

*Feb 13 2023 2:08 pm*



**City of Fitchburg  
Massachusetts 01420**

**CITY COUNCIL**

**Councilors at Large**

Marcus L. DiNatale  
Sally H. Cragin  
Amy L. Green  
Samantha M. Squailia  
Anthony M. Zarrella

**President**

Anthony M. Zarrella

**Vice President**

Andrew J. Van Hazinga

**Ward Councilors**

Ward 1 – Bernard J. Schultz, III  
Ward 2 – Paul R. Beauchemin  
Ward 3 – Andrew J. Couture  
Ward 4 – Andrew J. Van Hazinga  
Ward 5 – Marisa R. Fleming  
Ward 6 – Derrick J. Cruz

**Finance Committee**

A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Councilor DiNatale on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 6:05 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Paul Beauchemin, Derrick Cruz, Marcus DiNatale, and Andrew Van Hazinga.

Committee Members absent: Councilor Anthony Zarrella.

The chairman read an announcement regarding the recording of public meetings, noting that FATV was recording and broadcasting the meeting. No other person stated that they were recording the meeting.

The chairman opened the meeting for public comment. No one spoke.

028-23      ORDER:      that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grant in the approximate amount of \$27,000.00 (TWENTY-SEVEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to continue to provide residents with more robust information about waste disposal and recycling, purchase additional carts for the curbside program, expand the current program, and reduce, reuse, and recycle in school cafeterias.

Discussion: Health Director Steve Curry was present. He stated that this annual grant helps fund the Trash App. They will also be exploring ways to expand household hazardous waste days and mattress recycling. Because the grant encourages the reduction of school cafeteria trays and utensils, it will cover the cost of dishwashers in schools.

Councilors asked about mattress removal. Mr. Curry said that while the topic is subject to procurement law, the plan is to set up a process whereby residents work with the city to have their mattresses removed. Currently residents work directly with vendor. The city would pay for the removal and then charge a fee to the resident. Councilors also said that the Trash App is a great tool and encouraged residents to use it.

Action: On a motion made by Councilor Cruz second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #028-23.

029-23        ORDER:        that there be and hereby is appropriated the sum of SIXTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$60,000.00) same to be charged against AVAILABLE FUNDS and credited to FIRE, EQUIPMENT & REPAIR, GAS & OIL.

Discussion: Fire Chief Dante Suarez was present and stated that this request is due to the significantly high and sustained high price of fuel. He had tried to prepare for the increase in the FY23 budget, but prices have gone higher than projected. Call volumes have also increased.

Councilors asked if the department buys from one buyer. The chief responded that the city buys from wherever fuel is available and there is no discount. Most of the purchases are of diesel fuel, which has not seen much of a drop in prices.

Action: On a motion made by Councilor Beauchemin second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #029-23.

030-23        ORDER:        that there be and hereby is transferred from within the sum of SIX THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$6,000.00) same to be transferred from PARKS PERSONAL SERVICES, SUMMER HELP and credited to PARKS PERSONAL SERVICES, OVERTIME.

Discussion: Public Works Commissioner Nick Erickson was present and reported that this request is the result of not having summer help last year and having to use overtime. He expects the same need this spring before summer help arrives.

Councilors asked why there was no summer help and Mr. Erickson replied that when the city advertised last year that no one applied. For the coming summer, there will be an updated salary ordinance and he will work on more advertising and outreach. Assuming the new ordinance is approved, job descriptions will be ready for an early March release.

Action: On a motion made by Councilor Beauchemin second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #030-23.

031-23        ORDER:        that there be and hereby is transferred the sum of FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS (\$400,000.00) same to be charged against RESERVE FOR SNOW & ICE REMOVAL and credited to the following DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, SNOW & ICE accounts:

EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$100,000.00
SALT	\$300,000.00.

Discussion: Mr. Erickson remained. He said that while the winter has not been difficult, there have been ice storms requiring maintenance. The salt shed is full, but they are expecting more winter weather. He discussed the current spending report and said that salt has gone from \$64.40 per ton last year to \$77.28 per ton this year.

