

PETER G. BARBER
SUPERVISOR

JESSICA MONTGOMERY
SECRETARY

August 30, 2024

Via email: recreation@albanycountyny.gov

Allie Robert
Acting Commissioner
Albany County Department of Parks & Recreation
390 New Salem Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186

Re: Proposed improvements at Roger Keenholts Park, Town of Guilderland

Dear Acting Commissioner Robert,

In response to Albany County's letter dated August 8, 2024, the Town of Guilderland is pleased to submit this request for financial assistance in the amount of \$19,000, under Albany County Improvement Initiative (Resolution No. 448), for improvements to girls' softball fields at Roger Keenholts Park, 6335 French's Mill Road, in Guilderland Center.

Executive Summary

Roger Keenholts Park, a 55-acre park, was added to the Town's park system in 1993 in response to the growing need for additional ballfields. The park is named in honor of Roger Keenholts, a former historian for the Town of Guilderland and the Village of Altamont. The park is the home for Guilderland Baseball (Cal Ripken, Babe Ruth, and Travel) and Guilderland Girls Softball League (Rec and Travel), which serve children in first grade through twelfth grade in Guilderland, Altamont, and Voorheesville.

The park has five girls' softball fields, eight boys' baseball fields, and a state-of-the-art Babe Ruth level baseball field, known as Dutchmen Field. Each area also has enclosed batting cages, concession stands, and covered pavilions. Dutchmen Field has stadium

seating, a large scoreboard, and lights for night games. One of the other boys' baseball fields are lighted. There are no lights on any of the girls' softball fields.

Both the baseball and softball programs are managed by volunteers who coordinate the scheduling of games, field usage, park maintenance, and concession. Town Parks & Recreation staff are now working with volunteers and supporters of girls' softball to upgrade the fields by adding significant enhancements for players, families and friends watching softball games. The long-term goal is creating a flagship girls' softball field with lights, improved seating, enhanced batting cages, and heightened fences.

The County's park improvement grant will advance the Town's short-term goals and immediate needs for offering a safer environment for softball players, spectators, and park users, and offer a more enjoyable experience. The project includes installing protective netting on softball fields to protect spectators, often families with young children and passersby from errant balls and bats, and replacing spectator seating with secure and new seats.

The project's anticipated cost is \$26,143.96, of which \$19,000 is requested under the County grant program. The project's remaining cost of \$7,143.96 will be funded by the Town's Park Improvement Reserve. We greatly appreciate the County's consideration of this request.

Project Expenses

A breakdown of project's costs of \$26,143.96 is provided in the vendor quotes attached to this letter, including \$23,599.96 for four rows of 15-foot length bleachers and \$2,544.00 for protective nettings for each softball field.

Benefits Statement

In response to the increasing demand for team sport facilities, the Town has dedicated significant resources to provide for a safe environment for players and spectators. The Town is also committed to seeking parity in its facilities for boys' and girls' sports. An important part of this concerted effort is elevating the playing experience for girls' softball teams to the same level as boys' baseball teams.

In the attached letters of support, Parks & Rec Director CJ Gallup and Guilderland Girls Softball's Board President Thomas Kachadurian explain how the proposed improvements will advance this goal, with the installation of high-quality netting that protects spectators and persons walking by from being struck by batted or thrown softballs, or errant bats. The improved spectator experience includes new seating consisting of four rows of bleachers. This project will provide safer facilities for girls' softball, families, friends, and spectators.

Financial Assistance Need/Matching Funds Availability

The need for assistance for the proposed project is demonstrated by the fact that the equipment and systems proposed for installation are not included in the current budget of the Guilderland Parks and Recreation Department. The provision of an Albany County grant in the amount of \$19,000 will allow the proposed project to move forward. Any funding in excess of the amount of the Albany County grant that is necessary to complete the proposed project will be made available from reserve funds of the Town of Guilderland.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter G. Barber", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Peter G. Barber
Town Supervisor

Encs. Letters of Support
Quotes

Town of Guilderland Parks & Recreation Department



Peter G. Barber
Supervisor

Colin J. Gallup
Director

August 23, 2024

Allie Robert
Acting Commissioner
Albany County Department of Parks & Recreation
390 New Salem Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186

I am writing to express my support of the proposed improvements at Roger Keenholts Park, Town of Guilderland.

