Montgomery County Board of Education
May 6, 2024
Montgomery Central Baseball/Softball Safety

April 11, 2024, Onsite Meeting Recap: Consensus of members present:

1. After reviewing new construction in surrounding counties, Montgomery Central is neither unique nor inherently unsafe in design (see attached photos).
2. Notwithstanding, the scheduling of concurrent games and practices for baseball and softball necessitates additional safety measures to protect players and spectators.
3. The removal of the existing backstop chain-link fencing and the installation of 40' high soft netting tie-back system at baseball and softball would greatly reduce the risk of injury.
4. Dug outs for baseball and softball should remain as constructed.
5. No issue with shortening the softball field to 200 ft., as it was originally designed.
6. No issue with construction of bullpens along the baselines for baseball and softball.

Recommendations:

1. Installation of tie-back soft netting for both baseball and softball fields.
2. Proceed with local contractors for installation of bullpens and related turf work.
3. Proceed with local contractors to shorten softball field to 200' and related turf work.
4. Table relocation of softball bleachers.
5. Meet with County Manager and ask the County to fund (1) safety netting for both fields, (2) construction of bullpens with local contractors, (3) shortening of softball field to its originally designed distance of 200', and (4) the construction of a solar shade at the home concourse entrance (back corner of tennis courts- beside home ticket booth) to provide tennis players relief from sun during breaks and to be used by security during football and soccer events.
6. Estimated total costs: $ **300,000.00**.

Representative Photo of New Net



LAYOUT PROOF

DISCLAIMER: Sportsfield Specialties, Inc. netting systems are designed and intended as a complete netting system. In the event your facility replaces an existing system, relies on existing structural elements, or purchases an extension to an existing netting system, Sportsfield Specialties, Inc. does not make any representations or warranty relating to the overall design of the combined facility and/or the connection points to and the cables that are part of the existing netting system. Owner's decision to proceed with an extension in lieu of a complete new netting system will be at Owner's sole risk and without liability to Sportsfield Specialties, Inc. and Owner shall indemnify and hold harmless Sportsfield Specialties, Inc. from all claims, damages, losses and expenses arising out of or resulting therefrom.

CUSTOMER SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____



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Montgomery County Schools Baseball

3-D Layout

Layout, measurements and overall aesthetics shown are approximate. Actual field conditions may vary from what is shown on these sketches.

Verification of loads on any existing structural elements shall be by others.

Final tension and deflection in the netting shall be determined, accepted and maintained by the Owner.

Systems utilizing Dyneema® rope should be expected to sag/stretch after initial installation. SSI strongly recommends that the client prepare for a re-tensioning trip in the weeks/months after initial installation, but this has been excluded from our proposal unless directed otherwise.

3' Minimum Clearance recommended from SSI Batting Tunnels to any walls/ceilings/objects.

SSI cannot be held liable if concrete cracks while installing eyelets or poles at the concrete wall and/or dugout.

Restoration of the warning track, grass, turf, concrete and/or any other surface is not included.