Councilors asked if removing tree and limb debris from the storm last week is included in snow and ice costs. Mr. Erickson replied that the removal cost is part of the regular public works budget and that they are working their way around the city on a clockwise order.  
Action: On a motion made by Councilor Beauchemin second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #031-23.

032-23           ORDER:           that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grant in the approximate amount of \$109,000.00 (ONE HUNDRED NINE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to develop nature-based solutions to stormwater issues in the area north of the western end of Main Street.

Discussion: Mr. Erickson remained and said that the goal of this grant is to develop stormwater solutions in areas where sewer separation is underway. This grant will provide funding for design assistance.

Councilors asked when the work will start. Mr. Erickson answered that they will bid out the work in the next few months, so it could start in June. The plan is to address the area on Main Street from Ashburnham Hill Road to Prospect Street.

Action: On a motion made by Councilor Beauchemin second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #032-23.

033-23           ORDER:           that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration, Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant in the approximate amount of \$143,500.00 (ONE HUNDRED FORTY-THREE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to design two replacement culverts along Ashby West Road.

Discussion: Mr. Erickson remained. He said that two culverts conveying water from Fallulah Brook on the end closest to Rindge Road will be replaced. Currently they are trying to get a design that meets state standards. Preliminary work is done, and any future projects will require additional grants or funding. Doing this work will help obtain future grants.

Action: On a motion made by Councilor Van Hazinga second by Councilor Beauchemin, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #033-23.

034-23           ORDER:           that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Dam & Seawall Repair or Removal Grant in the approximate amount of \$38,925.00 (THIRTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to complete the design work and file permits for the removal of McTaggart's Pond Dam.

Discussion: Mr. Erickson remained and said that the city had earlier completed an exercise to examine alternative plans to determine the best solution to the dam problem. That solution is

to remove the dam. The city had received an earmark to start the process and this grant will allow for completion of design and permitting.

Councilors noted that removal of the dam will restore the area to its original habitat. Mr. Erickson said that unless dams are used for water supply or flood control, the state rates the return to natural habitat the highest. Councilors asked about the bridge on Westminster Hill Road that is down to one lane. Mr. Erickson answered that the bridge issue has no connection to the dam and that the city is using a grant to do work on that bridge. There has been an issue with locating abutting landowners that has held up the project.

Action: On a motion made by Councilor Cruz second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Order #034-23.

035-23           ORDER:           that the mayor be authorized to sign a lease with Solect Energy Development with Fitchburg High School as outlined in the enclosed order.

Note: Although on the agenda, this order had been approved by City Council on February 7, 2023 under suspension of the rules, so no discussion took place.

040-23           ORDINANCE:   that Chapter 44, Section 10 of the Code of the City of Fitchburg as most recently amended, shall be amended by striking where applicable the current rates for temporary seasonal employees and inserting in its place the attached table of wage rates to be in compliance with minimum wage laws.

Note: Although on the agenda, this order was referred to Legislative Affairs Committee by City Council during its meeting on February 7, 2023, so no discussion took place.

COMMUNICATION: Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale regarding the second American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) budget.

Discussion: The chairman read a letter from the mayor dated February 1, 2023. He then said he wanted to take each section separately.

Section A—Library Capital—The chairman read the project description and noted that when City Council approved the \$40 million library renovation project it included this funding.

Councilors noted that they had heard about the possibility of there being an earmark or additional funding for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to cover more of the library construction costs. Upon questioning, City Auditor Calvin Brooks noted that the vote to fund the \$40 million library project assumed a total allocation from ARPA of \$12 million and that this proposal just followed through on that vote. Councilors added that more money from the state could be used to lessen the amount the city would be required to borrow and that if more money comes in then adjustments to the funding could be made.

Action: On a motion made by Councilor Cruz second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Section A—Library Capital.

Section B—Crocker Field—Tom Lamey, treasurer of the Crocker Field Restoration Committee, and Lenny Laakso, member of the board of directors of the committee, were present. The chairman read the project description and noted that the city has received a grant for \$250,000

from the New England Patriots for this project, which has been in the works for years. Having artificial turf will be easier to maintain and will allow for many more activities.

