



Blair HS Field Renovations and Lights

(P872105)

Category	M-NCPPC	Date Last Modified	01/03/24
SubCategory	Development	Administering Agency	M-NCPPC
Planning Area	Silver Spring and Vicinity	Status	Preliminary Design Stage

EXPENDITURE SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Cost Elements	Total	Thru FY23	Est FY24	Total 6 Years	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	Beyond 6 Years
Planning, Design and Supervision	185	31	154	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Site Improvements and Utilities	2,715	479	2,236	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,900	510	2,390	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

FUNDING SCHEDULE (\$000s)

Funding Source	Total	Thru FY23	Est FY24	Total 6 Years	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY 28	FY 29	FY 30	Beyond 6 Years
G.O. Bonds	2,900	510	2,390	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES	2,900	510	2,390	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPROPRIATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA (\$000s)

Appropriation FY 25 Request	-	Year First Appropriation	FY22
Appropriation FY 26 Request	-	Last FY's Cost Estimate	2,900
Cumulative Appropriation	2,900		
Expenditure / Encumbrances	2,900		
Unencumbered Balance	-		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Blair High School athletic field renovation project will include two surfaces which can be used for multiple sports for improved Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) athletic competition for practices and games for the largest high school in Maryland, improved safety and playability for the school's physical education program, and expanded community use in an area of high demand with limited land development opportunities. The proposed improvement projects are separated into two phases as the construction is proposed during a small window during MCPS's summer breaks. Both fields are proposed to have investments into soils, grading, drainage, lighting and irrigation to promote improved playability and safety for both the community and Blair High School students.

- Phase one of the project will focus on the track field with improvements to include irrigation, drainage, grading, bermudagrass, portable goals and lights.
- Phase two of the project will focus on the multi-purpose field directly behind the school with improvements to include irrigation, grading, bermudagrass, softball infield improvements, portable goals and lights.

LOCATION

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

Blair High School represents a unique opportunity for community recreation - particularly on the lower eastside of the County where land acquisition and athletic field development is extremely limited. Blair High School is one of the largest schools in Maryland and these upgrades provide improved playing conditions for both physical education and competitive sporting events. Montgomery Parks is actively working to increase field inventory and capacity as this section of the County continues to see growth with limited recreation opportunities for both youth and adults. Other investments in the vicinity include the North Four Corners soccer field and the Pinecrest soccer field which are both smaller fields, typically used for youth sports. This project would represent a combination of lighted fields in the Southeastern most part of the County. Outside of Blair High School, the closest lighted diamond fields are at Wheaton Regional Park, and the closest lighted rectangle field is at Martin Luther King Recreational Park. These locations can have long travel times for our lower county residents due to heavy evening traffic.

Blair High School already has lights on the baseball, softball, and stadium field. Full-size rectangle fields are extremely limited along the lower section of Route 29. This project would increase recreational opportunities to vital landlocked areas such as Takoma Park. As the facility already has established parking, this project reduces the need for additional impervious surfaces. Ample parking around the current school on weekends provides the community with safe access to these fields. Public transportation is already available through a number of routes that converge on the Four Corners area connecting recreational opportunities to public transportation. Near the intersection of 495 and 95, this site, with a total of three rectangle fields and current parking infrastructure, could handle tournaments on weekends outside of school use. These tournaments draw participants not only from Montgomery County but also from surrounding counties and states, which could provide needed tourism to promote economic growth. This upgrade also provides an increase in lighted diamond field inventory which has been identified as a major limiting factor for facility use.

DISCLOSURES

A pedestrian impact analysis will be performed during design or is in progress.

COORDINATION

Ballfield Initiatives (P008720), Montgomery Public Schools.