



To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

November 4, 2025

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SUBJECT: ATHLETIC FIELDS IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This report provides information on efforts made to better understand and address Fort Worth's growing demand for athletic fields. Two comprehensive studies were recently completed. Together, these studies provide a data-driven foundation for future investment in both sports tourism and community recreation.

The sports tourism study, completed in 2019 and funded by the Fort Worth Sports Authority, assessed the city's potential in the growing sports tourism market. The study found a strong opportunity for Fort Worth to attract regional and national tournaments through the development of a multi-field athletic complex with at least 20 long fields for sports such as soccer, lacrosse, rugby, and field hockey. It projected an economic impact of approximately \$16 million in new annual spending, generated through tourism-related activities, and highlighted the city's potential to become a leading sports destination in North Texas.

The local athletic field study was completed in 2024 and previously shared with City Council at a work session. The study, funded by the Fort Worth Park & Recreation Department, evaluated the city's athletic field inventory and local sports demand, which highlighted a significant shortage of both long and diamond fields compared to Fort Worth's fast-growing population and rising participation in organized sports. To address this, a long-term strategy through 2037 was developed to guide the expansion and improvement of athletic fields across the city, ensuring facilities keep pace with community needs.

To address current shortfalls and capitalize on future opportunities, the city's plan focuses on strategic investment in both new construction and upgrades to existing facilities. The following sites have been identified as high-priority projects:

Alliance Park (Council District 10)

The plan calls for completing improvements from the park's master plan, adding 11 new long fields with lighting and restrooms. These upgrades will establish Alliance Park as a central hub for community recreation and tournament play in North Fort Worth.

Gateway Park (Council District 11)

Gateway Park should be expanded and upgraded with new and improved long and diamond



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fields, enhanced access, restrooms, and lighting. Its central location makes it ideal for local leagues and regional tournaments, strengthening Fort Worth's athletic infrastructure.

Rolling Hills Park (Council District 8)

Rolling Hills Park is recommended to include renovated and new athletic fields, along with additional parking, restrooms, lighting, and drainage. These improvements will increase opportunities to host regional and national tournaments and serve the growing recreation needs of Fort Worth residents.

West Park (Council District 3)

At West Park, the City will repair and expand existing facilities, adding both long and diamond fields with upgraded infrastructure, as recommended in the park master plan. The project will boost participation, support event hosting, and improve recreational access for west-side residents.

New Diamond Complex (Proposed)

The plan recommends the city acquire land for a new complex with at least eight diamond fields of varying sizes. Developed in partnership with local and regional sports organizations, the facility will relieve field shortages and enhance Fort Worth's capacity to host baseball and softball tournaments.

The total investment required to complete all recommended improvements is estimated at \$82.35 million. To ensure financial feasibility, the plan proposes a two-phase funding strategy through upcoming bond programs.

Phase 1 – 2026 Bond Program (\$48 million)

This phase will focus on critical upgrades and high-impact projects that address the most immediate needs:

1. **West Park** – \$3 million
2. **Alliance Park** – \$10 million



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3. **Gateway Park** – \$25 million (a portion to be used for fields)
4. **Rolling Hills Park** – \$10 million

Phase 2 – 2030 Bond Program (Estimated \$40–50 million)

The second phase would complete remaining improvements at the parks listed above and fund the development of a new diamond complex, contingent upon successful land acquisition. This phase would further enhance Fort Worth's ability to meet local demand and attract major sports tourism opportunities.

Should you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Park & Recreation Department Director Dave Lewis at 817-392-5717.

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