REPORT OF THE WESTON CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Weston Cultural Council is charged with distributing money allotted to Weston by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency supporting the Arts, Humanities and Sciences. MCC's allocation to Weston for 2008 was $4,000.

Grants are made to individuals, educational institutions, and groups to support worthy projects that enhance the cultural side of our lives and enhance our appreciation of our cultural environment in Weston. Additional state and local criteria for awarding grants are published on the MCC website.

2008 Grants presented for our cultural enrichment:

Applicant	Project	Presented	Location	Local Sponsor
Pam Fox and Gloria Cole	Create DVD's of Weston's History	Jan.-Dec.	n/a	Weston Historical Society
Inge Thorn Engler	"Belated Violin Valentine"	May 4	Public Library	Weston Public Library
Ruth Harcovitz	"Great Day for the Irish"	March 10	Brook School Apts	Council on Aging
Therese Provenzano	Performance of Rutter's "Magnificat"	February 6	Regis College	Weston Community Chorus
Gregory Maichack	Workshop: All-new The Art of Pastel II: The DaVinci Mode	December 3	Public Library	Weston Public Library
Kaetlyn Wilcox	"Midnight in the Garden:" Solo Artist Exhibition	May 1-31	Public Library	Weston Public Library
Commonwealth Ballet Co.	"The Nutcracker"	December	Regis College	Regis College
Delvena Theatre Co.	"Lizzie Borden and the 40 Whacks"	November 8	Community Center	Weston Seniors Club
The Golden Tones	"Music is for All Ages"	May 18	Rivers Music School	Rivers Music School
The Discovery Museum	"Free to Explore Weekend" for Weston	Feb. 2,3	Acton, MA	Children's Discovery Museum

In August, the Council received from the state our 2009 allocation of $4,300 which was an increase of $300 from last year. The Council held a public reception on September 24, 2008 at the Weston Public Library to honor the 2008 grant recipients and as a public forum to learn more the Weston Cultural Council.

In October, 26 applications for 2009 were postmarked by October 15th and thus were eligible for consideration. The Council held an open business meeting on November 5th and voted to

fund 10 applications for 2009. Four applications were fully funded and the remaining 6 were partially funded for a total of $4, 285.

Members of the Weston Cultural Council are appointed by the Selectmen for a 3-year term. The council is allowed to have up to 10 members who may serve two consecutive 3-year terms. Members in 2008 were Susan Kuhr (Chair), Diana Chaplin, Meredith Eppel, Andrea Levinson, Sue McFarland, Lynne Weber, and Dan Woloshen. In September, the early resignation of Mary Lou Ackley was accepted. Residents interested in joining the council are encouraged to contact the Selectmen or the Chair, Susan Kuhr.

REPORT OF THE WESTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The mission of the Weston Public Library is to provide materials, resources and programs for lifelong learning and enjoyment. The Library serves the entire community by making available collections on a broad array of subjects of interest to its patrons. It is a forum for the community, providing a welcoming and well-maintained facility for meetings, informal gatherings, lectures and other cultural events.

The Weston Public Library is extremely fortunate to be so supported by its residents and our

active Friends of Weston Library organization. We recorded over 225,000 visitors to the library this year and hope to continue to offer our residents excellent customer service.

Adult Services

The Weston Public Library Website, westonlibrary.org, offers a wealth of services and information. A popular area of the site is called "REQUEST OUR LATEST." This section links you to Weekly Updates of our hottest items, including fiction and nonfiction bestsellers, new

movies, books on CD, new and noteworthy books, and children's items. You can sign up to receive these weekly lists in your email.

The Request Our Latest section of the website is a great place to find ideas on the newest releases you and your family can read, watch or listen to. A nice feature of these weekly lists is the Check Our Catalog link, which brings you to the online catalog, where you can place holds on titles of interest. The lists of our latest items also show the cover art and a nice annotation. Interest by library users in "Request Our Latest" has grown over this year. We now have 3 or 4 times as many library patrons than last year, signed up to receive lists in their email. Signing up is the best way to get near the top of our holds list for popular books, movies, etc, by using the Check our Catalog link and hitting the Request button.