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LAYOUT PROOF

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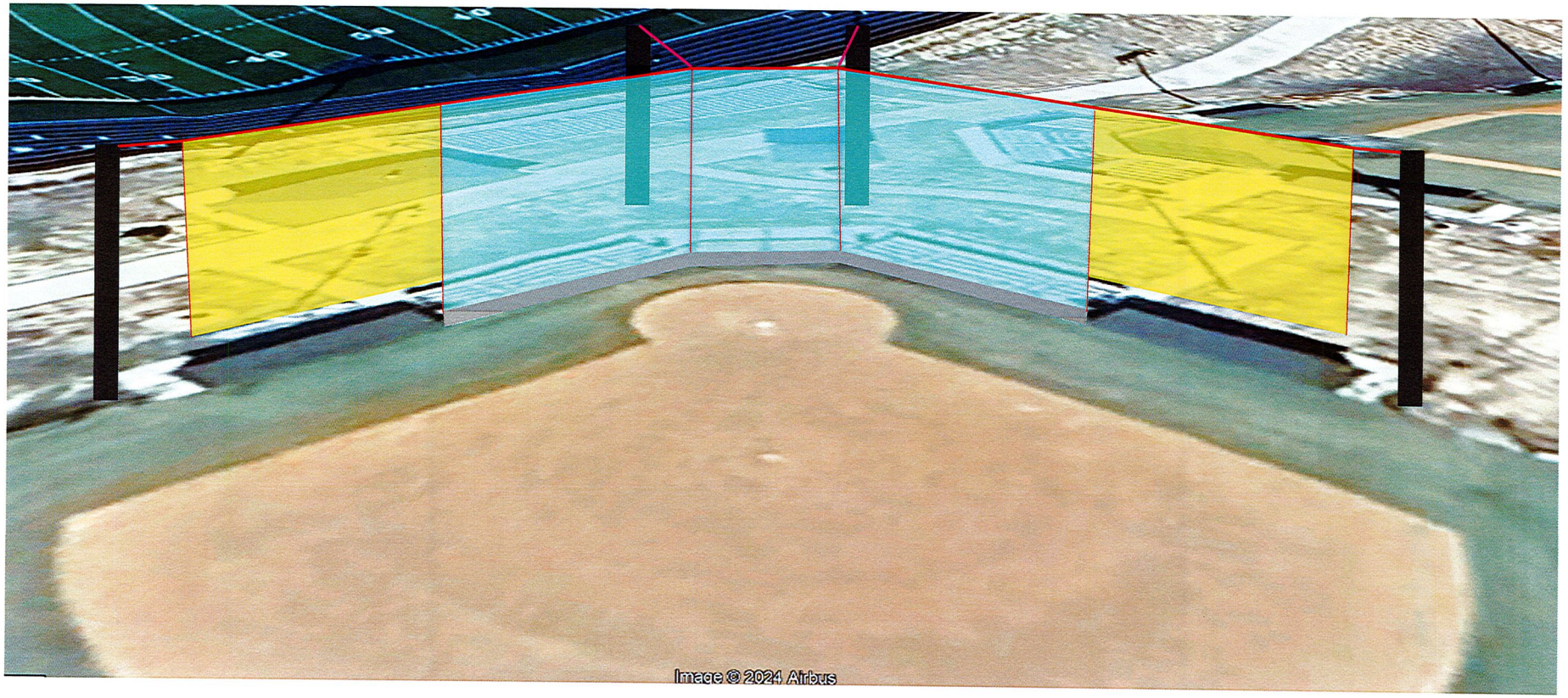
CUSTOMER SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____



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Montgomery County Schools Softball

3-D Layout

Layout, measurements and overall aesthetics shown are approximate. Actual field conditions may vary from what is shown on these sketches.

Verification of leads on any existing structural elements shall be by others.

Final tension and deflection in the netting shall be determined, accepted and maintained by the Owner.

Systems utilizing Dyneema® rope should be expected to sag/stretch after initial installation. SSI strongly recommends that the client prepare for a re-tensioning trip in the week/months after initial installation, but this has been excluded from our proposal unless directed otherwise.

2' Minimum Clearance recommended from SSI Batting Tunnels to any walls/ceilings/objects.

SSI cannot be held liable if concrete cracks while installing eyelets or poles at the concrete wall and/or dugout.

Restoration of the warning track, grass, turf, concrete and/or any other surface is not included.

