

Readfield Trails Committee
Comments on Ballfields Plans dated 2/24/22
and Cross Sections Dated 3/2/22

The following comments are provided by individual committee members and while discussed at our March 23rd meeting do not necessarily represent the views of all committee members. No votes were taken on these comments individually or as a whole.

Comments (in no particular order or priority):

1. Area proposed for the basketball/pickle ball court is very wet and contains ponded water at least seasonally. The area to the north closer to the cemetery line would be drier. Planners and engineers need to re-visit the site during wet spring conditions.
2. Do not want to see the memorial trees and bench moved. Proposed trailhead relocation (note 1) should still be routed to where the trees and bench are currently located. (One or more members say they are firmly against moving.)
3. The proposed trail location off the southeast corner (note 1) of the parking lot would be very steep. The new location seems primarily esthetic rather than functional. Some members expressed they were okay with having a spur trail connecting to the southeast corner. There is currently a Y in the trail that brings one leg of the Y very close to the southeast corner. It may be possible to close the western branch of the Y to achieve what the current plan proposes. The Y may not be shown on some maps of the site.
4. Drainage for the current baseball field site is still a problem. In parts of the winter and early spring the outfield is like a skating rink with the ponded water. Need to consider this in the new designs.
5. There is a bog across the Church road from the basketball court which may contribute to the wetness although there is apparently no direct connection across the road between the two wet areas.
6. Why do we need a basketball court and a concession stand? These ballfields will be used for only a small part of the year. Who would really use the basketball court and concession stand and is there any research (surveys of town residents?) demonstrating the need?

7. If a concession stand is needed wouldn't bathroom facilities and a water supply be needed as well?
8. The softball field is okay but the other facilities should not be constructed until there is a demonstrated need. (Most if not all members seem to be okay with the softball field).
9. The cemetery committee should be consulted on the design. It may not be appropriate to move the basketball court any closer to the cemetery. There may already be some sort of agreement to minimize disturbance from the Fairgrounds facilities when funeral or memorial services are occurring at the cemetery.
10. Cross sections should be shown on Concept Sketch A with the ends of the lines clearly labeled on both the sketch and the sections.
11. A water supply (well) would be useful to include to provide water particularly if the Outfields area will have three season use increasing the need to maintain grass cover. Community events during dry periods can cause a lot of damage. It will also be useful if a concession stand is included.
12. Outfield fencing should be easily removable and transportable to allow for other than softball/baseball uses.
13. Assuming the basketball court will be full size the lines should be installed for 3 pickle ball courts (I believe this is the number of pickle ball courts that will fit on a full size basketball court).
14. While not a design issue the funding source may impact RTC member support. An open-ended commitment of taxpayer funds may not be acceptable.