

Campaign to Develop Playing Fields @ Brewbaker Annex

Background

In the late 1980's, the Rockbridge Area Recreation Organization was founded as a public authority. Upon RARO's formation, the City of Lexington ceased funding for and eliminated the City's Recreation Department. Shortly thereafter, the County of Rockbridge joined forces with the City of Lexington thereby making RARO the recreation department for the two jurisdictions. The City of Buena Vista was recently welcomed in the Fall of 2015 as a partner utilizing RARO as its recreation department.

Why does RARO need additional playing fields?

At present, RARO schedules the use of two practice and game sites in the City of Lexington:

1. Brewbaker Complex, which contains one game field for Youth Football and Lacrosse, one Softball field and one Youth Baseball field. Additional small practice areas ring the Brewbaker game field
2. Jordan's Point Field contains one game field for Soccer and also acts as our host site for Flag Football and Introductory Soccer

These two sites presently support RARO Youth Football, RARO Youth Soccer, RARO Youth Baseball and Softball, Rockbridge United Soccer Club and Lexington Lacrosse. All told, approximately 800 athletes, ages 5-13, presently practice on either Brewbaker Field or Jordan's Park Field during the Fall or Spring sport season each year! Needless to say, developing new playing fields in Lexington is MUCH NEEDED and HIGH PRIORITY.

What?

RARO has been working closely with Russ Orrison, an Engineer at Perkins and Orrison in Lexington, to field test and draw plans for the development of this 2.7 acre city-owned property between Houston Street and Taylor Street and connected to the present Brewbaker Field Complex. Orrison's design calls for the construction of a multi-purpose practice site containing a Youth Baseball/ Softball Field with a dirt infield and a cantilevered backstop, along with a Soccer/ Lacrosse field measuring approximately 150 yards long by 60 yards wide. The entire Brewbaker Annex field site will be encircled by an eight foot (8') fence. Because the Annex will be a practice site only, no lights or bleachers will be included in the construction.

How?

A cost estimate produced by Russ Orrison in December 2014, estimated the cost of the project at \$180,000. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP's) were requested and approved by the County of Rockbridge and City of Lexington secured a total of \$50,000 over FY '16 and '17. Generous grants from

the Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee brought the total pledged for the Brewbaker Annex development project to over \$100,000. In July 2016, the Stonewall Jackson Hospital Community Health Foundation donated \$15,000 to our project which was generously matched by \$7500 from Carilion Stonewall Jackson Hospital and \$7500 from Velocity Care. RARO Give Day was held Friday August 26th and a total of \$16, 098 was donated in support of building playing fields on Brewbaker Annex. Our hope is to raise the additional \$20,000 towards our goal of fully- funding the Brewbaker Annex project in the near future. We are hoping to have all the excavation completed in time to plant grass in the Spring of 2017. Thanks to any and all who would consider offering your assistance.

Stewardship Campaign

1. Corporate Support

RARO is seeking corporate support for this community project. RARO will provide a sponsorship banner on the outfield fence at Fox Field and on the RARO website to all of our corporate partners. In addition, each business will be recognized as a major contributor on our brick walkway leading into the annex.

Corporate Sponsorship Gift: \$2500

a. Several payment options are available:

1. Lump sum donation of \$2500
2. Commitment to donate \$500 per year for a 5 year period
3. RARO is open to set up a plan which fits best for the donor

2. Individual/ Family Support

Individual/ Family support for this community project will be a critical part of this project and will determine its feasibility and ultimately its success. Although any level of support will be much appreciated, a brick on the entrance walkway recognizing the patron will be awarded for a contribution of \$250.

3. Individual/ family supporters who contribute \$100 will have their name included on a placard at the entranceway denoting their generous contribution.

When?

RARO is hoping to start its campaign by the beginning of Spring 2016, reach its goal within three months then can send out construction bids shortly thereafter. We hope to award the bid during the summer with plans to break ground late in the summer so we could have a minimum of one growing season for the new field before we start holding practices in the Fall of 2017.

Contributions to RARO for the development of Brewbaker Annex will be “ tax-exempt” under IRC section 170 (c) (4). “ An entity created by a political subdivision and accountable to it is a government entity and therefore “ tax exempt