

Manchester Essex Playing Fields Committee

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- ❖ Authorized by Manchester & Essex Board of Selectmen
- ❖ Objectives:
 - Prepare a plan for efficient utilization of the playing fields available to serve town and school athletic needs.
 - Recommend actions, including development of new fields, to allow these needs to be met
 - Bring both community and school athletic sports programs together from both towns to optimize limited field space.
- ❖ Budget = \$0
- ❖ First meeting – November, 2006

MEPFC Activities 2006 - Present

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- ❖ Coordinate field space within both Towns to assure a fair chance of using existing fields for all. Work with Manchester Parks & Recreation Director, Essex Public Works Director, School Athletic Director, and Essex Selectmen to achieve one central coordinating body.
- ❖ Assessed participation levels and needs of all sports programs in the community (incl. MERSD) to determine actual field requirements for youth and adults.
- ❖ Identify and analyze possible new field sites, supported by CPA funds.
- ❖ Present new field research results and next steps to Manchester & Essex Boards of Selectmen.

MEPFC -- Participants

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- ❖ Selectmen (2)
- ❖ School Committee
- ❖ School Building Committee
- ❖ HS/MS Athletic Director
- ❖ Manchester Soccer Club
- ❖ Essex Youth Soccer
- ❖ Jr. Hornets Football
- ❖ ME Little League
- ❖ ME Youth Softball
- ❖ Manchester Parks & Recreation Director
- ❖ Essex Public Works Dir.
- ❖ Essex at-large
- ❖ Manchester at-large

Playing Fields Available

FALL SPRING

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<u>FIELDS</u>	<u>Fall 2010</u>	<u>Spring 2011</u>
High School – “Hyland Field” (Lights) Multi-Purpose Field – ARTIFICIAL TURF	HS Football Jr. Hornets Games HS Soccer	HS Lacrosse MSC Soccer
Brook Street – “Coach Ed Field Playground” Multi-Purpose Field – ARTIFICIAL TURF	HS Field Hockey MSC & Men’s Soccer	HS Lacrosse MSC & Men’s Soccer
Sweeney Park: Front & Back (Lights) LL baseball & softball fields / convert to small soccer	MS Field Hockey MSC Soccer	HS / Youth Softball LL Baseball
Masconomo Park LL baseball field / convert to small soccer	MSC Soccer	Ultimate Frisbee LL Baseball
Memorial Park – Front Full-sized baseball field	Jr. Hornets practice	HS Baseball Babe Ruth Baseball Men’s Town Team
Memorial Park – Back Softball field	Essex Youth Soccer Jr. Hornets practice	Youth Softball
Field-of-Dreams #1 & 2 Two LL Baseball fields		LL Baseball Youth Softball
Essex Elementary Small soccer field	MS Soccer MSC Soccer	MSC Soccer

Playing Fields Available: Hours/Week

<u>FIELDS</u>	<u>Fall 2010</u>	<u>Spring 2011</u>
High School – “Hyland Field” (Lights) Multi-Purpose Field – ARTIFICIAL TURF	50 hrs/week	50 hrs/week
Brook St – “Coach Ed Field Playground” Multi-Purpose Field – ARTIFICIAL TURF	35	40
Sweeney Park: Front & Back (Lights) LL baseball & softball fields / convert to small soccer	50	100
Masconomo Park LL baseball field / convert to small soccer	35	37
Memorial Park – Front Full-sized baseball field	35	37
Memorial Park – Back Softball field	35	37
Field-of-Dreams #1 & 2 Two LL Baseball fields	70	74
Essex Elementary Small soccer field	35	37

Participation Levels / Fall

[PDF](#)

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<u>TEAMS</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u># PLAYERS</u>	<u>Field Hours/ week</u>
HS Field Hockey: V, JV, Fresh, MS (2)	5	107	34
HS Football: V, JV	2	53	20
HS Soccer: Boys + Girls V & JV, MS (2)	6	102	45
Manchester Soccer Club: U6 – U14	21 + U6/U8	510	60
Junior Hornets Football: 2 nd – 8 th grade	4	87	13
Essex Youth Soccer: Pre-K – 4 th grade	10	144	4
Men's Soccer: Over 30, Over 40 (2)	3	45	4
TOTALS	51	1048	180

Participation Levels / Spring

[PDF Baseball PDF](#)

