

Recreation Advisory Committee

Review of the current status of Madison Youth Sports, the community's field assets, and a look ahead at the next decade [2017-2027]

Dave Carver
Chair



Tonight's Update

What Is a RAC?

- Members and purpose

Review of Progress Towards 2006 Plan

- What have we been doing **last 10 years**

RAC Recommendations

- What do we want to be doing the **next 10 years**



Under the guidance of the Board of Education, the Madison High School sets the direction of youth sports in our community as follows:

Dear Friends of Madison High School Sports: Our goal is to run an education based athletic program while providing a competitive environment for our student-athletes. We realize that by being a member of a team, individuals can learn many valuable lessons. Among them are citizenship, sportsmanship, appreciation of good play by an opponent, working together to meet team goals, responsibility and commitment. Additionally, by placing 'team above self,' adolescents learn many skills, such as being able to accept instruction and criticism, respect for others, winning and losing with dignity, self-control, and being responsible for one's own actions.



What Is a RAC?

- Appointed by Council to one-year term
- Represents **all youth sports programs**
- Rec Director Ensures consistent approach
 - Coach background checks and training
 - Field/gym scheduling
 - MRC fee collections
- Shares best practices
- Identifies and resolve common issues
- Advocates for facility improvements
- Manages fundraising initiatives
- Develops strategic plan

2016 RAC MEMBERSHIP

Name	Represents
Harvey Allen	Pool
Karen Blount	Field Hockey
Becky Campbell	Girls Lacrosse
Dave Carver	Babe Ruth Softball
Colleen Castellano	Madison Soccer Club
Brenda Catalanello	MAF
Nino Coviello	Football
Zach Ellis	Madison Recreation
Lisa Ellis	BOE
Tony Gero	Ice Hockey
Tom Haralampoudis	MJS Rep
Peter Hiscano	Open Space Liaison
Christopher 'Dutch' Holland	Basketball
Ellis Siedem	Girls Lacrosse
Tara Spagnoletti	Boys Lacrosse
Ken Waer	Little League Baseball
Bill Wilt	Wrestling

Works to ensure our programs complement each other



RAC Members Manage the Effective Utilization of Our Community's Active Recreation Facilities

Field	Acreage	Value of...		Total Value (\$MM)	Future Planned Investments (\$MM)
		Land (\$MM)	Capital Improvements (\$MM)		
Bayley Ellard	8.5	2,750	170	2,920	191
Delbarton Park	1.3	1,802	216	2,018	316
Edwards Field	0.8	1,123	5	1,128	6
Ice Rink Field	1.5	2,079	335	2,414	696
LUCY D Complex	5.7	7,900	722	8,623	1,160
Dodge Field	4.8	11,660	1,001	12,661	1,894
Memorial Soccer Field	2.1	2,911	211	3,122	393
MRC (Active Rec Area Only)	10.5	2,786	2,755	5,540	5,485
Niles Park	4.8	6,653	-	6,653	-

TOTALS	43.2 Acreage	\$44,098 Land (\$MM)	\$5,948 Capital Improvements (\$MM)	\$50,046 Total Value (\$MM)	\$11,168 Planned Investments (\$MM)
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The 2015 Capital Assets Strategic Planning Committee conducted interviews during its project.

What it learned was that Madison has high quality assets and **Madison residents and taxpayers have expectation for high level of asset maintenance and service.**



RAC Members and Their Youth Sports Programs Invest in Our Community's Active Recreation Facilities

When	Who	What	Cost
2017	basketball	mrc bleachers	\$2,000
2017	boys lax	mrc bleachers	\$3,000
2017	boys lax	mrc lax practice wall	\$15,000
2017	field hockey	mrc bleachers	\$3,000
2017	football	mrc bleachers	\$5,500
2017	girls lax	mrc bleachers	\$3,000
2017	soccer	mrc bleachers	\$6,000
2017	softball	mrc bleachers	\$3,000
last 10 years	baseball	dodge scoreboard, dugouts, batting cage	\$30,000
last 10 years	baseball	lucy d dugout upgrades	\$15,000
last 10 years	basketball	dodge court resurface	\$11,275
last 10 years	basketball	dodge hoops	\$3,000
last 10 years	basketball	dodge pole pads	\$1,000
last 10 years	basketball	mhs gym floor resurface	\$5,000
last 10 years	boys lax	mhs golf cart repair	\$1,100
last 10 years	boys lax	mhs monica turf field	\$25,000
last 10 years	boys lax	mrc1/2 scoreboard	\$8,500
last 10 years	football	mhs monica turf field	\$50,000
last 10 years	football	mhs weight room	\$53,000
last 10 years	softball	mjs sb field dugouts/fencing	\$8,000
last 10 years	softball	mjs big field dugouts/fencing	\$8,500
last 10 years	softball	mrc turf bases/storage boxes	\$600
last 10 years	softball	mrc1 scoreboard	\$5,200
			\$265,675

*In addition, our programs fund **coaches, scholarships, meals and many other expenses** for both youth and MHS programs*



