

Heaphy Field Infield Renovation

Barnes Memorial Park - Dedham, MA

Capital Budget Presentation

Parks & Recreation Department

January 2026

Heaphy Field - Barnes Memorial Park (Aerial View)



Project Overview

- ▶ Heaphy Field is Dedham's primary baseball field and the home field for Dedham High School varsity baseball.
- ▶ After 15 years of heavy use, the infield has developed drainage, performance, and safety issues that routine maintenance can no longer correct.

Why This Project Is Needed

- ▶ • Significant infield lip buildup creating unsafe transitions
- ▶ • Poor drainage leading to standing water and game cancellations
- ▶ • Uneven playing surface increasing injury risk
- ▶ Sports turf professionals have recommended a full infield renovation.

What Is an Infield Lip?

- ▶ An infield lip forms when loose infield mix is pushed into the grass edge.
- ▶ This creates a raised ridge that:
 - ▶ • Causes unpredictable ball hops
 - ▶ • Increases risk of ankle and leg injuries
 - ▶ • Traps water and worsens drainage
- ▶ Routine dragging cannot fix lips – full removal and regrading are required.

Safety Concerns

- ▶ • Increased risk of ankle, knee, and leg injuries
- ▶ • Erratic ball movement affecting player reaction time
- ▶ • Water trapped along lips causes muddy, unsafe conditions
- ▶ Correcting lips requires full removal and regrading—not spot repairs.

Proposed Scope of Work

- ▶ • Remove existing sod and infield mix
- ▶ • Lower and eliminate infield lips
- ▶ • Regrade grass for improved drainage
- ▶ • Rebuild pitcher's mound and home plate with clay fortification
- ▶ • Install new infield mix and sod
- ▶ • Adjust irrigation system

Optional Drainage Upgrade

- ▶ • Subsurface drainage system beneath infield
- ▶ • Faster drying after rain
- ▶ • Earlier spring readiness
- ▶ • Reduced cancellations and maintenance costs
- ▶ Recommended but optional based on funding availability.

Cost Summary

- ▶ Base Infield Renovation: \$200,000
- ▶ Drainage Upgrade (Optional): + \$50,000
- ▶ Total Requested (FY27): \$250,000
- ▶ This is a one-time capital investment.

Optional upgrades (not included)

Team Area Improvements	30' backstop fencing improvements and paving for team bench areas	130,000 - \$150,000
Upgraded Backstop System	Knee wall and tension netting backstop (in addition to standard fencing)	+ \$50,000 - \$75,000
CMU Dugouts	Permanent masonry dugout structures	~\$200,000
Spectator Seating	5-7 row aluminum wraparound grandstand with seating for 250 and filming platform	\$200,000 - \$250,000
Press Box	Covered game management press box	\$125,000 - \$150,000

Community & School Benefits

- ▶ • Safer playing surface for students and youth athletes
- ▶ • Reliable home field for Dedham High School baseball
- ▶ • Fewer rainouts and rescheduled games
- ▶ • Protects a major community asset

Why Act Now

- ▶ • Conditions will continue to worsen if deferred
- ▶ • Increased injury and liability risk
- ▶ • Higher future construction costs
- ▶ Renovating now prevents more expensive repairs later.

Conclusion

- ▶ This project addresses safety, playability, and long-term field performance.
- ▶ The requested funding allows Dedham to preserve its primary baseball facility and support both school and community athletics.



Existing Infield Condition



Existing



Existing Infield Conditions & Lip Buildup