Reservations for Museum passes (using your library card number) and booking of our Meeting Rooms are now available on our website. Click the Museum Passes Online Reservations System link. In person reservations have been moved from the Circulation Desk to the Information/Reference Desk. Meeting Room policies, regulations and application forms are found by clicking General Information/Meeting Rooms.

The Library owns over 200 Playaway titles. Playaways are digital audiobooks you can hold in the palm of your hand. All you provide is headphones and one AAA battery. This fun new format is easy to use and redefines the word portable. Many popular and classic book titles are available. The Library owns college lecture courses and Pimsleur language lessons on Playaway. Library users have been raving about this fascinating new way to experience books.

Dr. Edward Hallowell, world renowned expert on Attention Deficit Disorder, spoke at the Weston High School Auditorium in October of this year. Hallowell is the author of Driven to Distraction and other bestselling titles on ADD. The event was cosponsored by WSEPAC. Rose Lydon, WSEPAC Chair, worked tirelessly to make this event a success.

Eve LaPlante also spoke at the Library this year. She is the author of American Jezebel, a book on heretic Anne Hutchison and Salem Witch Judge, about Judge Sewell of the Salem Witch Trial Court. Ms. LaPlante is a descendant of Sewell and Hutchison. The library audience enjoyed her talk about these fascinating characters in New England history.

Circulation of items at the Weston Library totaled 283,826 in 2008. Children's books got the most use at the Weston Library, accounting for 27% of all library circulation. Books for adults made up 24% of our circulation. 22 % of circulation went to DVDs for adults, including Hollywood and independent movies, foreign films, nonfiction movies and TV series. In 2008, library users enjoyed a wide variety of materials for all ages, including books, magazines, museum passes, paperbacks, large print books, movies, music, CD books and digital Playaways. In these difficult economic times, your free public library is a valuable place to visit.

Reference

The reference team is committed to assisting individuals seeking information. We can help people locate facts, figures and particulars, provide instruction in the use of library resources and offer guidance in selecting materials. Our customers bring a broad range of queries and our team answered over 11,000 this year: a student immersed in a research paper requires critical analyses; a homebound person asks for audio book suggestions; a professor requests a periodical article; a senior citizen looks for information on a medical condition; a new immigrant needs help finding an English language tutor. The nature of reference work in a public library is all encompassing.

New technologies present challenges and opportunities for the library. Many patrons now expect to find immediate answers via the World Wide Web and have limited time to visit the library. In view of this, the print Reference Collection, once the librarian's only tool, was

modified. Our new objective is to maintain a small, integral collection of print reference resources and to organize all nonfiction in a manner that makes this information as accessible as possible. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and the Minuteman Library Network has coordinated the purchase of some excellent electronic databases and the Weston Public Library has full access to these.

This year over 10,000 uses of public computers were recorded. The Computer Room was closed and a more efficient layout was adopted. The result has been better control of inappropriate use of computers and printers and more efficient collection of printing fees. Free wireless Internet access continues to be a valued service. With the purchase of TixKeeper software, patrons now have the option of reserving museum passes online via the library's webpage.

Several hundred people visited the library this year to attend educational programs coordinated by the Reference Department. These included: a Ukrainian egg decorating workshop; Chinese cookery; DeClutter Your Heart, Home & Office; Antiques Appraisal Day; traditional scrapbooking; a quilting workshop; a bonsai demonstration; Around the House in 60 Minutes; a talk with natural history writer Todd McLeish; and the knitting group hosted by Iris Hermann.

Youth Services

The year 2008 passed in a blaze of activity. We had more reference questions, more kids coming in after school, more people attending programs…just more in general.

Our programming changed a little this year. Our regular storytimes didn't change much; we still offered Two Year Old Storytime, Three to Five Year Old Storytime, After School BookClub and Library Lapsit for babies with Jeannie Mack. All of them have had consistently high attendance this year, which is always gratifying.

The Friends of the Library are reaching out to a younger crowd, so this year we created some new cooperative programs. The American Girl Tea Party was great, as was the December Tween Movie Night. Approximately thirty kids signed up for each program, and the wait lists were just as long. A joint Friends of the Library/Golden Ball Tavern Museum program was very well-received. It was held at the Museum, and consisted of stories, several Colonial crafts, refreshments and a quick tour for the older children. This program was so popular, we're repeating it, with enhancements, in May 2009.