Youth Sports Are Thriving in Madison

Sponsor/Sport	GENDER		Co-Ed	Grand Total
	Boys	Girls		
REC	2,519	1,625	365	4,509
Baseball	630			630
Baseball-Travel	195			195
Basketball	340	215		555
Cross Country			37	37
Field Hockey		172		172
Football	227			227
Ice Hockey	126			126
Lacrosse	252	206		458
Ski Club			185	185
Soccer-Rec	315	266		581
Soccer Travel	369	367		736
Softball-Rec		301		301
Softball-Travel		98		98
Track and Field			143	143
Wrestling	65			65

2,519
Boys

1,625
Girls

365
Co-Ed

4,509
Grand Total



Youth Sports Are Thriving in Madison

Sponsor/Sport	GENDER			Grand Total
	Boys	Girls	Co-Ed	
REC	2,519	1,625	365	4,509
Baseball	630			630
Baseball-Travel	195			195
Basketball	340	215		555
Cross Country			37	37
Field Hockey		172		172
Football	227			227
Ice Hockey	126			126
Lacrosse	252	206		458
Ski Club			185	185
Soccer-Rec	315	266		581
Soccer Travel	369	367		736
Softball-Rec		301		301
Softball-Travel		98		98
Track and Field			143	143
Wrestling	65			65
Grand Total	2,519	1,625	365	4,509

Sponsor/Sport	GENDER			Grand Total
	Boys	Girls	Co-Ed	
MJS	19	33	31	83
Basketball				
Cross Country			31	31
Field Hockey		17		17
Lacrosse				
Soccer	19	16		35
Volleyball				
SVM	50	39		89
Baseball	15			15
Soccer	35	24		59
Softball		15		15
MHS	389	244		633
Baseball	50			50
Basketball	25	25		50
Field Hockey		54		54
Football	70			70
Ice Hockey	38			38
Lacrosse	71	42		113
Ski Club				
Soccer	43	46		89
Softball		48		48
Tennis	23	29		52