Mr. Lamey made a presentation on the project, showing that both the field and the track would be replaced. Councilors asked about the track and were told that it was installed in 1988 and was resurfaced ten years ago. Councilors asked about maintenance costs and were told that the costs would be similar to grass. The difference is that the field could be used more. There are some other projects at the field, but they can be handled by the committee, which is able to deal with \$50,000 projects piecemeal. Councilors asked about hazards with the artificial turf and were told that information has been requested from Gale Associates and the committee is awaiting an answer. Artificial turf is safer than grass because it is more even and has fewer divots. Councilors also noted the economic benefits for the neighborhood in being able to have more events. Groundbreaking for the project could occur in FY23 with completion in FY24.

Action: On a motion made by Councilor Van Hazinga second by Councilor Cruz, the committee voted unanimously to approve Section B—Crocker Field.

Sections C & D—Water and Sewer Infrastructure—Mr. Erickson was present. He noted that there had been funding in the first ARPA round for the Boulder Drive project and that this funding will allow for the completion of the project. He hopes to be starting this summer, but there is an issue with the availability of pipes, there being a supply chain issue. The project will run the full length of Boulder Drive, which is just under a mile. The project also encompasses the side streets connecting to Main Street, which will make doing the work later on Main Street a lot easier. He hopes to be done by the end of 2023, again depending on supply chain issues.

Councilors asked about paving and catch basins. Mr. Erickson said that paving costs are covered because they arise from the water project. Catch basins will be addressed during the paving as needed. Councilors asked about the age of the pipes and Mr. Erickson replied that they are mostly over 100 years old and are made of cast iron. Councilors noted that if ARPA weren't funding this project, then the rate payers would have to.

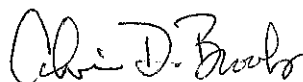
As for the Main Street project, Mr. Erickson said it would start on the west end and move east. The amount being allocated would cover part of the cost, and the rate payers would pay the balance, unless additional grant funds are secured. Councilors asked about sidewalks and bikeways. Mr. Erickson replied that the project is not a streetscapes project, so the only work on those parts would be if the water project required it. Councilors then discussed some of the particulars of doing the Main Street project.

Action: On a motion made by Councilor Beauchemin second by Councilor Van Hazinga, the committee voted unanimously to approve Section C & D—Water and Sewer Infrastructure.

On a motion made by Councilor Van Hazinga second by Councilor Beauchemin, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Calvin D. Brooks, Clerk



City of Fitchburg  
Available Funds Summary  
Fiscal Year 2023

<b>Available Funds Certified as of July 1, 2022</b>			<b>6,514,191</b>
<b>Less Approved Appropriations:</b>			
01/17/23	010-23	Stabilization Fund	-350,000
07/17/23	011-23	OPEB Fund	-250,000
01/17/23	012-23	Reserve for Capital Expenses	-27,500
02/07/23	022-23	Stabilization Fund - Future Debt Service	-500,000
02/07/23	023-23	Assessors, Contracted Services	-2,620
02/07/23	024-23	Various Departments, Personal Services - Contract Adjustments	-14,885
02/07/23	025-23	Police, Personal Services - Contract	-435,000
02/07/23	026-23	Fire, Personal Services - Contract	-465,000
<b>Subtotal - Approved Appropriations</b>			<b>-2,045,005</b>
<b>Balance Available</b>			<b>4,469,186</b>
<b>Less Proposed Appropriations:</b>			
02/07/23		Fire Expenses, Gas & Oil	-60,000
<b>Subtotal - Proposed Appropriations</b>			<b>-60,000</b>
<b>Balance Available if Proposed Appropriations are Approved</b>			<b>4,409,186</b>
<b>Possible Appropriations:</b>			
Snow & Ice			
Stabilization Fund 5% - \$7,499,346 7% - \$10,499,084 Current - \$7,954,692			
OPEB Fund Current - \$2,324,167			
Stabilization Fund for future debt service costs			
Labor Contracts			
Comp Time			
Overtime			
Veterans - Cash Benefits			
Community Development - Rail Trail - Phase 2			
Main Street Garage - Phase 1			
Salary Study			
Crocker Field			
DPW - Stormwater Expenses			
DPW - Oak Hill Road Bridge			
Schools - Longsjö School - Window Replacement			
Info Tech - Relocation of cabling on Cherry Street			
Police Station Renovation			
Senior Center Renovation			
Demolition - Laurel Street School			
Police - Vehicles			
Fire - Vehicles			
Cemetery Software			
Cemetery - Vehicles			
Cemetery - Mausoleum			
Cemetery - Engineering & Design for Expansion			
Cemetery - Construction for Expansion			
Parks - Downtown Summer Groundskeeper			





