

# FIELD OF DREAMS

Since we built it, will you come?



*A Babe Ruth baseball field has been constructed at Little River Park by the Lee Recreation Commission at Little River Park. Trails have been opened up and more are in progress. Planning is underway for a little league/softball field and a soccer field as well as other sport venues such as basketball. A pavilion and a nature-based playground is also in the future.*

## How Did This Baseball Field At Little River Park Happen?

Well, there was a pile of rocks: a pile of *hard* rocks sitting on the first base line of a future baseball field. Rocks so hard that the company hired to remove the rocks hammered at them for days. The Rec Commission said “see this other pile of rocks? How would you like to remove this ledge so we can build a little league field in that spot?” Frank Hartman was interested and in 2008 moved in to blast and crack the rock to make the ledge go away.

The partnership with Hartman Enterprises has enabled the town to accomplish major activities at the park. The Town of Lee receives a credit used for rock and for machine time on BIG equipment. All the rock for the parking lot came from on-site.



The parking lot and the area for the soon-to-be-built deceleration lane were cleared with the help of Ricky Stevens who felled trees (at no charge) and provided a backhoe. Bob Shappell

removed stumps (at no charge) and Orion Tree Company cut trees that were a hazard and used equipment to get them down safely (at no charge). Prior to any tree cutting, Don Quigley prepared a Forestry Plan for the park (at no charge). Jamie Long provided a wetlands report (at a reduced fee).

Last spring, the large baseball field was laid out with the free help of UNH students Nate Madden, Jacob Therriault, Derek Sherburne. Engineer Steve Oles of MSC gave the points for the layout.



This summer, fill from the Old Mill Road project was delivered to the site (at no charge to the town). Because the Rec Commission had plans and engineering drawings by MSC in place for developments at Little River Park we knew just how much was needed. Over 22 thousand cubic yards of material was brought in between June 3 and June 17. Bob Smith counted 1,484 trucks coming in and during peak hauling 258 trucks arrived in one day!

More than 15 thousand cubic yards of that material was used to level and shape the large baseball field. A massive bulldozer and compactor from Hartman was used to push down and pack the fill.

500 cubic yards of cow manure from Athmore Farm on Lee Hook Road and horse manure from UNH was blended with loam to provide one foot of material that will support a healthy stand of grass. The material was screened and blended using machines and credit from Hartman.



The slope past the outfield has been seeded and mulched and gets watered regularly thanks to Randy Stevens, Peter Hoyt and Warren Hatch. The Highway Department is reimbursed for all fuel used and a record is kept of labor on the project.

Recently, a well was drilled by Faxon Artisan Well to provide irrigation water for the fields. The well is 300 feet deep and yields 45 gallons per minute. Bids for an irrigation system are under review.

The Babe Ruth baseball field will be seeded this fall and ready to play ball on in 2010. See you at the park!

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*Recreation Commission members and Alternates: Phil Sanborn (chair), Geoff Carlton, John Shea, Dawn Genes, Ann Wright, Dave Young, Stan Barker, Steve Solovinski, and Cynthia McClain. This group of individuals has been working together since 2003 to provide recreation opportunities for the Town of Lee.*