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<u>TEAMS</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u># PLAYERS</u>	<u>Field Hours/ week</u>
HS Baseball: V, JV	2	26	27.5
HS Softball: V, JV	2	25	27.5
HS Lacrosse: Boys + Girls V & JV	4	78	37
HS Ultimate Frisbee: A & B	2	28	12
Manchester Soccer Club: U6 – U19	22 + U6/U8	485	85
LL Baseball, Youth Softball, T-Ball	38	425	157
Babe Ruth Baseball: Jr & Sr	4-5	67	32
Men's Town-Team Baseball	1	25	6
Men's Soccer: Over 30, Over 40 (2)	3	45	4
TOTALS	78/79	1204	388

Fields Needs vs. Availability

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- | | |
|--|------------------|
| ❖ <i>Multi-Purpose Shortfall / Fall</i> | <i>44 hrs/wk</i> |
| ❖ <i>Multi-Purpose Shortfall /Spring</i> | <i>Emerging</i> |
| ❖ <i>*Full Size Baseball Field Shortfall</i> | <i>28 hrs/wk</i> |
- * Only one field for 7 – 8 baseball teams*

IMPACT

- ❖ *Reduced practice time for athletes*
- ❖ *MSC Soccer Teams head out of town*
- ❖ *Inadequate resources for baseball programs*
- ❖ *Staggered practice schedules thru afternoon and evening (supervision & transportation issues)*
- ❖ *No MS or Town Lacrosse programs for younger players*
- ❖ *Natural turf fields deteriorate rapidly from constant use*

Manchester & Essex New Fields Needed

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Priorities

1. One Multipurpose field with Lights
2. One full-sized baseball field
3. One "official" girls softball field

Manchester Sites Considered

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MEPFC and Stantec Consultants walked/studied the following sites:

- * Winthrop Field (Off 127)
- * Ann's Woods (North of 128 @ Pine st. exit)
- * Sweeney Park (to reconfigure/expand)
- * Upper Pine St. (at the end of Crooked Lane)
- * Upper School St. (Brown) across from medical offices

Other Sites Considered by MEPFC

- Donovan property (adjacent to MAC)
- DPW yard (Off Pleasant st.) / Transfer Station

* Stantec Consulting issued a summary report of their study on these properties

Results

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4 Sites To Be Considered Further For Development/Renovation

- 1) Upper Pine St.
- 2) Upper School St. (Brown Property)
- 3) Donovan Property
- 4) Sweeney Park

Upper Pine St.

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Pros

- ✓ Accommodates one full sized baseball and 2 multi-purpose fields
- ✓ South of 128 so water & sewer are accessible
- ✓ Near general residential area, but no abutters
- ✓ Comparatively level terrain

[PDE](#)

Cons

- Purchase/swap required
- Multiple owners
- Requires longest road, utility extensions
- Currently completely undeveloped
- Only access through residential area
- Land development costs substantial

Upper School St.

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Pros

- ✓ Single owner ?
- ✓ Adjacent to main road
- ✓ Between Manchester & Essex
- ✓ Accommodates one full sized baseball and 1 multi-purpose & one small soccer field
- ✓ Zoned commercial
- ✓ No abutters

Cons

- North of 128 – no water, sewer
- Steepest terrain of 3
- Appears to be entirely ledge
- Surrounded on all but road side by wetlands
- Land development costs substantial

[PDF](#)

Donovan Property

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Pros

- ✓ Single motivated owner
- ✓ Land already leveled and prepped for fields
- ✓ Adjacent to service road
- ✓ Desirable location between Manchester & Essex
- ✓ Accommodates one full sized baseball and 1 multi-purpose & one small soccer field
- ✓ Zoned commercial (?)

Cons

- North of 128 - no water, sewer available
- Cost & Terms-of-Use unknown

[Photo](#) [Rendering](#) [Site Plan 4/09_Donovan Old site plan \(Geller\)](#)

Sweeney Park

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Pros

- ✓ Owned by Town
- ✓ Utilities, parking, & access exist
- ✓ Walking distance from schools
- ✓ Present Spring use = one LL field and one marginal Softball field
- ✓ Present Fall use = one marginal medium-size soccer field or several smaller soccer fields
- ✓ Would benefit from renovation/reconfiguration: full-sized baseball? Or one LL baseball and one official softball field

Cons

- Wet – poor drainage
- Surrounding wetlands may limit full-sized baseball field

[Sweeney Park](#)
[Sweeney B](#)

MEPFC Recommendations

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- ❖ Explore potential terms & costs on Donovan Property
- ❖ Explore renovation/reconfiguration for Sweeney Park
- ❖ Perform cost analysis on Upper Pine & Upper School
- ❖ Investigate possible Essex sites (Essex CPA funding?)
- Report back in 3 months for Manchester sites and 6-9 months for Essex sites
- Communicate results & feedback