

May 24, 2017

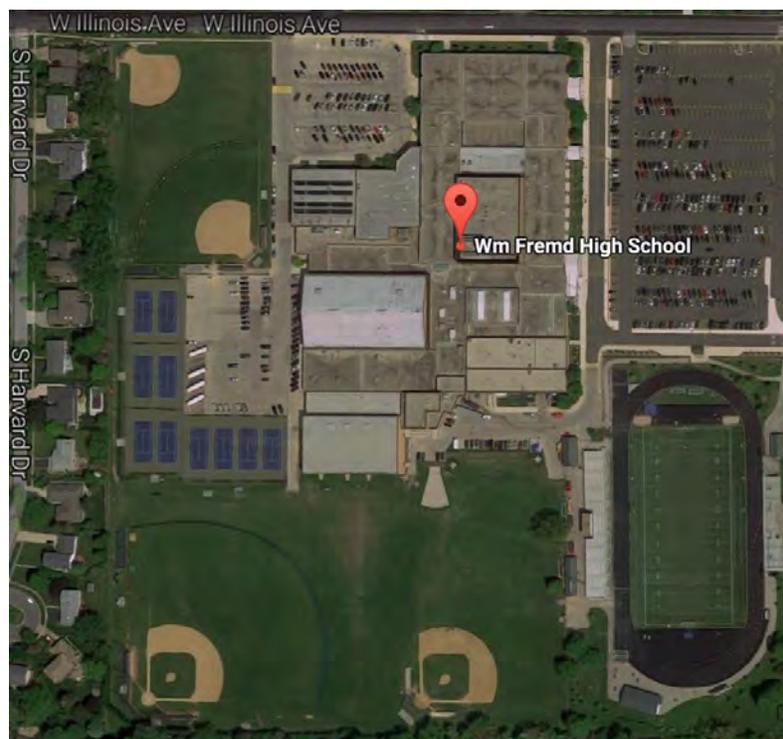
Dear Members of the Fremd Community:

Earlier this spring, the Board adopted a plan for athletic field renovations at William Fremd High School to improve drainage and overall field quality for many of our outdoor sports, including baseball, football, lacrosse, soccer and softball. The poor quality of these facilities have put our student-athletes at a competitive disadvantage; it is common that a minor weather event will force game and practice cancellations on our campus when our competitors are able to play on their fields.

The planning for the field renovations began in the Fall of 2016. In addition to drainage and field quality, school and district administrators focused on addressing the evolving demands of field utilization on campus. We continue to expand the opportunities for students to be involved in their school, but our campus remains the same size. The current field configuration, established decades ago, does not reflect our current or future needs for the growing number of opportunities we offer to our students.

Current Athletic Field Configuration

Many athletic teams use our fields during the fall and spring seasons. Currently there are two softball fields located at Fremd High School on the northwest corner of the property along Illinois Avenue. There are two baseball fields on the south end of the property. The varsity field located is in the southwest corner of the Fremd property and the lower level field is located along the southern border of the Fremd property.



In the fall, there are only two sports—Boys Soccer and Football—and one competitive activity, Viking Marching Band, that require use of the stadium and practice fields. With just these three activities, all of the outdoor facilities are used. In the spring, there are seven programs that utilize the same outdoor spaces: Baseball, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Girls Soccer, Softball, Boys Track and Field, and Girls Track and Field. Our current field configuration is not capable of meeting the needs of all of these teams.