I have had the privilege of working with the Guilderland Girls Softball League for over thirty years in my position with the Town of Guilderland Parks & Recreation Department. I can attest to the need for these improvements to increase the safety for players and spectators at the park. Some of the playing fields are in close proximity to each other, and the protective netting will capture foul or errant balls from hitting spectators that may have their attention elsewhere. Improved seating areas or bleachers will provide safe areas for spectators to watch games, and direct spectators to safe observation areas. A safety rail on top of fencing will protect players from entanglement injuries.

I wholeheartedly support the proposed improvements, and believe that it will have a lasting impact on the safety of all visitors to the park.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin J. Gallup', is written over a horizontal line.

Colin J. Gallup
Director Parks and Recreation



August 28, 2024

Allie Robert
Acting Commissioner
Albany County Department of Parks & Recreation
390 New Salem Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186

Dear Ms. Robert,

I am writing in advocacy and support of much needed safety improvements and enhancements to benefit the athletes and spectators at the Guilderland Girls Softball fields located at Roger Keenholts Park. Over the 10+ year in my involvement with the league as a Coach, Manager, Travel Coach, Travel Coordinator, Capital Project Committee Member and currently as President, I am indebted to the League and our girls to provide safe, fair and sound play on fields and facilities that are thoughtfully maintained and consistently assessed for short and long term safety enhancements.

I have been fortunate enough to work closely with a very committed and well respected group of Town affiliates who share common goals and vision as our Board of Directors. Namely, CJ Gallup and Supervisor Barber have been great supporters and advocates on behalf of us. There is nothing they have not worked in concert with us on and they continue to open conversation and appropriate forums for us to continually collaborate on necessary upgrades to the fields and overall athlete experience.

The proposed upgrades and changes to improve safety netting, bleacher/spectator seating and rail caps to prevent unnecessary injury are all thoughtful and positive additions to our at-large campus. As a League we are fortunate to have thoughtful and solution centered parents and board members; we hope you too will see the value added to these improvements. We thank you in advance for your consideration.

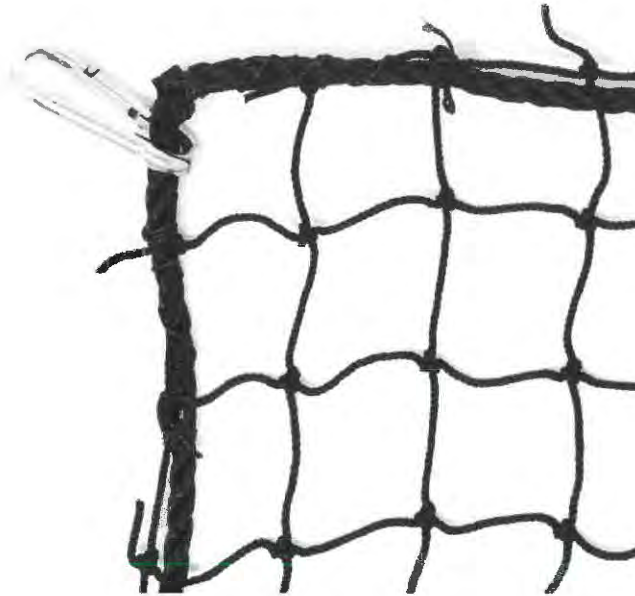
Sincerely,

Thomas E. Kachadurian
GGSL Board President

| Item | SKU | Price | # Requested | Total Amount |
|--|---------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 4 Row 15' Preferred Bleacher (seats 40) | NB0415P | \$5,899.99 | 4 | \$23,599.96 |
| Slanted Bleacher Covers 20' x 26' | 1100716 | \$11,999.99 | 8 | \$95,999.92 |
| ADA Bleacher 5 Row 21' w/chainlink | 1301045 | \$10,699.99 | 1 | \$10,699.99 |
| Standard Bleacher Covers 12'H x 18' x 36 | 1100563 | \$13,999.99 | 2 | \$27,999.98 |
| 4 Row 15' Powder Coated Bleachers | NB0415C | \$5,699.99 | 3 | \$17,099.97 |
| 10*60 Netting | | \$318.00 | 8 | \$2,544.00 |

Check These Out -

[Super Sopper - Dolphin | BSN SPORTS](#)



★ REVIEWS



JFN #36 Nylon Baseball Backstop Net, Custom Size

42 Reviews

\$53.00

Shipping calculated at checkout.

