

EGGERSS STADIUM

You asked. We answered!

Q: What renovations will take place?

A: All renovations will focus on 3 key components - safety and accessibility, expanded usability, and preservation of tradition. Preliminary plans include the following renovations:

- Concrete restoration of stadium infrastructure
- Widening aisles and adding handrails
- Replacing safety railings
- Handicap seating & accessibility in the stadium
- Artificial turf field
- New concession stand under the stadium
- New concession building with restrooms and storage in the south end zone
- New, larger restrooms for both men and women under the stadium
- New Cougar Pride Marching Band bleachers in the south end zone
- Expanded home side press box designed as a multi-purpose space
- Additional parking (150+ spots off Crawford)
- New Cougar Football locker room under the stadium
- Storage under the stadium
- Preservation of the Cougar Pride Wall

Q: What is the estimated annual cost to homeowners?

A: After a thorough analysis, the budget is estimated to be \$5 million, which will be funded primarily through a 20-year bond on the May 2022 ballot. Interest rates cannot be secured until the issue passes, but at the time of this publication, the annual cost for an individual owning a home with a \$100,000 taxable value is approximately **\$40 per year**.

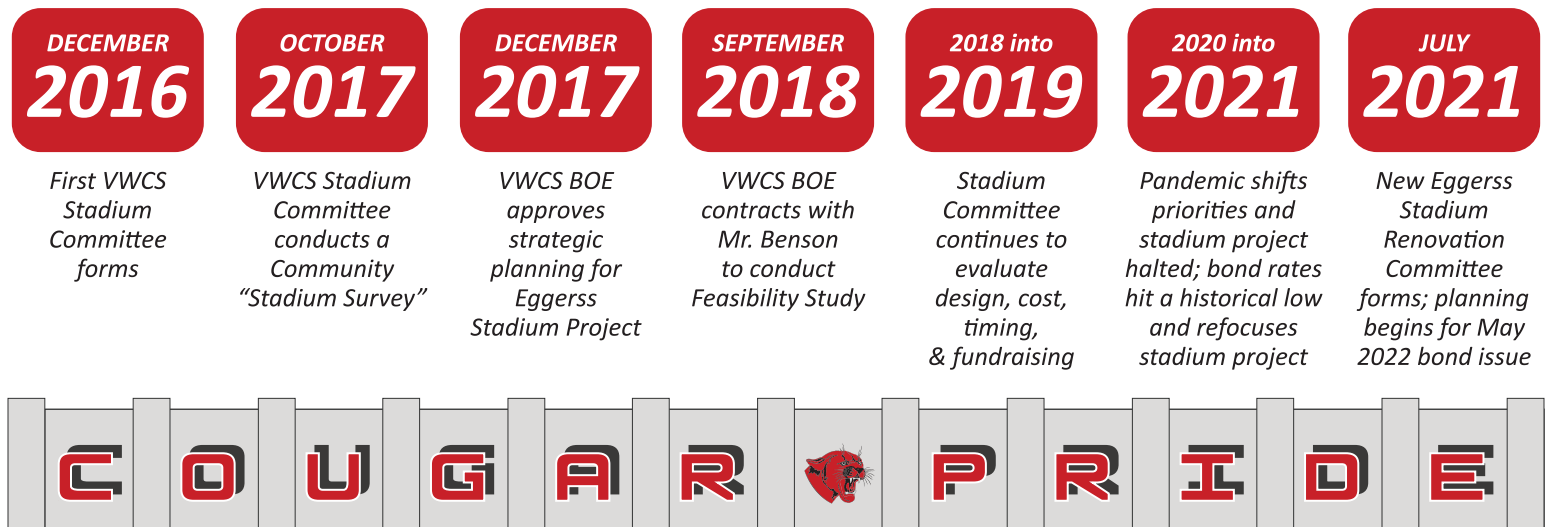
Q: Why not raise private funds, including naming rights, prior to placing it on the ballot?

