

Following a recent Lafayette Elementary School modernization S.I.T. committee presentation (Jeff Stoiber, President of the FOLP is also a S.I.T. Committee member) – the FOLP Board met to discuss the proposed restoration/renovation of the Lafayette ball fields once the trailers are removed, and we have the following recommendations to the committee, the community, and the city:

1. Grading and Drainage: Probably the most important consideration is the provision of subsurface drainage and re-grading of the fields in conjunction with other storm water management upgrades to the school/park site. At present the water from the upper playgrounds and paved areas around the school drains to the ball fields and sheets across the fields from northwest to southeast. This causes erosion of the fields, damage to the grass, and causes dirt infields to be washed away. This absolutely needs to be corrected for environmental, utilization, and maintenance considerations.
2. Field Surface: Although we can see the pros and cons of both grass and artificial turf, we feel that it is important that the fields be durable and flexible to allow for the extensive and varied uses of the fields – from Phys Ed to baseball, soccer, and casual recreation. Since the size and configuration of the fields doesn't allow for high level teams to utilize them, the surfaces don't need to be high performance but highly flexible and durable.
3. Layout: We support changing from two baseball fields to a baseball field and a multi-purpose/half soccer field. It seems to make sense to have the baseball field at the north end and the multi-purposed field to the south. We agree with providing backstops at both ends of the field to allow sufficient space for the practice of baseball, soccer, and lacrosse.
4. Baseball Infield: We would recommend it be turf or grass, since it becomes very muddy and unusable during heavy rains. Dirt around the bases is probably adequate.
5. Track: In support of the great running program at Lafayette Elementary, as well as the various other community uses, we strongly recommend that the track – which will need to be replaced due to all of the trailer damage and regrading – be replaced with a rubberized running track surface.

Friends of Lafayette Park  
Board of Directors