Other new programs this year included Thursday morning Toddler movies, a teen craft kit night, summer movie days, a Twilight-related teen craft program, and more special storytimes and visits from local organizations like the Scouts and the WCCA.

The Summer Reading Program was very popular this year, with 273 pre-readers, readers and teen participants. For the first time, kids entered their information online…besides title and author, they could add a review, if they recommended the book or not, and a rating on a scale of one to five. It made counting at the end and awarding reading prizes much easier to keep track of. Between them, our participants read 5,463 books, 1,440 hours and did 1,380 crafts. We had several special programs, sponsored by the Friends, with The Toe Jam Puppet Band, Animal Adventures, and the Museum of Science (twice) Both Wild Reads and X-pect the Un-X-pected made for a successful summer all around.

This fall, we have been surprised by the increased number of children we see directly after school and after the after-school sports and music activities. There are days when we have more than sixty children coming on their own to use the library. Most of our computer use comes in that time between 2:30 and 6:00; our sign-up board seems to be always full. We have two

homework-only stations, but the general-use computers are usually used for games. It certainly makes for a lively place to visit.

There have been some great book trends this year. With the Harry Potter series finished, Rick Riordan's "Percy Jackson and the Olympians" series has gained momentum and fame, as have Jeff Kinney's "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" books. Our most sought-after titles by far though, were the Stephanie Meyer's "Twilight" series. We could barely keep them on the shelf. It warms the heart to see all the effort our readers put into finding and reading these books.

In 2008, we did quite a bit of work on our collection. The entire non-fiction area was weeded and shifted over the summer, making it more accessible. We moved the picture book holiday books into storage in the Youth office, allowing us to shift the picture books to allot more space. We shifted all of the Children's media to expand those collections, and Tech Services updated their spine labels to make them easier to shelve and to find.

Since we have a finite amount of space, we did have to withdraw portions of the video and books on cassette collections to make some room. We also moved the YA CDs to a new, smaller shelf to give us more room for the YA books. The Adult department gave us several display stands, and we used two of them to hold our expanding collection of comics and graphic novels for both Children and Teens. We've been getting creative with the others for displays—and we've had quite a few this year. Everything from book and DVD pairs to Chinese New Year books to stories about mice.

Miriam Glassman was added to the Youth Services staff as a Library Assistant. Miriam is working two afternoons and on weekends. Her expertise as a published author has proven a valuable addition to our Youth Services pool of knowledge.

Technical Services

The Technical Services Department (or Cataloging Department) is responsible for processing all new items that come into the library, as well as adding them to the catalog. Additionally, the Technical Services staff is constantly evaluating the collection and catalog entries for consistency, maintenance and organization.

The staff was very busy this past year, processing a record 10,351 items including 7,610 books, 897 DVDs (including 128 new TV series), 487 music CDs, and 498 audio books on CD. Additional shelving in the adult paperback and large print sections resulted in a sizable number of items being processed (roughly 145 large print titles, 379 paperbacks). New to the library is the latest form of audio book technology called Playaways. For the patrons' convenience, the staff carefully planned the processing and cataloging of these items. A total of 126 Playaways were added to the collection this year.

In keeping with the latest technology trends, the Weston Public Library purchased an InFocus Projector to be used with a DVD player or laptop computer for programs held at the library. The Technical Services staff codified the various projector pieces and created comprehensible, clear instructions on how to use the equipment.

In addition to processing new items, the Tech. Services staff updated and standardized sections of the Adult Services and Youth Services collections. All 754 of the Juvenile and Young Adult music CD cases were relabeled and color-coded to make each item easier for patrons to find and staff to shelve. The Juvenile Series section was also modified. Over 600 books were mended, clearly numbered and processed identically so that staff and patrons can quickly retrieve specific volumes.

The largest project the department undertook was the reorganization of the entire Adult music CD collection, which includes over 4,500 CDs. The genre categories have been condensed

from 20 to 10 in an effort to streamline the collection. The current music categories are Classical, Country, Folk, Holiday, Jazz/Blues, New Age, Opera, Pop, Soundtrack and World. A specific color has now been assigned to each music category and applied to all corresponding CDs within the category. Browser bin shelving has been added for expanded shelf space and more efficient searching. The exhibit area for "new" items was restructured as well. A current list/color code of the new categories and a collection map are displayed with the "new" items.

