



City, WSU to upgrade Bambenek Field #1 (02/20/2008) *By Sarah Elmquist*

The city of Winona and Winona State University are tentatively slated to split the \$485,711 cost of renovating Bambenek Field #1, including adding lights, dugouts, re-graded outfields, an irrigation system, a press box, scoreboard and concessions stand.

The agreement was expected to be approved by the Winona City Council Tuesday night just after the Winona Post went to press. According to the agreement, the upgrades will fulfill Title IX requirements, and WSU plans to use the field for women's fast-pitch softball games and tournaments.

If the agreement is approved, WSU will pay \$242,866 for the renovations, with the city paying what is estimated to be the same amount.

This potential agreement is one step ahead of a possible city bonding referendum, which will be on the ballot in November and would provide additional upgrades to the other Bambenek fields. Field 1 is located on the eastern side of the park, and the plans for this renovation are separate from the referendum.

Along with the agreement between the city and WSU for the renovations, WSU will be able to use the field for four five-year terms.

WSU director of public information Andrea Mikkelsen said that the joint effort is a way that the city and university can "pool our resources. We're working with the city in order to be able to provide a field that they can use too, so it's really a collaboration." •

The sports schedule between the city's park and rec use and the women's fast-pitched softball work out pretty well, too, she said, with the seasons in the works at different times. During the university's softball season, the fields aren't set for league play, and vice-versa. "It's a pretty good trade-off," • said Mikkelsen.

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