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Chief of Staff  
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*The City of Fitchburg*  
*Massachusetts*  
**Office of the Mayor**

**STEPHEN L. DINATALE**

Joan David  
Executive Administrative Assistant  
j david@fitchburgma.gov

February 1, 2023

The Honorable City Council  
Fitchburg City Hall  
718 Main Street  
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Dear Honorable Councilors,

In February, 2022, I submitted my first proposed American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) budget that included \$15 million in spending on a variety of projects addressing Public Health, the Economic Impacts of Covid-19, and Infrastructure. Including an earlier grant to the Health Department for \$500,000 and a \$50,000 allocation for ARPA administration, the city has committed \$15,550,000 of the original \$31,238,459 grant from the US Treasury.

At the time the first budget was proposed, I expected to reconvene the ARPA Advisory Committee this month in order to review progress and make recommendations as to when to release additional rounds of ARPA funds. Given that many of the projects from the first round are still being rolled out and that construction costs have significantly increased, I propose using most of the remaining funds to complete work on projects that were initiated in the first budget.

Therefore, I am proposing that an additional \$15.5 million be allocated from ARPA funds to the projects listed on the attached sheet and ask City Council to approve this budget. Once approved, at the next City Council meeting, I will follow with individual orders for each project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. DiNatale  
Mayor



# CITY OF FITCHBURG

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA)

### 2023 PROPOSALS

<b>Total 2023 ARPA Budget</b>	<b>\$15,500,000</b>
RESPONDING TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY	\$0
RESPONDING TO NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS	\$7,500,000
WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE	\$8,000,000
REMAINING ARPA FUNDS AVAILABLE:	\$551,160*
*The remaining balance of ARPA Funds includes \$188,459 of unallocated ARPA receipts and \$362,701 of accumulated investment income on the ARPA funds.	

## SUMMARY OF ARPA PROPOSALS

### RESPONDING TO PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

	PROJECT	SPONSOR	2023 ARPA Award
-			

0 PROPOSALS - \$0

### ECONOMIC IMPACT

	PROJECT	SPONSOR	2023 ARPA AWARD
A	Library Capital	Fitchburg Public Library	\$5,500,000
	<p>This project will help support the \$40.0 million renovation of the Fitchburg Public Library. The project will create a 21<sup>st</sup> century library that will allow teens and adults to access materials, access the Internet with a high speed connection, to gather for informational and recreational programs, to meet in small groups without disturbing others, and for children to have a dedicated space for story times, crafting, and programs such as puppet and magic shows. This project will be matched by the MBLC state grant program, fundraising and City bond financing.</p>		
B	Crocker Field	City	\$2,000,000
	<p>This project will replace the natural grass field at Crocker Field with an artificial turf field, thereby allowing it to be used for more games and practices in a variety of sports. Additional funding will come from donations and grants.</p>		

2 PROPOSALS - \$7,500,000

### WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

	PROJECT	SPONSOR	2023 ARPA AWARD
C	Boulder Drive Water Mains	DPW	\$3,000,000
	<p>The proposed project includes the upgrade of all water mains on Boulder Drive, as well as those in the intersecting streets between Boulder Drive and Main Street, including Putnam Street and Newton Place. The water main on Cushing Street has recently been replaced, and the water main on Mill Street will be abandoned. All service lines and fire protection lines from the new water mains to the property lines would also be replaced/upgraded to ensure there would be no issues (e.g., leaks on water service lines) within the roadways for many years/decades into the future.</p>		
D	Main Street Water Mains	DPW	\$5,000,000
	<p>The proposed project includes the upgrade of all water mains on Main Street, in the Upper Common area. All service lines and fire protection lines from the new water mains to the property lines would also be replaced/upgraded to ensure there would be no issues (e.g., leaks on water service lines) within the roadways for many years/decades into the future.</p>		

