

TO: Board of Commissioners

FROM: Rob Sperl, Director of Parks and Planning
Steve Hinchee, Superintendent of Planning

THROUGH: Michael Benard, Executive Director

RE: 2025 Graf Field Replacement and District Field Study

DATE: May 21, 2025



SUMMARY:

In 2014 an artificial turf field was constructed on the leased portion. Due to the age of the turf surface, the district is seeking to replace it. Additionally, the condition of the track around the field is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. Finally at Graf, staff would like to construct new batting cages to match what was recently installed at Atten Park. The area north of the field, where the batting cages are proposed, is currently where two large sets of bleachers exist. By reconfiguring the bleachers with new, the space will accommodate both uses. The park district anticipates being able to begin construction at Graf after the conclusion of the 2025 athletic season.

In addition to the work outlined above, engineers were asked to study the remaining athletic fields at Graf Park, along with lighted fields at Atten Park, the Central Athletic Complex. Because they are lit, they are some of the most heavily used fields in the district and the grass is subject to increased stress. Also portions of these fields exist in the floodplain. The aim of the study would be to explore improvements to these fields, including drainage, irrigation and possibly artificial turf. Staff also requested services related to irrigation at Seven Gables Park. The report would present the pros, cons and cost differences for the two or three options that can be discussed with various stakeholders and serve as a guide to future budgeting.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent to three civil engineering firms on March 24, 2025 to aid in the development of concept plan and cost estimate suitable for grant submittal. The following is a summary of proposals that were received on April 10, 2025.

Firm	Graf Field Replacement	Field Study (Atten, CAC & Graf)	Reimbursables	Total Contract
Wight	\$54,500	\$13,500	\$1,200	\$69,200
Cage	\$69,300	\$26,100		\$95,400

Wight has performed work for the district in the past, including engineering for the original Graf synthetic turf field.

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE/BOARD ACTION:

N/A

REVENUE OR FUNDING IMPLICATIONS:

\$50,000 is budgeted for work at Graf in 2025 and another \$50,000 is budgeted for studying other fields.

STAKEHOLDER PROCESS:

We will work with athletics programming staff throughout the process.

LEGAL REVIEW:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposal from Wight
Request for Proposal

ALTERNATIVES:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Wheaton Park District Board of Commissioners approve the proposal in the amount not to exceed \$69,200 from Wight for the 2025 Graf Field Replacement and District Field Study.