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West Mecklenburg



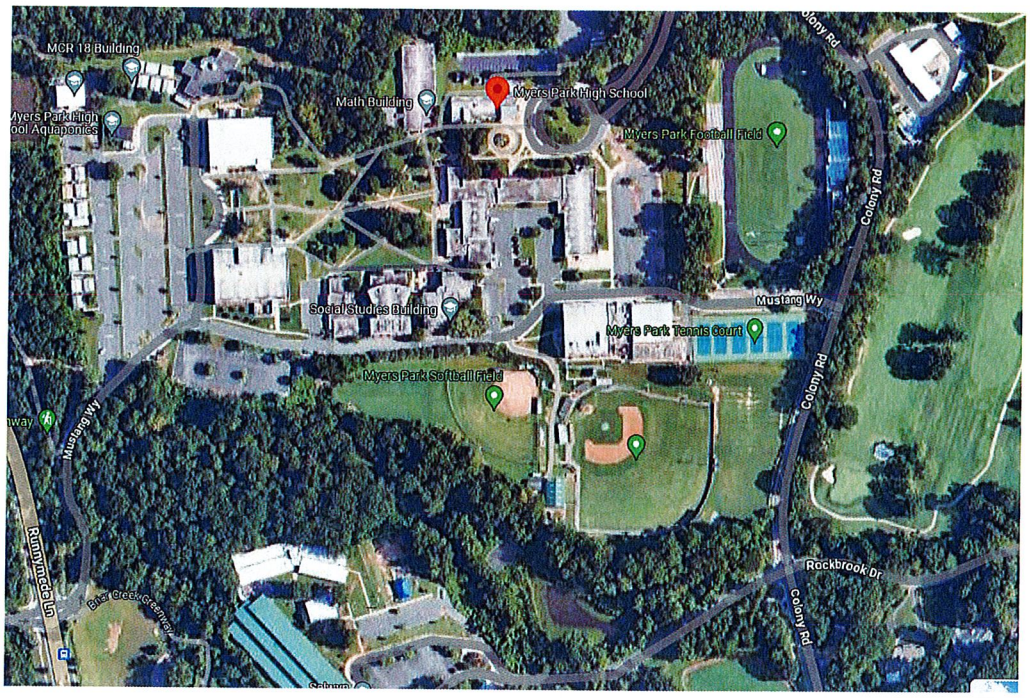
Porter Ridge



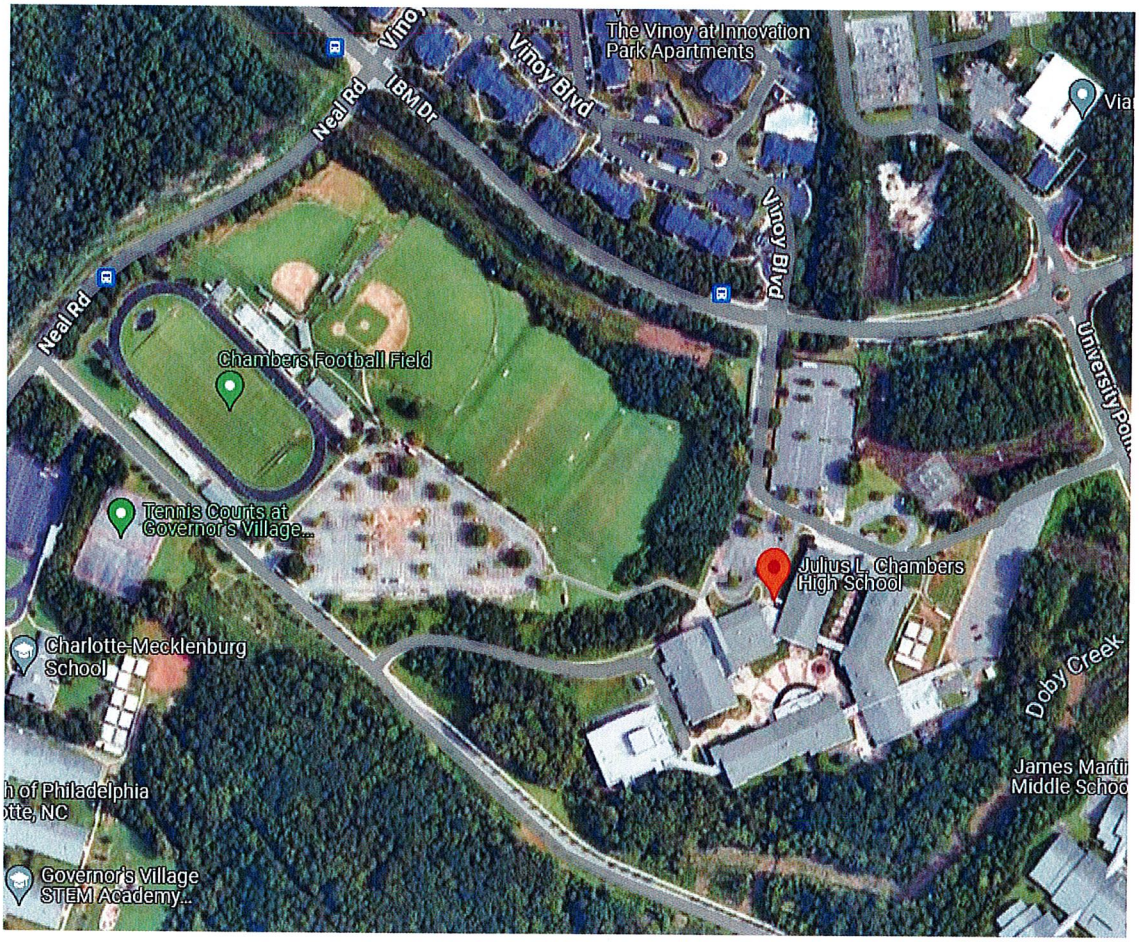