Local History Room

The Local History Room, formerly on the lower level of the library is now located on the main floor just beyond the Reference Desk. The collection, which is jointly supported by the Ella Louise McNutt Morse Trust (as administered by the Trustees of the Weston Public Library) and the Friends of the Weston Public Library, is open to the public on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10 AM to 3 PM and on Wednesday from 1-6 PM, or at other times by appointment.

One hundred requests pertaining to Weston local history and genealogy were answered in 2008. In addition, Madeleine W. Mullin, Local History Librarian, and volunteer, William Hartmann, continue to work on numerous projects including the indexing of a four volume set of scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings on Weston from1900 to1920 as well as the indexing of the Weston Historical Society Bulletin from 1964 to the present. Both indexing projects, although not yet complete, have already provided information to answer requests from library patrons.

In addition to fulfilling requests and indexing materials in the collection, the staff of the Local History Room has formed liaisons with other town organizations. A photograph identification session was held at the Council on Aging and the Weston Historical Society has mounted exhibits in the Weston Public Library pertaining to the Josiah Smith Tavern, the Weston Airport and the Norumbega Tower.

Arts and Exhibitions Committee

The mission of the Arts and Exhibitions Committee is to bring a revolving display of art to the library gallery. The committee is composed of dedicated volunteers and a representative from the Board of Library Trustees. Artists are allowed one month to exhibit their work for the public and the gallery is booked for the entire year, with the exception of August. The committee is also responsible for choosing an artist who can display a piece of sculpture on library grounds for a period of two years. Weston residents are always welcome to apply for an exhibit of their work to the Arts and Exhibitions Committee.

This year, among many talented artists, the library was fortunate to host a wonderful exhibit of the art work of Sunanda Sahay. In addition, the outdoor sculpture of a metal horse is the work of a former resident of Weston, James Burnes. Each month brings a new artist to the gallery and shows have ranged from quilts to paintings, to photography, print making, wood sculpture and more.

Music Committee

The Music Committee of the Friends of The Library sponsored 13 concerts during 2008. This made for a very busy season with at least one per month. In addition, a holiday music and sing a long evening in December and the annual all day Music Fest in March took place a usual. The Music Fest is open to Weston musicians with children's performances in the morning and adult performances scheduled for the afternoon. All of the concerts are free and open to the public, although donations are welcome for the maintenance of the piano.

Publicity for the concerts can be found in the Boston Globe, the Suburban West newspaper and the Town Crier. You can also check the schedule at www.westonlibrary.org/calendar.

changing staff of part-time help. They continue to coordinate program offerings, plan field trips for citizens of all ages, and staff guard stations at the town pool or camp counselor positions at our summer camps - the many talented individuals whom the department employs continually prove to be as friendly as they are qualified.

Once again, the Recreation Department spent the year offering a great variety of programs for people of all ages in the town, many of which were offered in our new Center. In 2008, over 8,000 participants enrolled in the 500+ programs we offered during the course of the year. Our summer camps once again had a slight increase in numbers, with some 1,263 campers taking advantage our diverse and comprehensive offerings during the 6 weeks that our camp programs were in operation.

The town pool was once again a gathering spot for residents who took advantage of the exceptional facility and programs we provide there. Once again, in an effort to raise additional monies for our budget, we offered a limited number of pool memberships to individuals and families from surrounding towns as well as to the relatives of people still living in Weston. The pool accommodated this patron expansion seamlessly and we plan to implement the practice again this year and in the years to come. The arrival of warmer weather inspired citizens of all ages to take advantage of this remarkable facility, with the dedicated seniors taking laps in the early morning and late evening, bookending the campers and family members who populated the pool during the hours in between. By summer's end, 14,000 patrons had visited us during the pool season and had made our family nights and theme nights events to remember. During the summer, Wednesday night concerts on the Town Green were again a big hit. Anyone passing by the green on those warm summer nights heard the sounds of wonderful music and children's laughter as families gathered to socialize throughout the months of July and August.

During the winter months, open gym, access to the indoor swimming pool, the remarkable Red Wave Swimming Program for the town's youth as well as adult basketball programs continue to complement the arts and crafts, musical and exercise offerings that the department provides.