458
Boys

316
Girls

31
Co-Ed

805
Grand Total

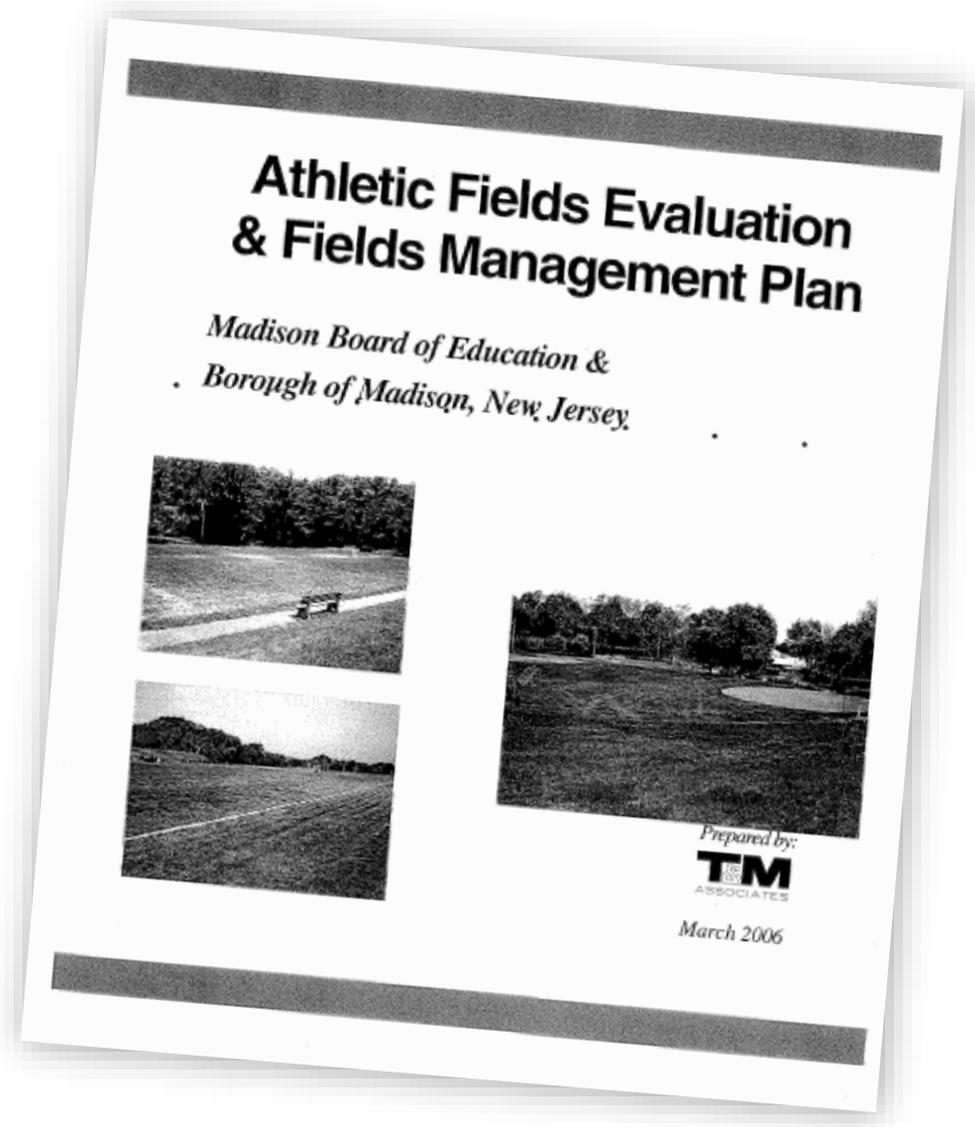


2006

- The Council and BOE engaged T&M Associates

2016

- The RAC reviewed our progress towards the goals outlined in this document



Review of Progress Towards 2006 Plan



“Additional athletic fields are needed in Madison because the existing fields are being used beyond their capacity, resulting in field surfaces with compacted areas of soils devoid of grass. Therefore, it is recommended that the Board of Education and the Borough each consider converting one (1) grass field to a synthetic turf field, as further explained in Section 3 of this report. The synthetic turf fields should be lighted to maximize their hours of use. In so doing, there will be less use and therefore less stress placed on the remaining athletic fields which remain as natural turf surfaces.”

Result: The MHS pit was converted into the MRC complex. The Green Village fields were sold.



“To efficiently schedule athletic facilities for games, practices, and special use events, the Board of Education and the Borough should review the features of currently available facility scheduling software to determine which software packages might best meet their needs. To maximize the capacity of existing fields, sports groups should be encouraged to schedule practices and games during non-peak periods and, during peak periods, to schedule back-to-back practices and games.”

Result: With the addition of the MRC complex, the recreation director has taken responsibility across all fields for sports-specific scheduling. In addition, the recreation director works with the BOE to document and schedule the BOE fields for use by recreational sports.



Review of Progress Towards 2006 Plan



“Grass fields are susceptible to damage if used in wet conditions, therefore use of grass fields during inclement weather must be restricted. This is another reason for including a synthetic turf field in the athletic field system, since synthetic turf is minimally affected by play in wet conditions.”

Result: There is much more effective direction from the borough to shut down all fields when weather conditions require. Sports still have some flexibility with regards to their specific use fields when conditions permit play.



“A grass field rotation plan should be developed and implemented for the athletic field system. This will enable the natural turf athletic fields to be rested in succession. While an athletic field is resting, there will be no one other than maintenance personnel allowed on the field. A minimum resting period of twelve weeks should be observed. It is preferred to allow the athletic field to rest for one year to allow a full rejuvenation of the grass.”

Result: No formal plan was created. There has been ad hoc resting put into place (MHS Field was populated with brand new grass from Giant’s Stadium and shut down for short term, Rosedale soccer field/ice skating rink was renovated and is shut down for the spring 2016 season). Unfortunately, that new grass field had issues with original seed mix. Town working to manage the clover.



Review of Progress Towards 2006 Plan



“Maintenance personnel for athletic fields should receive the benefit of professional training by taking courses in athletic fields maintenance and management, such as those offered by Rutgers University and other institutions.”

Result: Unknown



“It is recommended that the Borough consider creating a Recreation Master Plan for the Memorial Park site. With proper planning of shared parking and field locations, there is the potential for gaining space to construct an additional athletic field.”.

Result: Not done



The soils, turf cover, grading and drainage of existing fields should be improved, as recommended in Chart 1, Athletic Fields Evaluation and Recommendation.

Result: Not done



RAC Recommendations Next 10 Years

Implement the field management recommendations from the 2006 field management report. Our existing grass fields are an asset of the community; they should be managed as such.

- Review field specific maintenance expectations with DPW staff
- Document sport specific field prep expectations with DPW staff
- Evaluate ability to “charge” Recreation budget for time and materials associated with field management

Change the way existing Recreation Use Fees are managed by the borough.

- Evaluate alternative approaches [set up a utility where the funds generated cover expenses. create a separate trust where revenues can be dedicated and separated from the Municipal Operating fund] which allow fees and charges produced from revenue-generating recreation facilities and programs to come back to the Recreation department, rather than go into the general fund. Prepare recommendation for council consideration
- Transition the existing MRC Use Fee of \$20 to an all-inclusive Recreation Fee [\$ TBD] charge for all youth sports programs that use borough facilities
- Update hourly field rental fees annually to reflect local market. Continue to market field availability during off peak hours
- Transition responsibility to update and manage Park Improvement Capital Asset Plan to Recreation Director. RAC to advocate for capital spend during annual council update
- Continue to work with MAF on fundraising activities in support of continued investment in youth sports facilities

Continued investment in new and existing youth sports facilities. Specifically:

- Enhance the MRC complex with bleachers, a press box and playground
- Invest in a new indoor multi use fieldhouse
- Add lights to an existing grass field to extend available use hours
- Incorporate additional ADA Assets across all community playgrounds



In Conclusion...

The RAC is going to continue to...

- **Work together to manage our youth sports programs and active recreation facilities**
- **Advocate for turning our recommendations into reality**
- **Fundraise as needed to support our recommendations**



Thank You!

