



BREAKING NEW GROUND



We invite you to join us in a capital campaign to raise \$650,000 to fund eight new softball fields at Cottonwood Park.

What we're doing

We're expanding Cottonwood Park in Bismarck, ND to create four new adult softball fields and four new fastpitch softball fields.

In order to meet the needs of a growing softball community, and uphold the mission of Bismarck Parks and Recreation District (BPRD), a group of community volunteers is embarking on a capital campaign to increase the number of softball fields, and in turn, maintain and improve the quality of life in Bismarck.

Under the current situation, both men's and women's teams are being turned away due to capacity and scheduling conflicts. Fastpitch teams do not have a "home" of their own for practices and/or games.

Why expansion is critical

All softball programs – adult and youth - are growing and need additional play space to meet the growing demand. All programs are currently at a standstill and need additional fields.

Eight more fields at Cottonwood Park - four for adults and four for youth - will support the growth in all softball programs, and create additional space for more tournaments, meaning more visitors and more visitors' spending in our community, creating not only quality of life impact, but economic impact as well.

In addition, the improvements to Cottonwood Park impact the entire community. Extensions to the existing trail system, shelters and playgrounds are for all to use and enjoy, making this a benefit for open recreation in Bismarck.

This project and campaign is an opportunity to make an investment in Bismarck's quality of life and make a positive impact on so many people.

Core components of the project

- Four adult softball fields
- Four youth softball fields with scoreboards
- Concessions/restrooms
- Covered dugouts
- Expanded parking, playgrounds, trail connections
- Pressbox and grandstand



The good news: great partnerships

Bismarck Women's Slowpitch Softball Association, the Bismarck Men's Slowpitch Softball Association and the Bismarck Youth Fastpitch Softball Association wholeheartedly support this project. They appreciate the value that the fields will bring to the community in terms of strengthened programming and opportunities for additional participation for both adult and youth softball. All three groups have already made financial commitments to this campaign.

These groups have committed a total of \$700,000 to this project. BPRD's Board of Park Commissioners has committed the park district to the project infrastructure; the site work, water, electrical, parking lots and restrooms. The Campaign Committee's goal is to raise \$650,000 so that this project becomes a community reality. Players and their families, community advocates of youth and adult sports and fans of softball are encouraged to join us in building eight new softball diamonds.



Softball is BIG in Bismarck

Both the youth and adult programs have the highest participation in the state. These numbers show the need for additional playing space. More fields mean more participants and more people recreating.

Bismarck Men's Slowpitch Softball Association plays on 18 diamonds, has experienced program growth and is the largest association in the state.



Other Men's Softball Programs in North Dakota:

City	Teams	Diamonds	City	Teams	Diamonds
Fargo	141	17	West Fargo	41	5
Grand Forks	119	16	Williston	28	5
Mandan	80	8	Jamestown	27	4
Minot	70	12	Wahpeton	16	4
Dickinson	42	6			

Bismarck Women's Slowpitch Softball Association plays on 10 diamonds, has had consistent growth and is the largest association in the state.



Other Women's Softball Programs in North Dakota:

City	Teams	City	Teams
Minot	37	West Fargo	14
Jamestown	29	Williston	13
Grand Forks	16	Mandan	8
Fargo	16		

The numbers

More than **2400** men's softball players

More than **900** women's softball players

More than **600** coed softball players on 43 teams

More than **200** fastpitch players

Bismarck Youth Fastpitch Softball Association

BYFSA does not have a "home" complex or park. The growth in women's softball makes it difficult to schedule practices and games and to promote program growth

BYFSA has over 200 players each summer, and this number would be higher with better field availability during the week. Not knowing practice and game schedules at the time of registration causes difficulties and limits program growth.

