

Town of Ware – Memorial Field Improvements
Fact Sheet

- Funding:** Approximately \$600,000 through the FY 2009 & 2011 Department and Housing and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs. Additional funding and in-kind services provided by the Town of Ware and the Ware Parks and Recreation Department.
- Design:** Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.
- Contractor:** Mt. View Landscape & Lawncare, Chicopee, Ma
- Management:** Ware Planning and Community Development, Town Manager and Board Selectmen with assistance provided by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. Additional assistance provided by the Ware Department of Public Works. Ongoing support and in-kind services provided by members of the Ware Parks and Recreation Department.
- Background:** The project was developed to benefit all Ware residents by providing improved access and extended hours for active recreation. Existing Ware municipal facilities did not meet the need or demand of residents, particularly for local sports organizations. Daylight hours did not allow sufficient time for all desired games and practices, and field spaces were not configured to allow for multiple concurrent uses. The problem was particularly apparent in early spring and late fall when soccer, baseball and football programs overlap and the amount of daylight hours are reduced. Lighting the field will alleviate this problem, as will reorientation of the existing play spaces.
- Scope:** Improvements were initially conceived as Phase 1 Memorial Field Improvements and include the installation of athletic field lighting and a new pathway system to include a perimeter walking path, as well as other minor improvements (reorientation of field, installation of bike racks, etc.). The town continues to evaluate future improvements.
- Support, Goals & Users:** Support for Memorial Field improvements is evident through a long and well documented history of public involvement by the community leaders, athletic groups and associations, and the residents who vocalized the need for recreation improvements. Momentum for improvements developed through the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan which established, *"Recreation is an important aspect of open space planning in Ware. Active, outdoor-organized sports as well as other less intensive forms of recreation are an important element in the lives of residents."*
Keeping children active with sports and recreation has long been one of the town's goals. It is intended that not only the youth will become active, but adults as well. Memorial Field improvements will offer the opportunity for adults to have more positive interactions with the youth through spectator participation and instruction. Primary users include youth soccer, baseball and football organizations as well as Ware High School baseball and football teams.
- Special Thanks:** Former Parks & Recreation Manager Dave Tworek and former Community Development Director Paul Hills for launching the project. Karen Cullen, Director of Planning and Community Development and current Parks & Recreation Manager John Piechota and for seeing the project completed.