A: In September 2018, the VWCS Board of Education contracted with Howard Benson, CEO of National Community Development Services, to conduct a Feasibility Study. Mr. Benson met with several community members to ascertain their interest in providing financial support for this project. The results fell very short of expectations; Mr. Benson concluded that only \$1.2 million could be raised in private funds. It was determined that either a sole donor willing to provide a large portion of funds or a successful bond issue would be needed to pay the difference.

VWCS takes its fiscal responsibilities very seriously and therefore the plans for the stadium are not extravagant. Private contributions will be used to enhance the current plans at the wishes of the donor(s), and naming rights may be granted. Monies raised above and beyond the needs of the stadium will be placed in the Athletics Facilities fund to help maintain the stadium for decades to come.

Q: Why not renovate the stadium in phases?

A: VWCS has been maintaining Eggerss Stadium in phases for several years. At this time, the concrete stadium and home bleachers are the main concerns, which are the most costly portion of the \$5 million estimate. Additionally, when looking at the "big picture", phases will be more expensive in the long run. For a detailed look at what maintenance has been performed over the last 30 years, please visit vwcs.net and click **Athletics > Eggerss Stadium > Eggerss Stadium Maintenance History**.



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Q: What is the long-term strategy for maintenance of the facility? Can the school district's current operating budget support it?

A: VWCS has two funds that will be used to maintain the stadium long-term: an Athletics Facility Fund and the Permanent Improvement Fund. The Athletics Facility Fund is relatively new and will be used to help maintain several athletic facilities: Eggerss Stadium, the track, the tennis complex, and multiple basketball courts. The Permanent Improvement Fund is currently paying off debts accumulated by the lighting project and visitor bleachers at Eggerss Stadium. Once those debts are paid off, that fund will be available to help maintain the stadium.

Q: What public access to the stadium facility will there be outside of sporting events?

A: The installation of artificial turf will allow Eggerss Stadium and the press box to become a multi-purpose venue. VWCS welcomes any ideas for how the stadium could be used outside of athletics, and we invite community members to work with us on how to make it happen. We envision events such as concerts, dance/cheer/band competitions and performances, and youth activities, but all things are possible.

Q: Will local contractors be used for this project?

A: Garmann Miller, located in Minster, Ohio, is the board-approved architect that will be providing professional services related to planning, design, and construction. It is our intention to use local contractors when possible, and all local contractors are invited to submit bids for the project. However, the school district has an obligation to be fiscally responsible when considering all bids.

Q: Is the stadium project in partnership with or does it have support from Van Wert Forward?

A: The Eggerss Stadium Renovation Project is a standalone project. Van Wert Forward is an extension of the Van Wert County Foundation and therefore cannot publicly support any issue being placed before voters. While the Van Wert Forward initiative remains neutral, many of the individuals involved with Van Wert Forward support the project on a personal level. We all have the same goal for Van Wert and that is to preserve our beautiful, historic downtown while providing a space the entire community can enjoy.

Q: Will the band continue to use the existing music room? Will there be additional band storage space?

A: We will continue to make good use of existing space, and that includes the Goedde music room. Preliminary plans include additional storage for the band closer to the field and new band bleachers.

For a comprehensive list of frequently asked questions, please visit our website at www.vwcs.net/vwathletics/Content/eggerss-stadium-renovations or scan the QR code.



KEY DATES TO REMEMBER!

March 18, 2022 - Military & overseas absentee voting begins

April 4, 2022 - Deadline to register to vote

April 5, 2022 - Early in-person voting & absentee voting by mail begins

May 3, 2022 - Election Day

For more information about voting in Ohio, please visit www.ohiosos.gov/elections/voters.

**If the bond issue passes on May 3, construction could begin as early as summer 2022. Planned renovations could take up to three years to complete, but all future Cougar football games are scheduled to be played at Eggerss Stadium.*

