



Willamette University Baseball Stadium

Why Turf Fields?

Synthetic turf has many benefits:

- Fields are available year round
- Synthetic turf conserves water
- Synthetic turf reduces maintenance (and associated costs) and reduces environmental pollution from gas-powered equipment and fertilizers
- Synthetic turf gets significant more usage without the need for field maintenance or recovery periods
 - Easily adaptable for soccer, football, lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee, rugby, etc
- Synthetic turf is safe for all levels of play:
 - Special Olympics, Youth, High School, College, adult recreation

There are over 100 synthetic turf baseball and softball fields in the state of Oregon. Unfortunately, zero of those are in Salem and available to the Salem-Keizer youth. With consistent wet conditions each spring, the Salem-Keizer baseball/softball athletes fall behind in their ability to practice adequately, consistently play their games or even have the opportunity to play at all. The lack of turf forces Salem-Keizer students to miss class and/or arrive home late on weekdays just to be able to travel up to Portland to play on synthetic turf.

Why Doesn't the Salem-Keizer area have any Turf Fields for baseball or softball?

The upfront cost of turf and Title IX are the two main factors for why there aren't any turf options available for the youth of our community. Just one field can cost between \$2-3 million. With six public high schools in Salem-Keizer with 12 total baseball/softball fields that would need to be completed to comply with Title IX, the cost is too much for a school district to tackle when it is already facing a significant budget shortfall.

What fields will be renovated?

In partnership with Willamette University, Salem Baseball Club is planning to install synthetic turf and lights at Willamette University's baseball field (located at Bush Park) and Willamette's softball Stadium located across the street from Willamette's downtown campus. Both fields already exist and are centrally located in downtown Salem. This project maximizes these existing resources and makes them available to the youth of Salem through a scheduling agreement between Willamette and the Salem-Keizer School District.

What are the projected costs to install synthetic turf and lights at these two fields?

\$6 million as of August 2023 (estimate provided by Cameron McCarthy – Landscape Architect after a concept-based bid from Wildish)

What is the plan for funding?

Currently, Willamette University and the Salem Baseball Club have raised \$2,300,000.00. This partnership is working tirelessly to raise the remaining funds through the following channels:

- Grants
- Private donations
- Willamette University Advancement
- City/County/State/Federal Funds

How can you help?

Over half of the Salem-Keizer Public Schools are designated as federal Title 1 schools with 84% of the district's students considered economically disadvantaged. For many of them, organized sports isn't an option. One of the main roadblocks is access to field space on a consistent basis. This is an opportunity to provide the Salem youth with a marquee baseball and softball venue through the renovation of centrally-located existing facilities. This is an extraordinary partnership that recognizes an urgent need of the community with a creative solution. Any financial assistance would say loud and clear that participation in youth sports matters, that the sharing of facilities is encouraged and that public – private partnerships like this one are appreciated.



Willamette University Softball Stadium