Color *

Black

Height ' (Feet) *

10

(Min Height 2', Max Height 50')

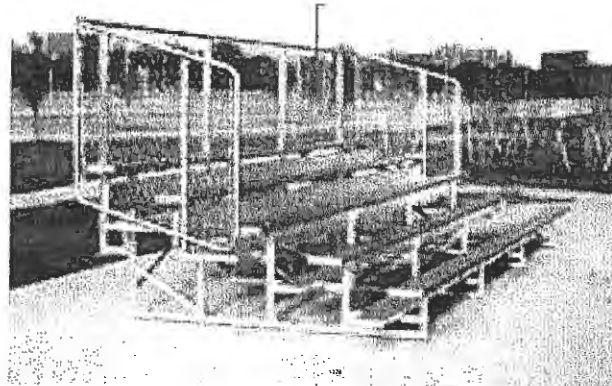
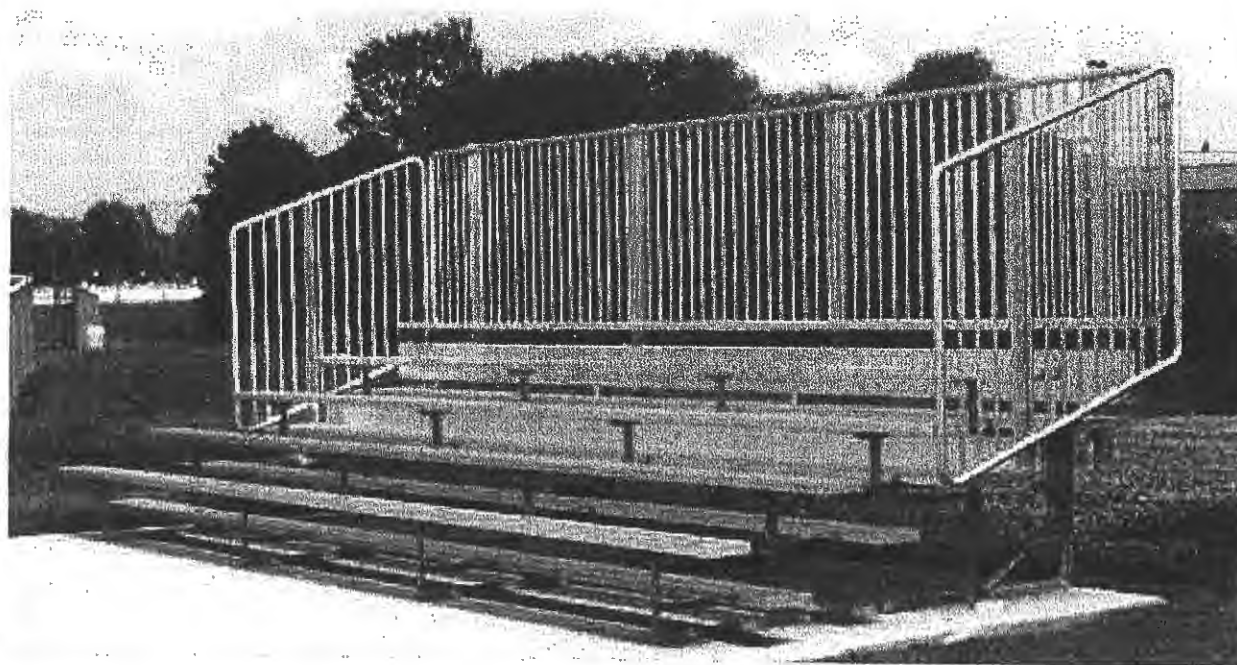
Width ' (Feet) *

Rewards

Height " (Inches)

0

Width " (Inches)



Description

Warranty

BSN SPORTS

4 Row 15' VP Preferred Bleacher

SKUNB0415VP

Special features

- vertical pickets. Easy installation, safety

Shop



BSN SPORTS

4 Row 15' Preferred Bleacher (seats 40)

1

Add to cart

Special features

- 4 Row 40 Seat Alum Blich Double FB

\$5,899.99

 Ships Truck

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Description | ▼ |
| Warranty | ▼ |

COMPLETE YOUR KIT

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BSN SPORTS
4 Row 21' Preferred Bleacher (seats 56)
\$6,699.99



BSN SPORTS
4 Row 27' Preferred Bleacher (seats 72)
\$9,999.99



BSN SPORTS
5 Row 15' Preferred Bleacher (seats 50)
\$6,799.99



BSN SPORTS
5 Row 21' Preferred Bleacher (seats 70)
\$8,399.99



BSN SPORTS
5 Row 27' Preferred Bleachers (seats 90)
\$11,499.99