2 Proposals --\$8,000,000

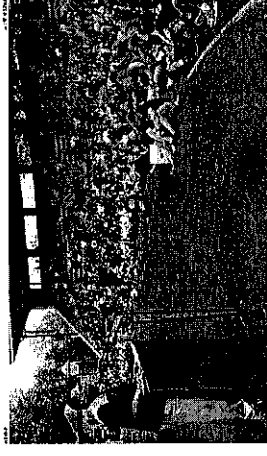


# **Restoring Crocker Field For Fitchburg**

**Increasing Equity and Optimizing Access  
For All Students, Athletes & Community**

# A Gift To The Children of Fitchburg

- Alvah Crocker gave the land and built Crocker Field “as a gift to the children of Fitchburg” in 1918
- On the National Register of Historic Sites – Olmsted Bros Landscape Architects



- For most of its 105-year history, Crocker Field has been the hub for outdoor sports and physical education activities for the Fitchburg School System and many other youth sports organizations: Football, Soccer, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Baseball, Track & Field, outdoor Ice Hockey, Special Olympics



- Special occasions including one of the oldest Thanksgiving football rivalries in America, All School Relays, public ceremonies, and graduation ceremonies are held there.

# Collaborative Partners For Crocker Field Restoration



- Crocker Field Restoration Committee is aligned with the City of Fitchburg and Fitchburg Public Schools with the goal of completing restoration efforts for Crocker Field to install multi-purpose Artificial Turf Field, New Stadium Lights and Track
- Our goal is to enhance equity and access to Crocker Field for all students of the Fitchburg Public Schools, the city's youth sports leagues and the community at large
- The completion of this restoration will place Crocker Field as the hub of an ongoing urban renewal of Fitchburg's Upper Common Neighborhood
- The Crocker Field Restoration Committee is working diligently to secure grants, sponsorships and donations to fund the project.



**COLLABORATION of Stakeholders has been the key!**

**A History of Working Together 2004 to 2022**

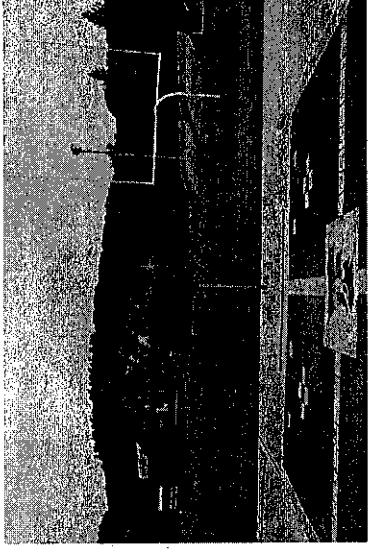
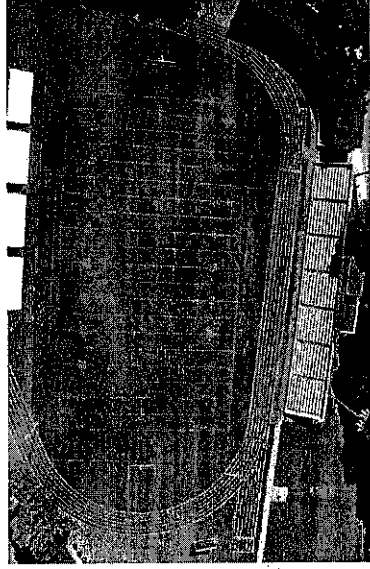
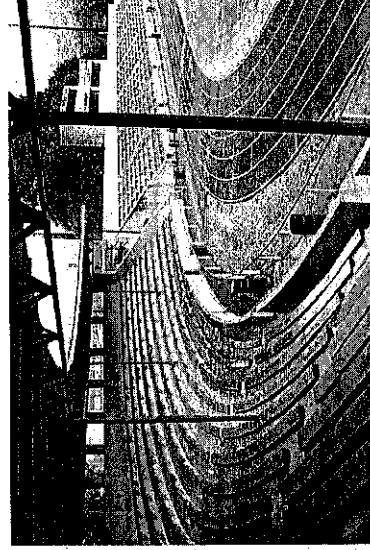
Over 2 million dollars of improvements over 18 years...

