

## Michael Oliveri

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**From:** Val Olds [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2024 2:58 PM  
**To:** E\_Clerks  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Field of Dreams

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to voice my opinion regarding the possibility of the "Field of Dreams" at Riverside Park. My son who is autistic and has ADHD completed his first season of Buddy League this past summer. He participated in the Learn to Play program and although he struggled at times, he slowly showed more interest in playing baseball. He is very excited to play in the junior league next year. Scott has never been a child to participate in any sports- he won't even take part in gym class at school. He has performance anxiety and worries about people judging, bullying or laughing at him. Scott is a very bright, gentle soul, but struggles profusely when asked to do something he's not comfortable with.

Buddy League, Coach Cam, his volunteers and even the families watching him were fantastic last season. They made him feel comfortable without pushing his limits. Scott thoroughly enjoyed playing with like-minded children during his season with Buddy League in an inclusive location.

However, he watched some of the children and their families struggle with accessibility in various situations. For example, he wondered how the child in the wheelchair would be able to go to the washroom. He said "it's already 'squishy' in there Mom. That's not fair."

The same goes for the parking lot. We witnessed families struggling with getting their child to the field from their vehicle. Some had to park further away as the parking lot fills up fast.

An accessible artificial turf infield would be amazing for children like Scott who like to run without getting dirt in their eyes. Or the "sandstorm tornados" when the wind blows. This caused massive meltdowns for my son as he is very sensitive to the implications of weather.

Covered dugouts would definitely benefit anyone who plays on this diamond. Many children and adults can have problems with regulating their body temperature. Therefore, a place for them to take a break, out of the sun would be beneficial to everyone.

The bleachers at this diamond are in a state of disrepair. Also, there is no accessible seating for spectators to be able to see without looking through the fencing or having the yellow safety guard blocking their view. A ramp/flat walkway (or even a staircase with a railing) would help some spectators to be able to watch their family/friends participating in a sport that they love. The hill makes it very difficult to watch the games, as the bleachers fill up quickly.

In conclusion, a Field of Dreams in Riverside Park is an amazing idea. Everyone deserves a safe, inclusive area to play baseball. Adults and children alike deserve to play adaptive baseball without barriers.

Thank you,  
Val Olds

Sent from my iPhone