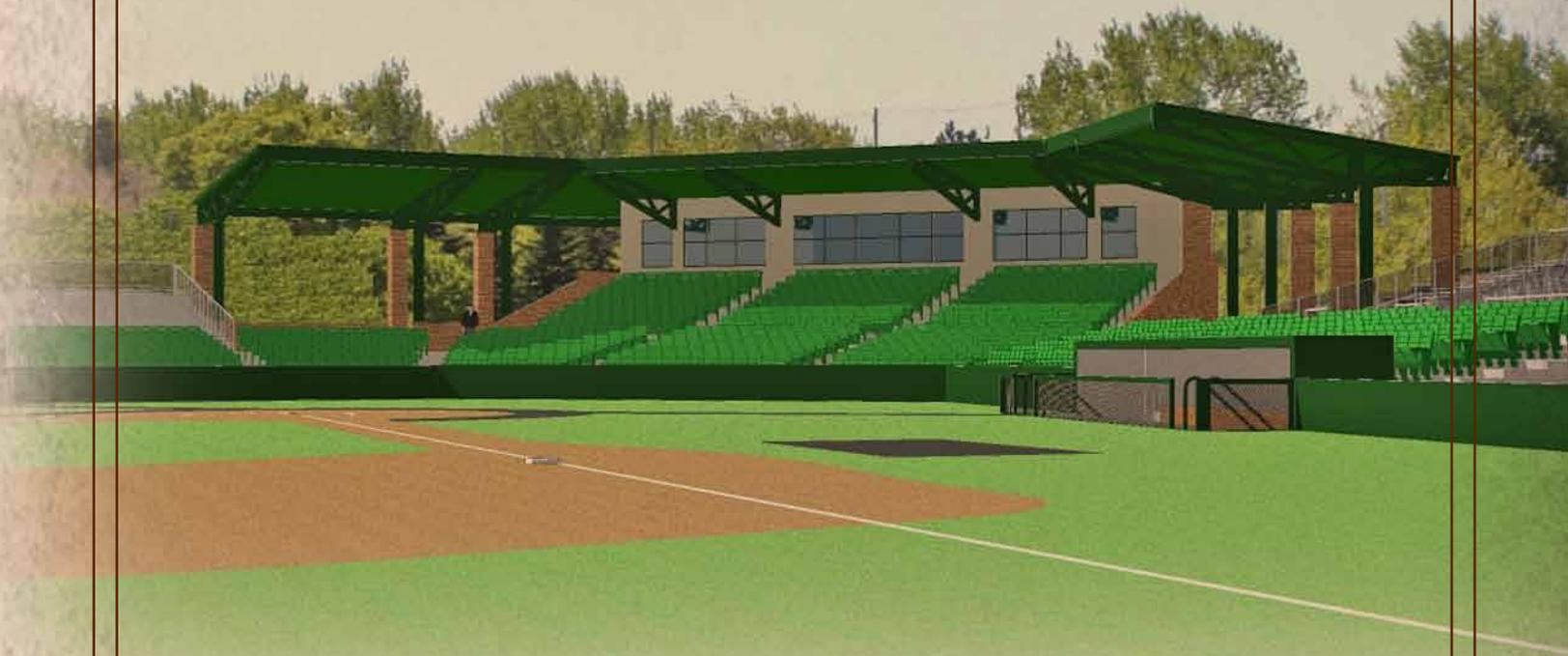


# — BISMARCK — MUNICIPAL BALLPARK

— *We invite you to Get In the Game* —



*A committed group of baseball enthusiasts will work with Bismarck Parks and Recreation District to conduct a capital campaign to raise \$1.5 million to fund much needed improvements and upgrades at Bismarck Municipal Ballpark.*

## WHAT IS THIS FACILITY?

This 1,000 seat ballpark is located at the intersection of S.Washington Street and Memorial Highway in central Bismarck. The ballpark is a neighbor to Kiwanis Park, Bismarck Community Gardens and, in the winter, a hockey rink, ice skating rink and warming house. The Bismarck Municipal Ballpark is maintained and operated by Bismarck Parks and Recreation District.

