

Program/Scope - Memorial Field

State College Area School District
October 12, 2009

Introductory Scope:

The State College Area School District is seeking to update and renovate its primary outdoor sporting venue, known as Memorial Field. The school district is a Quad-A level district, with approximately 7,200 students, located in Centre County, Pennsylvania. Memorial Field is a varsity, ninth grade, and middle school multi-sport site (FB, FH, BSOC, GSOC, BLAX and GLAX) used for both regular season and PIAA post-season events. In 2003 the district, in partnership with a private group of concerned citizens, installed artificial turf to better support the large number of uses.

The current stadium does not have restrooms or locker rooms and operates with makeshift support facilities carved out of adjacent buildings. Current seating capacity is 3,945, which is configured in such a manner that there is no circulation between the western side of the stadium and the eastern side. The district recently closed a section of the west bleachers due to a failing retaining wall.

The district and community have long considered this facility a community resource with historic value. The stadium was originally constructed in 1938 as a WPA project under the direction of landscape architect John Bracken. Unique in its urban setting, the stadium occupies 1 city block and is contiguous to the district's Central Office building (131 West Nittany Ave.). This building, built in 1924, is a 15,585 ft², converted Elementary School. Across Nittany Ave. is the district's original High School building, which now houses a number of district educational and administrative functions. Currently called the Fairmount Avenue building, this 88,978 ft² structure was originally constructed in 1914 with additions in 1921, 1931, 1938, and 1942.

The stadium is one of the lowest points in downtown State College. Approximately 45 acres of the borough's storm water system is piped to a sinkhole whose throat is under the east bleachers. While this sinkhole adequately drains most rain events, during high intensity or long duration storms, the sinkhole surcharges and floods the field, which then acts as a retention basin.

In July of 2008, the State College Area School District employed DeJong, Inc. to complete a District Wide Facilities Master Plan (more information, including the entire plan is available through the District web-site - SCASD.ORG). On April 20, 2009, the Board of School Directors received preliminary plan recommendations. The completed DWFMP was adopted in June of 2009 and contained 17 recommendations, one of which addressed this facility:

Recommendation #4-

The Facility Master Plan Steering Committee recommends the renovation of Memorial Field.

Based on the location of the High School, it is recommended that Memorial Field be renovated at its current location. This renovation should include renovating the existing administration building and possibly part of the Fairmount Avenue School into athletic facilities.

The district is seeking a professional to design the stadium renovation project. It is anticipated that the selected firm will first work with the Board of School Directors to develop a schematic design for the project. This design will be used to solicit community feedback. During the schematic design process, the district would also like to collaborate with the Borough of State College regarding opportunities to incorporate the adjoining park and/or streets into solutions for added capacity and circulation. The design professional would explore and present these possibilities to both parties prior to the adoption of a final schematic design.

Program:

The program is expressed as a base program with additional program features to be considered at a later date. The base program should be designed as a multi-phased project to be funded and constructed as time and resources allow. The additional features will be designed as items to be completed after the base program is finished and not as “add-alternates” to the bidding phases of the base project.

Base Program:

Seating-

Replace all current seating. Maintain the existing seating capacity of the stadium (4,000) while achieving compliance with all current handicapped and egress standards.

Press box-

Replace the current Press box with an appropriately sized facility.

Retaining Walls-

Study the structural integrity of all retaining walls and design replacement projects as necessary. The retaining wall behind the west bleachers will be incorporated into phase 1 of the proposed project.

Support facilities-

Design, as part of the project, construction plans that utilize vacated central office space from the 131 West Nittany Ave. and Fairmount Ave. These buildings are targeted to accommodate restrooms and locker room facilities. Evaluate both buildings in regard to appropriate space and compare renovation costs versus demolition/new construction to determine the most economically advantageous solution.

Restroom size, location and number will be determined by code and zoning requirements.

Locker Rooms-

Visiting team locker room:

- One room with 60 open, wide metal lockers - each with a lockable compartment for valuables.
- Coaches' locker room with 10 lockers.
- Proportional restroom and shower facilities.

Home team locker room:

- 110 open, wide metal lockers - each with a lockable compartment for valuables.
- Coaches' locker room with 15 lockers.
- Proportional restroom and shower facilities.

Officials' locker room:

- One room with 12 lockers similar to above.
- Proportional restroom and shower facilities.

Home team athletic training room:

- One room with 4 tables, storage cabinets, sink and an ice machine.

Circulation-

The stadium should be configured to allow for complete circulation from the east to the west bleachers. This could be accomplished within the footprint of the stadium, or through a mutually acceptable solution that incorporates the use of adjoining property.

Flooding-

The Borough has studied the flooding issue. As part of the schematic design process, options for reducing the flooding should be presented and the chosen strategy incorporated into the final design.

Additional Program features:

Seating-

Add additional seating to reach a capacity of 5,000 - 6,000 total seats; or more, if conditions permit. (Maximum capacity within the site limitations should be determined and designed as part of the additional program.)

Amenities to be added-

- Home team meeting room for 75 seats for film review.
- Home team coaches' meeting room
- Fully equipped weight room