

## KEYSTONE EAST SOFTBALL INFIELD TURF PROJECT

August 9, 2017

Park District Board,

River Forest Youth Baseball & Softball would like to propose the installation of field turf on the infield of the SOFTBALL (only) diamond at Keystone Park. There are many benefits in doing so – and many problems would be resolved by implementing this almost “no brainer” plan. This field – the infield in particular – is different than any other recreational area in the village. It is plagued by drainage problems given even a medium rainfall.

This initial document is preliminary in nature. The main purpose of this letter and attached material is meant to start the process – a discussion that will lead to a more detailed plan and implementation. I have attached quotes from reputable firms that specialize in this business. The companies have been involved in local field projects and are also known throughout the Chicagoland area for their care and quality in the products they deliver.

Upgrading the field will also reap benefits beyond just having better playing surface and solving drainage problems. As many of you may know RFYBS has hosted 5 State Tournaments in the last 6 years at Keystone Park. Large tournaments (in terms of the number of people AND length of stay) bring many people into River Forest and the surrounding area. We reap the benefits of visitors spending money here. We want to not just continue this – but expand these activities. We are recognized by Little League as one of the premier locations within our state and are chosen to host these events. We have also been told that if we install a turf infield, we will even be an even more of an inviting place to host.

The benefits of a turf infield versus the current all-dirt infield at Keystone:

1. We all know the current drainage issue we have had with the Keystone Softball field for many years and after even a medium good rain the field is unusable for an extended period of time.
2. Decreased maintenance—less labor and material needed to keep infield in good condition, a dramatic reduction in cost for all involved.
3. Increased usage/almost no downtime—rental potential?
4. The field becomes a multi-use field-easily changed to baseball (make-up games), other events, sports, etc.
5. Increased safety—less abrasive than sliding on clay, more consistent surface ball bounce.
6. Less dusty—neighbors will be happier.

It would also greatly enhance our own in-house program (just celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> year) which consists of 625+ players annually by reducing the number of rained out games, the ability to expand the schedule somewhat by being able to start games earlier in the year.

Please see the attached quotes from M-C Sport Systems, Inc for the excavation of the existing fielding and other prep before install of the field turf and then the quote from FieldTurf for the install of field turf itself.

As far as financing, RFYBS is willing to contribute \$50,000 to the Project.

I propose that we move forward and competently complete the necessary steps in a timely manner to have this facility ready for play with the new infield installed by spring 2018.

Sincerely,

Greg White  
President - River Forest Youth Baseball & Softball