## WHO USES THE BALLPARK NOW?

In the spring, the ballpark is used by the high school varsity teams from Bismarck High School, Century High School, St. Mary's High School and Shiloh Christian School. The University of Mary also plays a full schedule at the ballpark. During the summer, the ballpark is home to the Bismarck Governors and Bismarck Representatives (the 16-19 year old players) and Bismarck Babe Ruth teams (the 13-15 year old players). There are approximately 200 high school and college players that use the ballpark during their spring season and an average of 200 players in the 13-19 year old baseball program each summer.

For the spring/summer season in 2011, a total of 165 games were played at Municipal Ballpark from when the field is first ready for play, in early April, through the first week of August.

In the past, the ballpark has hosted many special events, including the North Dakota High School West Region and North Dakota State Baseball Tournaments, many invitational tournaments, American Legion West Region and State Tournaments, Babe Ruth West Region, and State and Midwest Plains Regional Tournaments. Improvements made now only increase the chance of not only keeping tournaments, but adding tournaments to the facility schedule.

## WHAT ABOUT THE YOUTH BASEBALL PROGRAMS?

The 5-12 year old youth baseball programs in Bismarck have very healthy numbers. Bismarck Youth Baseball has about 800 players each year. Bismarck Parks and Recreation District's program has consistently had an average of 275 players. These young players perhaps hope to continue to play the game through their high school and college years, and could possibly play at the Municipal Ballpark in the future.

Students who participate in athletics learn life lessons, benefit from the physical, social and intellectual rewards of the game and learn about the virtues of courage, sacrifice, discipline and commitment to others.

## RENOVATION MEANS A QUALITY EXPERIENCE FOR PLAYERS AND FANS

The planned upgrades to the ballpark are economical improvements that will enhance both the player's experience (dugouts, practice fields, fencing), and that of the spectator (grandstand with stadium seats and an overhead canopy, concessions, restrooms and sightlines). Citizens will want to attend not only to cheer on their team, but to have that overall impression of the entire baseball game as an event, much like a basketball game at the Bismarck Civic Center or a football, track or soccer event at the Bismarck Community Bowl. The venue helps set the stage and is pleasing to both player and fan. It would be a place to have fun, meet friends and to experience the game of baseball in a family friendly environment.

## BASEBALL IN BISMARCK

Bismarck has a very rich baseball history. Baseball has been played at the corner of Washington Street and Front Avenue since 1921. For the past 92 years, thousands of baseball players have called the Municipal Ballpark their "home field". Baseball teams of the Churchill Era (1925-1936), as well as the Bismarck Barons (1955-1957), the Pards (1962-1964), and the Dakota Rattlers (1995-1996) have made their mark at this facility.

Since 1928 American Legion teams have played continuously at the ballpark, and in recent years a very successful Babe Ruth program has developed. More than 100 players have gone on to play college baseball and more than a dozen have been offered major league contracts. Three former players have been inducted into Major League Baseball's Hall of Fame (Satchel Paige -1935, Hilton Smith -1935-1936 and Ray Dandridge - 1955), and two pitchers have won World Series rings (Paige -1948, and Fred Lasher -1968).

In 1935, a Bismarck semi-professional team electrified the baseball world when Satchel Paige led the team to the National Semi-Professional Tournament championship, making that team the first integrated baseball team to win a national championship. Years later Paige would say the team "was the best he ever saw", and Quincy Trouppe, a player on the team and author of the book "Twenty Years Too Soon", would describe the national championship as the "most significant event in baseball until Jackie Robinson would break the color barrier" (1947).

In 1992, the ballpark was reconfigured to accommodate the widening of Washington Street. It is now time to take the next steps to upgrade the facility. Who knows what legends are yet to be made?



## WHAT KIND OF IMPROVEMENTS AND UPGRADES ARE PLANNED?

In 2011, with gifts from Puklich Chevrolet and a Matching Grant from Bismarck Parks and Recreation to the Bismarck Baseball Boosters, a new infield was constructed at the ballpark. This capital campaign plan would expand upon that recent renovation to continue to upgrade playing conditions, including adjustments to the outfield fence, new dugouts and the development of additional practice/pre-game warm-up facilities. The plan also includes expanding the seating capacity to 1,600 (and with movable bleachers, up to 2,000 capacity) to allow hosting of major events, a new grandstand with stadium seats to provide better shade and shelter, a new press box, better sightlines, improved concessions and restroom facilities, improvements to the ballpark entrance, new message boards, a history of the Municipal Ballpark and an overall improved atmosphere to move the facility from a baseball field to a ballpark.

