

Mission Statement:

Darien Athletic Foundation 's Mission is to celebrate and support all youth and high school athletics in Darien by endeavoring to ensure that the athletic infrastructure, broadly defined of Darien is competitive and meeting the needs of our youth.

Background

Darien's growth in youth population has seen an 80% increase in school enrollment since 1990. 36% of Darien's population is under the age 18 which makes it the youngest population in the CT. Darien has the highest average number of children per household-similar to Utah. Growth in youth sports has also experienced the same rate of growth; youth hockey in past 7 years. The Darien Youth field hockey program established just 7 years ago saw an increase of 400% in the past 7 years making it the largest program in CT and NY states. Darien's Youth lacrosse is the second largest in the United States; outpacing New Canaan's program by 50%.

Darien has seen a 50% increase in 3rd/4th grade lacrosse in just one year with up to 18 teams on one field amounting to over 205 kids. Our youth soccer is the second largest in CT, with 2,700 annual registrants. Darien's little league is the largest in the country and recently created a new 50/70 league. Rugby is now a high school varsity sport.

Yet, with this unprecedented growth our town has seen there has been no increase in field space and limited current available space to adequately allow our high school and youth teams to practice properly and safely. Varsity teams are often sharing fields with as many as three different high school sports teams on one field. DHS field hockey has been forced to cut players due to lack of space to practice. Some home games are forced to play away.

The supply of limited fields are exacerbated when it rains and grass fields become unplayable; Darien saw field closure warnings on 33% of days in Fall 2012 and 25% in Spring 2012. 2,000 youth sports events were cancelled in 2012 amounting to 23%. Many high school practices are cancelled due to field closure.

Overall Project Descriptions: Sunny Day Project

The Sunny Day project will make "every day a sunny day" by increasing the effective field space through turfing existing grass fields at Darien High School and Middlesex Middle School as well as building a concession stand with bathrooms and new scoreboards and grandstands at Darien High School. We feel Darien's athletic infrastructure should be competitive with neighboring towns; Greenwich High has turfed all grass fields, Greenwich Academy has turfed all grass fields, New Canaan and Wilton have turf fields and many quality grass fields.

The Sunny Day project impacts over 5,000 youth sports registrants and several hundred Darien High School athletes.

The Sunny Day plan has been developed with input from the Board of Education's Superintendent, DHS Athletic Director, BoE Facilities Manager, DHS varsity coaches of field sports, P&Z Director Jeremy Ginsberg, Darien Youth Lacrosse Association, Darien Soccer Association, Darien Junior Football League, Darien Field Hockey Association and the Darien Youth Baseball Association youth groups. The DAF Sunny Day Project is different from other Gifts in that written in the overall fundraising efforts is an endowment to provide ongoing maintenance of gifted assets.

The Sunny Day Project is broken into four phases:

- Phase 1-install and relocate new scoreboard at DHS. Estimated cost <\$200,000, funds raised from private donors.
- Phase 2-Concession/Bathroom Facility - begin construction in December 2013 at DHS. Estimated cost \$500,000, to be raised from private donors and designed by Neil Hauck.
- Phase 3-turf several existing fields at DHS in summer 2014 along with fencing, grandstands, and possible replacement sound system for DHS stadium.
- Phase 4-turf several existing field at MMS. Timing TBD.

Tonight we are requesting approval to move forward with the Phase 1 & 2 scope of the project:

Phase 1: Scoreboard (Attachments: photo of scoreboard/tree coverage/site plan w electric for placement)

The DAF is proposing to gift the BOE a modern scoreboard to replace a faulty decades old scoreboard which is no longer competitive and frequently in disrepair. This new scoreboard will provide multi-sport capabilities and provide Darien with a competitive newer scoreboard similar to New Canaan and Norwalk.

Scoreboard Specifications: (attachment of OES Proposal)

OES Inc., in operation since 1980, is a major scoreboard company and has also supplied scoreboards to New Canaan and Norwalk. The scoreboard proposed for the Gift is 25 feet wide by 16.5 feet high and placed ten feet above ground which is in keeping with P&Z guidelines. If accepted the new scoreboard will be relocated to the North side of the stadium field in preparation of a proposed bathroom/concession facility to be erected in its place. The placement of the scoreboard will face away from the neighboring houses and positioned facing the music and art wing. The new scoreboard draws less power than the existing scoreboard because it uses LED technology.

This scoreboard comes with video capabilities and interchangeable sport specific software. It will not emit sound except for the existing buzzer that signifies the end of quarter/game we currently hear.