Three Year History of Bismarck Fastpitch

Year	Winter	Fall	Summer	Travel	High School
2015	76	94	271	77	-
2016	83	47	259	59	-
2017	41	27	209	35	107*

*High School girls that play summer softball

Naming Opportunities

The following recognition opportunities are available for the youth complex, and include prominent visibility on the structure and on the Wall of Honor.

Complex Name **\$150,000** **SOLD**
Name on the complex and on all four scoreboards

Pressbox **\$100,000** One available
Name on the pressbox, visible throughout the complex, located on the championship field

Field Naming **\$50,000** Four Three available
Name on the field and on that field scoreboard

Concessions Facility **\$50,000** **SOLD**
Name on the frequently visited facility

Playground **\$25,000** Two available
Name on a new playground in the complex

Picnic Shelter **\$25,000** One available
Name on this community gathering space

Ticket Booth **\$10,000** One available
Name on this structure

Dugouts **\$10,000**
Eight available Five dugouts left! (two per diamond)
Name facing the outside and inside of the dugout

Advertising Opportunities – Five Year Term

Bleachers **\$5,000** Three Two available
Foul Poles **\$2,500/pole** Eight available
Water Fountains **\$1,500/fountain** Eight available

Donations

All donations, at any level, are appreciated.
Payments options are available.

Please consider the following:

Grand Slam	\$2,500	Home Run	\$2,000
Triple	\$1,500	Double	\$1,000
Single	\$500		

Friend of Softball: Any donation of \$100-\$499.

Pledges from individuals, families, corporations and foundations that understand the importance and legacy of community support are being sought. Donations are made to the Bismarck Recreation Council, the 501c(3) foundation of the Bismarck Parks and Recreation District, meaning your gift, at any level, is tax deductible. Memorial/tribute gifts can be made in honor or memory of a special person or event. A gift to the campaign is an investment in the future.

Recognition of your gift

A “Wall of Honor” will be placed at the new complex. The Wall will be a permanent listing and a tangible testament to those that made this expansion possible. Signs will be placed in and on specific structures at the park to honor the naming donor and/or organization. We invite you to go to bat for this project today!

Cottonwood Park History

Cottonwood Park is located in south Bismarck and was first developed with a capital campaign in 1990. Bismarck has a long and proud history of supporting public recreational facilities. Through the years, Cottonwood Park has continued to grow to meet the needs of an active community.

Today, the complex consists of 200+ acres with an elaborate trail system, two playgrounds, seven shade structures, three concession/restroom/tournament facilities, a maintenance building, BMX track, bocce ball fields, 12 softball diamonds, numerous soccer fields, a small lake with a fishing pier, and a full sized baseball field (Haaland Field), with a scoreboard, batting cage, pressbox and ticket booth.

The complex consistently has a full schedule of events, with many community partners using the space for the BMX track and to also play softball, baseball, soccer, flag football, lacrosse and bocce ball. In addition, the complex’s trail system is a favorite for community events like the Bismarck Marathon, the Color Splash Fun Dash and the Insane Inflatables.

The additional softball fields, parking, trail connections, play spaces and open green space will enhance the park, and create more opportunities for community recreation.

Help us Break New Ground

With a successful campaign and a strong partnership/stewardship from Bismarck Parks and Recreation District, the addition of eight softball fields at Cottonwood Park can be a source of pride for the community, create more opportunities for the growing softball programs and have a positive impact on the quality of life in Bismarck. The partnership of the women’s, men’s and fastpitch programs, along with your gift, creates a shared benefit that the community will enjoy for years to come.

The campaign will continue until the goal of \$650,000 is reached. When the goal is met, the project will be presented to the Board of Park Commissioners for authorization to proceed with final plans and bids.

Campaign Members

Co-chairs

Steve Chuppe
Mike Wolf

Committee Members

Randy Bina
Lisa Gronberg
Steph Holtz
Kevin Klipfel
Marc Menge

Brian Neuhardt
Paula Redmann
Billy Schmidt
Mark Thompson
Melissa Wrangham



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