

Consolidated Youth Athletic Facilities Capital Fund

Dear Parents,

The North Andover Fields Committee is comprised of representatives of the various youth sports organizations in town. We sit on the committee along with Rick Gorman, Director of Youth & Recreation Services, and representatives from the Department of Public Works, the 'Community Preservation Act' committee, and the School Department's Athletic Director. The various youth sports organizations include the North Andover Booster Club, the North Andover Lacrosse Association, the North Andover Soccer Association, and the North Andover Youth Baseball Association. In that capacity, we have first hand knowledge of the current conditions and future needs of athletic facilities within our Town.

There are approximately 6000 registered participants in youth sports programs in North Andover each year. To provide for the increasing demand for facilities in North Andover for the youth programs, and recognizing the difficult financial situation the Town is in, we have proposed that a predictable source of capital funds be started.

A donation would be made into a revolving account by each youth sports organization. The donations would be related to registrations each season. Based on approximately \$10.00 per registration, the donations would generate as much as \$60,000 annually. The funds would be used when available in appropriate amounts to fund the acquisition and creation of additional facilities, and/or the total rehabilitation of existing fields or facilities for the youth programs. Use of the funds would be at the direction of the Fields Committee, but with the consent of the Town of North Andover (through its *Board of Selectman* and/or the Town Manager).

The provision of new facilities, regardless of the youth sport to be served, would be in the best interests of all of the programs. The availability of additional playing fields will serve a specific user. However, it will also make available to other programs the previously used or overcommitted facilities. All programs and users will benefit.

This program has the potential to provide funding for a new athletic field or facility every four to six years. There is already a serious shortage of facilities in North Andover. However, there is currently no funding or plan in place to address the existing shortage or increased future demand.

The intention of the Fields Committee and all of the individual youth athletic organizations served by this program is to combine it with project-specific fundraising and targeted contributions. With a predictable source of funds we will be able to improve

and eventually provide high-quality facilities that are safe and enjoyable for every child and parent in North Andover.

Respectfully,

Town of North Andover Fields Committee:

Rick Gorman, Chair

NABC

David Johns, NALax

Bill Sullivan, NASA

Steve Chaff, NAYB

Cliff Bourie, ad hoc

Dave Brown, ad hoc

Terry Holland, ad hoc

League Presidents:

Bill McCarthy, NABC

Larry Ayres, NALax

Fred Coons, NASA

Steve Chaff, NAYB