The DAF has been in discussions with Mike Lynch, the BOE Facilities Director who feels the installation of the new scoreboard can utilize the existing conduits for fiber optics and electricity, so the DHS track will not be disturbed during installation.

The Scoreboard can be operated by the existing scoreboard operator. DAF is willing to assist in creating a DHS student group to create media and operate cameras for video display.

Should the Scoreboard be accepted by the BOE the installation is anticipated to take eight weeks and be operational for Fall 2013 season. The proposed cost of the scoreboard including installation is under \$200,000. The DAF intends to purchase an extended five year maintenance contract/warranty for parts and labor. In the DAF's on-going effort to support the gift we will call upon its endowment fund for future repairs.

Phase 2: Concession Stand with Bathrooms (site plan / rendering)

The DAF is proposing to erect a Concession Stand with Bathroom Facilities at the DHS Stadium.

The DAF has been working with Neil Hauck, a reputable local architect in Darien whose work includes the Weed Beech project , the Brooks Brothers building in down town Darien and Darien Rowayton Bank to note a few.

In working with P&Z and the BOE Facilities Manager Mike Lynch, the proposed site for this structure is the current location of the existing scoreboard. This is the ideal location because the plumbing and electricity is in close proximity to sewer and storm drains and electrical connections. The construction will pose minimal disruption to existing asphalt. The proposed building will serve as a concession stand with ticket booth on one side and bathroom facilities for men and women on the other.

The builder and architect will check building specs used for the construction of the high school when determining construction materials so as to maintain consistency with campus buildings.

Building Specifications:

- The structure will include two small buildings (26' x 20' –totaling 520 sq ft per structure) connected by an entrance breezeway (16' wide x 32' x 10').
1,608 sq ft of structure / 2,320 sq ft with roof.
- One side allocated for the selling of concessions (on the field side of the building), including a ticket booth (located on the parking lot side of the building) while men's and women's bathrooms including ADH compliant facilities will occupy the other building.
- The interior walls of the entrance breezeway will feature the donor walls where contributors to this project will be acknowledged.

Currently DAF has no plans for the inclusion of kitchen equipment and has asked the architect and builder to include basic electric and hot water with additional electric and plumbing stubbed up for future installation of kitchen equipment. The BOE can determine the best utilization of the concession space.

A water fountain on the field side exterior wall of the bathroom building has been proposed. Per Mike Lynch's advice the cost to operate this facility is less than \$10,000.

The DAF is working with the Facilities to provide exact costs.

Should the Contemplated Gift be accepted construction could begin in December 2013. Local builder, Lou Gesualdi (see addendum) has offered to build at cost. The estimated cost is approx \$202 per sq. ft. totaling less than \$500,000. The contemplated gift is subject to capital being raised.

About the DAF

- Mission is celebrate and support all youth and high school athletics in Darien
- Founded by and initial funding from youth sports groups: soccer, lacrosse, field hockey and football. Baseball is joining as a founder as well.
- Incorporated January 2013
- 501(c)3 charitable organization
- Board of Directors
 - Maggie Cellar
 - Peter Graham, President
 - Mark Maybell, Treasurer
 - Jennifer Montanaro, Secretary
 - Debbie Parnon, Vice President
 - Tom Seiler

- Capital campaign co-chairs: Debbie Parnon and Kim Huffard
- Counsel: Bruce Hill
- Engineering Firm: Tighe & Bond
- Architects: Neil Hauck Architects
- Website: www.darienaf.com

Addendum:

Gesualdi Construction, Inc. is a general contracting company specializing in expeditious, economical commercial and high-end residential renovations of all types. They have been active throughout Fairfield County for 40 years. Their team is staffed with talented craftsmen of all trades (some of who have been with Gesualdi for 35 years) forming a solid, reliable and formidable team. Gesualdi Construction assignments range from multi-floor office projects for Fortune 500 companies, to large cafeterias, small family restaurants and most recently, complete bank renovations. The president of Gesualdi Construction is Lou Gesualdi, a 1983 graduate from Darien High School.

OES Inc. was founded in 1980 providing technology services for clients in various markets. In 1984, OES leveraged its controls experience and developed its first LED Scoreboard applying the same mission of critical design methodologies. OES Scoreboards is now a well recognized brand in the North American market, and one of the few scoreboard companies approved for scoring and timing by the NBA, NFL and MLB. In recent years OES has further expanded into core high school and college markets in North America, and have recently completed projects at New Canaan High School and Central Connecticut State University.