Union County Charter



Lee Park



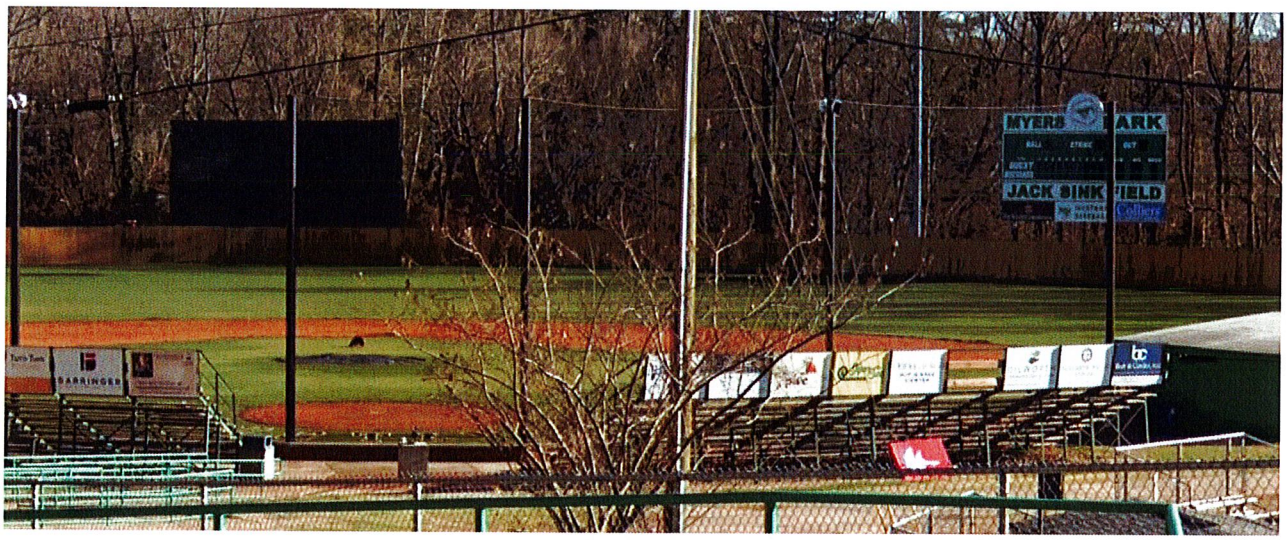
Myers Park



Julius Chambers



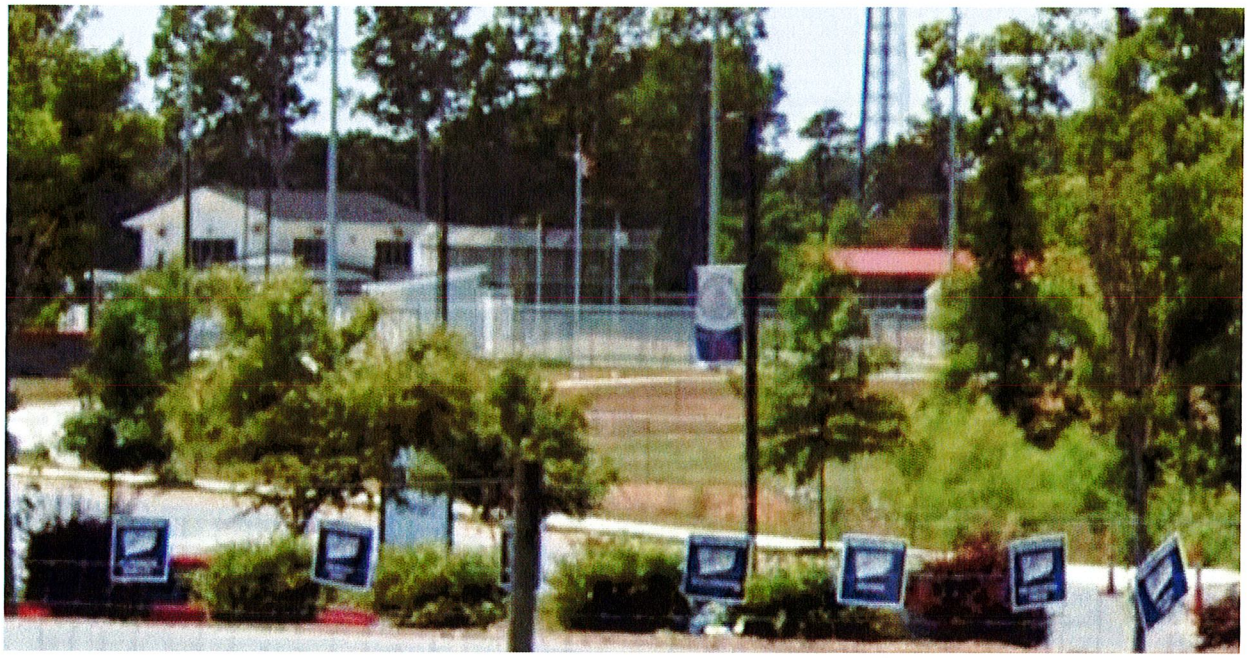
Chain link, not unlike Montgomery Central



Soft netting



Soft netting



Chain link



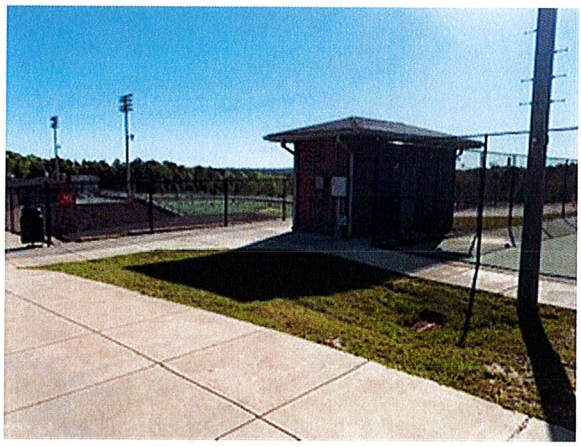
Chain link



Chain link



Solar shade to be constructed over grassy area







Examples