## RENOVATION MEANS MORE SPECIAL EVENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Municipal Ballpark has missed out on opportunities for tournaments and post season play. Renovation of the ballpark means the facility can once again be a destination and host for American Legion, Midwest Plains Regional and World Series Tournaments, High School West Region and State Tournaments, Bismarck State College regular and post-season play, University of Mary post-season play and tournaments and could possibly be a host for a Northwood's League Baseball team in Bismarck. Special events draw additional visitors to Bismarck, spinning off into additional sales tax dollars for the city. The investment in this facility will pay dividends in use over the next several decades.

## HOW WERE THESE UPGRADES DETERMINED?

Many voices were part of the discussion and planning for the ballpark's renovation. Ritterbush-Ellig-Hulsing, P.C. Architects was hired by Bismarck Parks and Recreation District to create a Master Plan for the facility. This planning included meeting with park district staff as well as user groups of the facility. From those discussions, a priority list of the issues and improvements was created, a desire to recognize the history of the ballpark was discussed, sketches of the potential improvements were done, suggestions for fundraising and naming opportunities were listed, cost estimates were collected and the Master Plan was presented to and unanimously accepted by the Board of Park Commissioners in May, 2012.

The upgrades and facility improvements are not exorbitant or excessive, but rather, are economical and necessary and would benefit both players and fans. A community based, volunteer group of baseball enthusiasts and Bismarck Parks and Recreation hope you become part of this facility's "new" history.

# THE NEW MUNICIPAL BALLPARK

*will feature*



- Relocation the left field and center field fences
- Additional practice/pre-game facilities



- New dugouts
- New grandstand with stadium seats and shade features for spectators
- New concessions, restroom and press box
- Upgrades to the existing scoreboard



- Ballpark entrance improvements, including a tribute to the history of baseball in Bismarck

## THE BALLPARK'S FUTURE

With a successful capital campaign and a strong partnership/stewardship from Bismarck Parks and Recreation District, the Bismarck Municipal Ballpark can be a source of pride for the community and have a positive economic impact on the city. The partnership, along with your gift, creates community cohesion and a shared benefit that is greater than working alone. Your investment will make a lasting impression on both athletes and the community of Bismarck.

The campaign will continue until the goal of \$1.5 million is reached. When the goal is reached, the project will be presented to the Board of Park Commissioners for authorization to proceed with final plans and bids. The following are areas to consider as worthwhile of your support:

	# OF GIFTS	GIFT AMOUNT
<i>Hall of Fame</i>		
Naming of the Ballpark	1	\$750,000
<i>Champion</i>		
Naming of the playing field	1	\$250,000
Naming of the Grandstand	<b>SOLD</b>	\$100,000
<i>All-Stars</i>		
Naming of the Practice Facilities	1	\$50,000
Naming of the Pressbox	1	\$50,000
Naming of the Dugouts	2	\$50,000 each
Naming of the Concessions Stand	1	\$10,000
Naming of the Umpires Headquarters	1	\$10,000
Naming of the Governer's Club House	<b>SOLD</b>	\$10,000

Your donation payment can be made in one sum, or over a three to five year period. Donations are made to the Bismarck Recreational Council, the 501c(3) branch of Bismarck Parks and Recreation District.

Additionally, memorial/tribute gifts can be made in honor or memory of a special person or event.

## RECOGNITION OF YOUR GIFT

A "Wall of Honor" will be constructed near the ballpark's main entrance. The wall will list all donors and will be a permanent structure in recognition of your support.

Signs will be placed in and on specific structures at the facility, specifically the ballpark name, field name, grandstand, dugouts, practice facilities, club house, umpires and concessions buildings to honor the donor and/or organization.

## BIG BALLPARK THANKS

Steve Chuppe and Al Bortke, Co-Chairs

### Committee Members:

Randy Bina  
 Dennis Boyd  
 Paul Brucker  
 Jeff Feist  
 Joel Gilbertson  
 Sandy Keller  
 Kevin Klipfel  
 Russ Kroshus  
 Tim Kuntz  
 Paula Redmann  
 Augie Ternes  
 Mark Thompson  
 Helen Tracy



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————— *We'll see you at the ballpark!* —————