. Pitching rubbers, bases and home plate on both fields have either been washed away or moved/displaced by the flow of water. Reseeding grass in places that were torn up and washed downstream will be necessary for outfield areas. Mounds were decimated and will have to be rebuilt completely starting at the bottom.
- Dirt will also need to be replaced along the creek banks, around the field house and around the pedestrian bridge to stabilize and create reasonable access to all fields.
- The bullpen area in left field on Field 1 will have to be rebuilt from scratch. All mounds, dirt and semblance of a bullpen have been lost. Ideally, we would recreate the two full-sized pitching lanes as they once were.

### **Existing Batting Cage ReBuilt -**

- The existing cage has lost all structure and foundation as it is currently located next to the creek and has taken the brunt of the creek's force over time. The most foresightful option here would be to move it away from the creek to higher ground a few hundred feet away.
- The space on the outside of the largest field would be utilized for this project. This space would be best to better accommodate more players and numerous teams at once. It is estimated to be 70' x 30' x 15' and would be erected using 6 x 6's, 4 x 4's, cables, netting and other varying materials. The base and flooring of these would be turf to provide longevity and ease of maintenance requirements.

### **Paint Field House/Concession Building & Maintenance Building -**

- Probably the least of our worries as of now but a new paint job for the current buildings as a refresh after taking and withstanding all that the creek had to offer during the storm.
- The only buildings that did reasonably survive the flooding were the maintenance shed and the field house/concession stand. The exteriors of these buildings were coated in mud and debris. Again, the condition of their paint is the least of the issues at Bullman but stripping old, muddy, damaged paint and redoing it would be a great refresher to complete the rebuild project.

### **Existing Ballfield Lighting Inspection and Repairs -**

- Inspect existing ballfield light poles for integrity and usability.
- Once report is returned. Get quote for replacing structures and light fixtures, as needed.
- Get quote from electrician and companies to provide repairs for all work associated with getting lights back on at Bullman Park to insure a safe environment to host events and ballgames.



# CHARLIE BULLMAN PARK

719 New Haw Creek Rd  
Asheville, NC



---

## 2025 REBUILD PROPOSAL Cont'd

As Charlie Bullman Park makes up 1/3 of the total fields available to WNCYSA, it is easy to know why we must get this park operational as quickly as possible. The damages sustained during Helene are not only physical but also symbolic of the challenges we face as we try to provide a sense of normalcy and hope for our community. Beyond the structural damage, we are also concerned about the availability of player and family participation this season. Many of our families have suffered immense losses, including homes, vehicles, and in some cases, loved ones. Understandably, the financial and emotional toll of these hardships may limit their ability to contribute to or participate in, our league for 2025.

This is where and why we are reaching out today. With your support, we believe we can rebuild not just our facilities, but also the sense of community that youth baseball fosters. For many children in our area, baseball is more than just a sport—it's a way to grow, build friendships, learn sportsmanship, and develop resilience. Over the years, Charlie Bullman Park has provided a place for players to develop and grow through baseball. Many developing high school, college and even MLB players have used these same facilities to improve their skills. Providing this space where young people can play baseball has been a long-standing tradition at Charlie Bullman Park. Rebuilding it will help bring something normal and joyful back into many lives during these difficult times. We are seeking assistance to repair and restore our facilities, secure necessary equipment, and ensure that no child is left out of the game due to financial reasons. Any assistance that you can provide to this effort will make a significant difference in helping us create an environment where children and families can come together, heal, move forward and be stronger than ever before through baseball and its community.

*THANK YOU!*