

# BALL FIELDS Fact Sheet



## Current Snapshot: Facilities

The seven city baseball fields are in fair condition. Five fields are located at North Olmsted Park and two fields are located at Clague Park.

- The drainage on all fields is poor to very poor. On Field #5 at North Olmsted Park, it is nearly impossible to maintain a consistent schedule of games due to elevation and poor drainage. Field #1, Field #2 and Field #4 could greatly improve with proper drainage.
- The outfields on Fields #1, #3, #4 and #5 at North Olmsted Park are in poor condition. These fields are used for more than just baseball/softball. All the major events that occur at the park see quite a bit of traffic on all of the fields. Homecoming does extensive damage to Fields #1 and #3.
- The backstops at all seven fields need work in the upcoming seasons. At North Olmsted Park, the dugout areas on Field #4 are non-existent. The outfield fencing on Field #2 is in fair condition and will need repairs in the near future.
- The city has only one field with lighting, which is for Field #2 at North Olmsted Park. The lights are in fair condition. Each season for the past four seasons, capacitors and ballasts had to be replaced. We anticipate this continuing maintenance item in the coming seasons.
- Field #1 at North Olmsted Park has no off-street parking in close proximity, so patrons park along East Park and West Park Drive.
- Not one of the seven baseball/softball fields is ADA accessible. No pathways or viewing areas are accessible.



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## Current Snapshot: Programming

Ball fields at North Olmsted Park and Clague Park are used every day of the week from April through September. Some fields are used as early as mid-March and as late as mid-November depending on weather.

- Current **recreation baseball and softball programs** include T- Ball, Coach Pitch and Player Pitch Baseball/Softball. Parks and Recreation hosts around 32 teams every spring and summer, or about 415 players using the fields.
- The seven ball fields also serve **outside groups**, including North Olmsted High School Baseball and Softball teams, North Olmsted Hot Stove, North Olmsted Softball Association, Jump Start Sports, as well as some private rentals for other travel baseball and softball teams. These groups contribute another 475 people that use the fields on a regular basis throughout the year. Organizations using city ball fields are comprised of North Olmsted residents only.
- Each year we host **events** that cause us to have to cancel the fields for baseball/softball games. Homecoming, the West Side Flea, All Scouts weekend and large family gatherings are a few such events. Some of these activities tend to damage the outfield grass due to rain/mud, oil, fires and even food.
- **Other sports** that are played on the ball fields and outfields are soccer, flag football, tackle football and lacrosse.

## North Olmsted Schools & Hot Stove Baseball League

The City of North Olmsted donates a significant amount of field time to the North Olmsted Schools and the North Olmsted Hot Stove Baseball League. North Olmsted High School used the fields at North Olmsted Park Mondays through Saturdays from mid-March to mid-May 2018 for Varsity, Junior Varsity and Freshman Baseball and Softball. North Olmsted Middle School used city fields for a number of home

games. Hot Stove had seven teams that used the fields at North Olmsted Park and Clague Park from early April to early July 2018 and two additional teams that used the fields from mid-May to early July 2018. While Hot Stove does not pay for field time, they make an annual donation to help with the maintenance of equipment and the fields.

North Olmsted City Schools - Annual Field Usage			
	Usage	Rate	Value
High School Practice	118 field/dates	\$25/day	\$2,950
High School Games	50 games	\$55/game	\$2,750
Middle School Games	7 games	\$55/game	\$385
<b>Field Time Donated to Schools</b>			<b>\$6,085</b>
<b>Schools Paid Field Time/Donation</b>			<b>\$0</b>
Hot Stove - Annual Field Usage			
	Usage	Rate	Value
Practice Time	196 field/dates	\$25/day	\$4,900
Games	82 games	\$55/game	\$4,510
<b>Field Time Donated to Hot Stove</b>			<b>\$9,410</b>
<b>Hot Stove Paid Field Time/Donation</b>			<b>\$2,000-\$3,000</b>

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## Future Vision: Rehabilitated and New Fields

**Six of the seven city owned baseball fields will see a much needed facelift, with the remaining field converted to a soccer and football field.**

**Rehabilitation starts with the installation of proper drainage to allow for safer field conditions and a more consistent playing surface. New dugouts for teams and backstop fencing are proposed for all fields.**

**Additional renovations include accessible sidewalks and improved viewing areas for all fields. Two new fields with lighting will be constructed at the Recreation Center.**



Note: Financial information for Ball Fields is included in the Adult & Youth Fact Sheet.

### Master Plan Action Items

- ◆ Expand Programming and Facilities at North Olmsted Park
- ◆ Expand the City's Outdoor Sport and Field Facilities
- ◆ Upgrade Facilities at Clague Park
- ◆ Update Shared Use Plan for City and School Recreation Facilities

### Project Objectives

- ◆ Modernize and improve existing outdated fields for the next generation of ball players.
- ◆ Address drainage issues on all fields to improve conditions for play and limit any down time due to weather.
- ◆ Ensure accessibility to all ball fields and comfortable spectator facilities.

### Expected Outcomes

- ◆ **Game time.** With better drainage installed, the fields will not need as much make-up time after inclement weather. Fewer games will be canceled. There will be savings on labor and less wear and tear on equipment.
- ◆ **Regional tournaments.** With better field conditions and newer lighted fields, tournaments would be easier to attract. The city could explore partnerships with the schools to host larger events.
- ◆ **See the light.** Having lighted fields will enable Parks and Recreation to host more games per field each night, allowing for additional income.

### Capital Investment

- ◆ Estimated \$1,276,000
- ◆ Includes renovation of six existing fields and addition of two new lighted fields