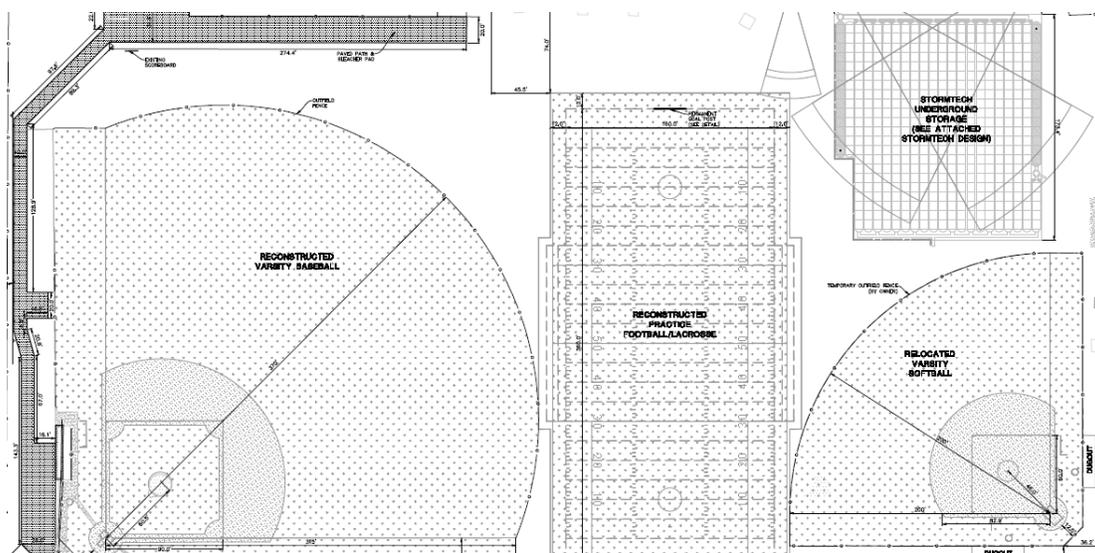
Optimal Use of Space

The current field configuration prohibits optimal use of our facilities. Girls Soccer, and Boys and Girls Lacrosse have only one regulation field on which to practice, the stadium field, which they share with Boys and Girls Track. Due to the placement of the lower level baseball field, these other teams have only “open space” on which to practice instead of regulation-sized fields. As a result, the lower levels of soccer and lacrosse already must either practice off-campus or wait to practice on the stadium field beginning at 7:00 p.m. Our renovation plan addresses field quality concerns and drainage issues for every outdoor program, not just a few.

Renovation Plan: Significant Drainage Improvements and Field Configuration

As soon as the school year ends, we will begin a project to significantly improve the drainage and irrigation of our athletic facilities. This plan will reduce the amount of missed practice and competition time due to the effects of poor drainage on our current fields.

The renovation plan consists of moving the varsity softball field to the southeast corner of the Fremd property. This would address the drainage issues for Varsity Softball, giving them an entirely new field with updated drainage, along with the new netting and backstop knee-wall that we have constructed at the other schools as part of the overall upgrades. This plan will also allow for a full soccer and lacrosse field for spring use located between the Varsity Softball and Varsity Baseball fields, as opposed to the current partial field and need for these students to practice off-campus.



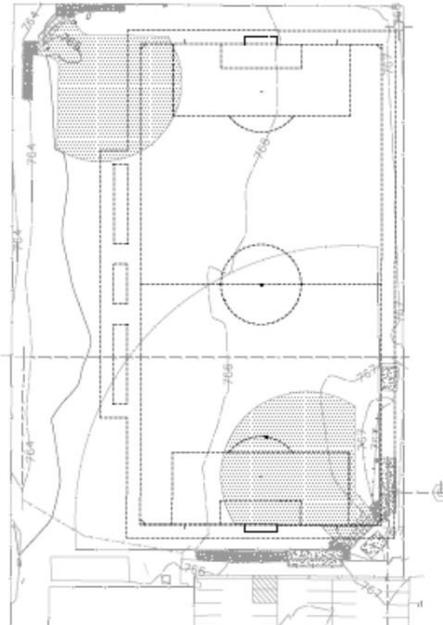
Lower level softball will continue to play on the northwest fields along Illinois Avenue, and lower level baseball, approximately 25 students, will be moved to an off-campus location near the campus. By moving Varsity Softball to the south of the property, the entire northwest field will increase utilization by use of any team.

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TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 211

Kurtis A. Tenopir
 Principal

Daniel E. Cates
 Superintendent



As a result of this reconfiguration, Fremd gained two full fields in addition to the stadium field for spring sport usage. The new field configuration also allows for increased practice/competition space for two female sports (soccer and lacrosse) and one male sport (lacrosse). Levels of each of these sports now have to go to Birchwood Park or Cardinal Park for practices depending upon stadium field availability.

Under this renovation plan, lower level baseball is the only team that will have to practice off-campus, but there are future considerations to make accommodations for them on the northwest practice fields.

Number of Students Participating in Spring Sports at Fremd High School

The information contained in the chart illustrates the number of students participating in each of the spring sports at Fremd High School that utilize the practice fields.

	2016		2017	
	Freshman	Program Total	Freshman	Program Total
Softball	20	40	14	38
Baseball	25	63	25	65
Boys Lacrosse	21	73	25	69
Girls Lacrosse	35	77	25	76
Girls Soccer	35	76	37	108

The District 211 Board of Education and administration understand the important role of facilities in providing excellent opportunities and experiences for our students. The renovation plans were developed in coordination with multiple parties, including coaches and engineers. The resulting product will allow our teams to continue their traditions of excellence while providing greater access to our facilities through a wide range of opportunities for all of our students.

Sincerely,

Kurt Tenopir
 Principal