



## Pittsford Athletic and Recreation Facilities Initiative

### Community Athletic Fields Improvement Project

### Background

- Spring of 2010 – a community-based group interested in improving Pittsford Central School District athletic fields presents concerns and suggestions to the Board of Education
- June 2010 – Pittsford Central School District Superintendent forms a Project Advisory Committee
- June 2011 – the Advisory Committee presents a report to the Board of Education
- July 2011 - January 2012 – the Board of Education conducts work sessions regarding field improvements
- January 2012 – the Board of Education indicates agreement to move forward with additional research and planning relative to adding synthetic turf fields after receiving community input, findings from the Project Advisory Committee, and results from a professional Feasibility Study, which recommended the following:
  - *“Based on this analysis a total of either 18 rectangular natural turf fields, 3 rectangular synthetic turf fields with field lighting, 6 rectangular synthetic turf fields without field lighting, or a combination of these approaches would need to be added within the school district to provide an adequate quantity of fields which will allow for the quality of natural turf fields to be maintained at a safe and consistent level based on the current rate of use.” (p. 37)*
- March 2012 – Town hires consultants Ballard and King to update Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Parks and Recreation Master Plan last updated in 1993, initially developed in 1976)
- May 2012 – As part of the Master Plan Update, the Town hosts meetings with community athletic groups and others with interest/experience regarding athletic field use issues
- May 2012 – Town and School District announce their collaboration on the assessment of community athletic field inventory:
  - *“The Town of Pittsford and the Pittsford Central School District (PCSD) have a strong history of collaboration. In keeping with this commitment, the entities have announced they will work together to address solutions to the overuse of athletic fields in Pittsford. The collaboration was proposed because PCSD is currently developing a capital project including athletic fields, and the Town will soon begin an update of its Parks and Recreation master plan that will include an assessment of athletic field use and needs.*
  - The two entities will be exploring the development of an alternative to the currently proposed lighted artificial turf field on two existing natural turf fields behind Mendon High School. In lieu of this option, the respective boards of the Town and the School District will study the possibility of locating a lighted artificial turf field in the Town’s Thornell Farm Park which is next to Mendon High School.” (news release)*

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- June 2012 - July 2013 – Town hires LaBella Associates and begins conceptual design phase of the Community Athletic Fields Improvement Project
- October 2012 – Ballard and King present the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update to Town Board and provide public Q&A opportunity. Plan recommends the following:
  - *“The results of this inability to take fields off line during prime growing seasons is that both the Town and School District fields, rectangles and diamonds are not getting the quantity of maintenance and/or attention that they deserve in order to keep them in optimal condition. The addition of three turf fields to the collective inventory would allow for the season to begin as early as March and end as late as Thanksgiving, weather permitting. This would in affect allow for a more collective effort between the Town and School District for continued field maintenance and upkeep.” (Executive Summary p. 3)*

*“The Town and the School District should continue to move forward with the development of the designated turf fields at Sutherland, Mendon and Thornell Farm Park” (Executive Summary p. 4)*
- October 2012 – at Town Board meeting, representatives from LaBella Associates discuss possible improvements to athletic fields based on a site study conducted on behalf of the Town, and provide public Q&A opportunity
- Spring 2013 – Town and School District enter into discussions regarding details of continued athletic field improvement partnership options
- July 2013 – Pittsford Community Collaboration Task Force presents report that recommends future collaborative opportunities:
  - *“Ongoing, structured monitoring of the demand for fields for different uses (When, how and why?)*

*The objective will be to assist in future planning for management of the fields – how many are required by month, how to pay for fixed and variable costs, as well as saving for long term upgrades.” (p. 30)*
- July 2013 – Town staff and board members meet with various community groups and athletic field users to present final conceptual design
- September 2013 – presentation outlining the history and proposed concept of the athletic fields improvement project is provided at Town Board meeting, during which Town and School District officials also sign a Letter of Intent to work cooperatively regarding construction, operation and maintenance of proposed athletic fields improvements and Town Board authorizes establishment of a field improvement capital project in the amount of \$220,000. The Town awards the bid for design of the athletic fields to LaBella Associates.

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- January 2014 – LaBella Associates provide a presentation outlining proposed plans and recommendations for improvements to Town athletic fields and answer questions from Town Board members and members of the public in attendance; Town Board authorized as lead agency for the Community Athletic Fields Improvement Project in accordance with State Environmental Quality Review Act regulations.
- Spring 2014 – Concept design for project is formalized; Town officials and staff meet with community groups, residents and other interested groups to discuss Community Athletic Fields Improvement Plan.
- May 2014 – Final concept design for Community Athletic Fields Improvement Project Plan is completed by LaBella Associates
- June 2014 – Town held public information meetings to outline details of the proposed Community Athletic Fields Improvement Project, including financing details; information posted on Town website and released to the media.
- September 2014 – Town residents vote to approve a bond issuance of \$6 million to fund the Community Athletic Fields Improvement Project's estimated \$6.3 million project cost
- May 19, 2015 – Community Athletic Fields Improvement Project groundbreaking ceremony is held at the future site of the Town's new baseball/softball fields along Willard Road to be accessible via Calkins Road Middle School driveway

**5/19/15**