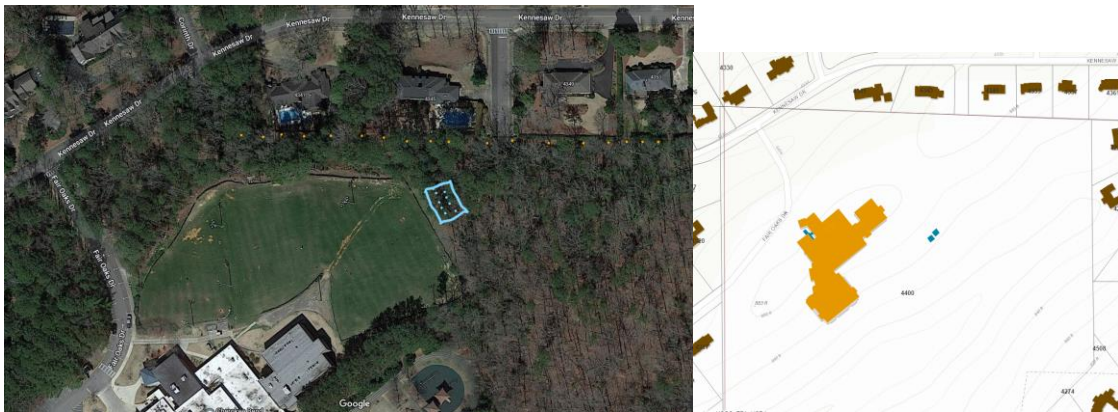


November 29, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Mountain Brook Parks and Recreation Department, along with Mountain Brook Athletics, would like to place a set of batting cages on the outskirts of the field by Cherokee Bend Elementary.

We recently made improvements to the field that expanded the use of the field and in doing so, we lost a couple of batting cages. Now we would like to replace those, but build them in the wooded area outside the open field space. This wooded area is beside the climbing tower on the east side of the field.



We have cleared out privet and some smaller trees to define the area if you would like to go by and see the exact location. We will need to clear about 12 trees of varying sizes and grade the area flat. Then construction can begin on the batting cages. Because we will need to get tree cutting and construction equipment in and out from this area, we are proposing to make a temporary access route from the dead end street off of Kennesaw Drive. This will keep the equipment away from the kids and prevent interfering with school activities. There is a split rail fence and shrubs creating a barrier at the end of the road that we will need to temporarily remove, but we will replace once we are done with the project. I do not believe we will have to move the basketball goal. The path we make will be dressed up and

covered with pinestraw when we finish. We do not intend to disrupt the established footpath and steps that the kids use to get to school. That will remain open for their use and we will time our work around the morning and afternoon school traffic.



The batting cages will be two connecting lanes that are 15' x 55' each. They will share a frame and turf flooring and so the whole footprint will be 30' x 60'. It will be real similar to this photo.



We will move one of the existing LED light fixtures for the field to provide light to these cages until we can budget for more improvements. We plan for it to light the cages without directing it at any of the neighbors and LED lights are good for this. Musco has done an analysis and determined that moving one fixture will not negatively affect the lighting on the field. It will only be on when the field lights are on for school, MBA, or other authorized activities. The cages are not meant for public use after dark.

MBA would ultimately like to have 3 covered cages at the field. We plan to add a third lane and cover them all with a shelter in another year or two as budgeting allows. This will increase the footprint to 45 x 60 ft. Lights will be added under the cover like we have done at the Athletic Complex at MBHS. After getting that in place, the LED field light can be directed back to the field. We are considering these additions in our plans so it will be easy to add later. We ask that you also approve these additional

improvements with this request. This is what the covered two lane batting cage looks like at the Athletic Complex. It would not be very noticeable in the wooded setting.



The Board of Education and CBE Principal have given their blessing on this project since it does not interfere with any of their usual activities and field space. Mountain Brook Athletics has been involved with the planning and approves of the site and plans. We have also communicated directly with the closest neighbors off of Kennesaw Drive since the construction route will be next to those homes, and they have not objected. The comments I received were in favor of supporting the youth athletic programs.

We optimistically hope to have this first phase complete by the end of February 2023, but it may run into March if we have any setbacks.

If you have any questions or would like to meet, please call or email me at 205-802-3879 or [williamssh@mtnbrook.org](mailto:williamssh@mtnbrook.org).

Sincerely,

Shanda Williams  
Superintendent of Parks and Recreation