PROJECTS 2004 - 2020	Year	CFRC	SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	CITY of FITCHBURG CDBG	IN-KIND VOLUNTEER	Total
Concrete Restoration	2020	\$ 5,000				\$ 5,000
Brick Entrance Way & Brick Engraving	2019-2020	\$ 2,439				\$ 2,439
Lieneck & Smith Arch. Design Specs Grandstand	2019-2020	\$ 3,250				\$ 3,250
In-Kind Brick Way prep and installation and design	2018-2020	\$ 50				\$ 50
Brick Entrance site prep, installation, design labor	2018-2020				\$ 10,000.0	\$ 10,000
Grandstand CDBG Alternates	2020	\$ 17,600				\$ 17,600
Replace Obsolete Field Lighting	In Progress	\$17,557				\$17,557
P.A. System- New Speakers	2019				FATV	Unknown
Repair Upper Grandstand Wall (nr. Press Box)	2019	\$5,000				
JJA Sports (conditions of grass field) Field Ana	2019	\$4,105				\$4,105
Turf Management- Short-Term Repairs	2019	\$10,215				\$10,215
Topographic Survey (donated)	2019				\$20,000	\$20,000
Circle Street Entrance Walkway	2018	\$22,387			\$15,000	\$37,387

Structural Repairs, Phase 1	1994	\$32,564				\$32,564
Engineering Study & Design	1991				\$20,000	\$20,000
<b>TOTAL of ALL PROJECTS Thru 2022</b>		<b>\$650,758</b>	<b>\$739,308</b>	<b>\$588,640</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>	<b>\$2,088,706</b>

# Crocker Field Restoration Next Phase

- Stadium Lights need to be upgraded to new technology and improved coverage
- Track has been resurfaced several times and needs to be completely replaced
- Multi-Sport Artificial Turf Field, Track, and new Stadium Lights require a large capital investment
- Bid phase cost estimates by Gale Associates are \$3.1 - \$3.5 million



# Massive Increase In Access And Equity For Crocker Field

	<u>Current Crocker Field</u>	<u>Proposed Crocker Field</u>	<u>Current Crocker Field</u>	<u>Proposed Crocker Field</u>
Football	Yes(*)	Yes(**)	No	Yes
Field Hockey	No	Yes	No	Yes
Soccer	No	Yes	No	Yes
Lacrosse	No	Yes	No	Yes
Track & Field	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Graduation	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
MIAA Tournaments	No	Yes	No	Yes
Band Competitions	No	Yes	No	Yes
All School Relays	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Middle School Sports	No	Yes	No	Yes
			Youth Soccer	Yes
			Youth Football	Yes
			Youth Lacrosse	Yes
			Adult Soccer	Yes
			Community Running	Yes
			Community Walking	Yes
			Community CrossFit	Yes
			Civic Events	Yes

(\*) Only Varsity Football, six games per year can play on current Crocker Field Grass Field

(\*\*) JV and Freshman Football to be played on updated Crocker Field Artificial Turf Field





## Funding Commitments & Opportunities

- Project estimated at \$3.1 - \$3.5 Million
- The opportunity to dramatically improve Crocker Field and add a modern facility to the center of the city is NOW!
- The \$250,000 NFL grant is that rare gift that acts as the catalyst to further investment in our youth and in downtown economics
- We have secured another \$250,000 through two key benefactors Digital Properties and Polar Beverage
- Further fund raising will occur over the next few months
- The target date for this project is FY24
- To donate please visit [www.crockerfield.org](http://www.crockerfield.org) (watch the video)



# All Teams to Play and Events Held on Crocker Field