The year also saw the department overseeing the repaving of the High School tennis courts and the outdoor basketball court located next to them. The department also worked closely to coordinate the completion of the synthetic turf field at the High School and the Burchard Park complex of little league fields located up at College Pond – the former is used by countless athletic teams and organizations for longer periods than previously possible on the grass field that used to be there while the latter is a magnificent facility offering fields which will serve the youth of the town for years to come.

The diversity of programs the town is able to offer and smoothly run can be directly attributed to Doug McDougall and his dedicated staff. When it comes to delivering top-quality programs at affordable prices or fulfilling special recreation-related requests made by residents, no one can match the work they do - we are indeed fortunate to have such devoted, tireless workers comprising the recreation staff. Please remember to thank them for their efforts the next time that you see them.

Finally, as in recent years past, the year ahead will bring with it additional budgetary constraints that will challenge the recreation department's ability to provide the same number of programs and high-quality service that it has in the past. Please understand that any increase in program fees will be directly attributable to having to "make ends meet," and as always, we will strive to serve the town in our normal friendly and efficient manner.

REPORT OF THE RECREATION MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

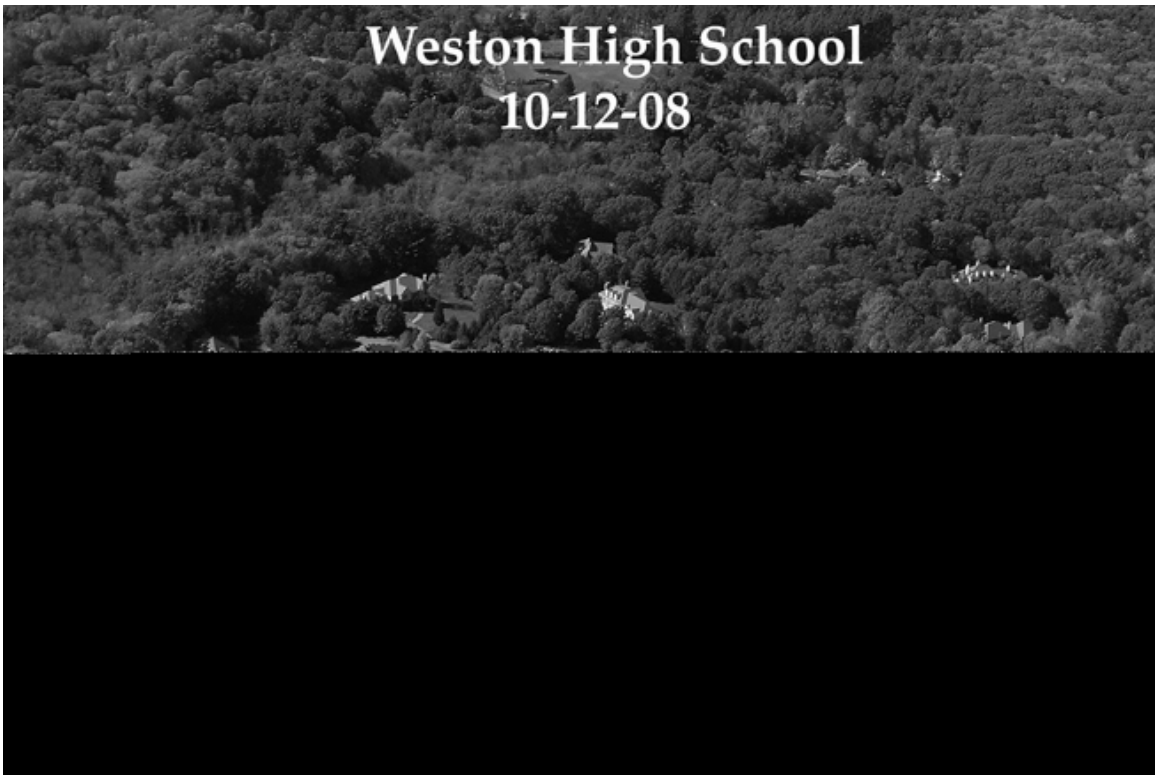
The Weston Field Steering Committee (FSC) was formed in October, 2005 for the purpose of acting as the advocate for the playing fields and outdoor recreational facilities in the Town.

The FSC was jointly appointed by and reports to the Town Selectmen and School Committee. The appointed members of FSC are as follows:

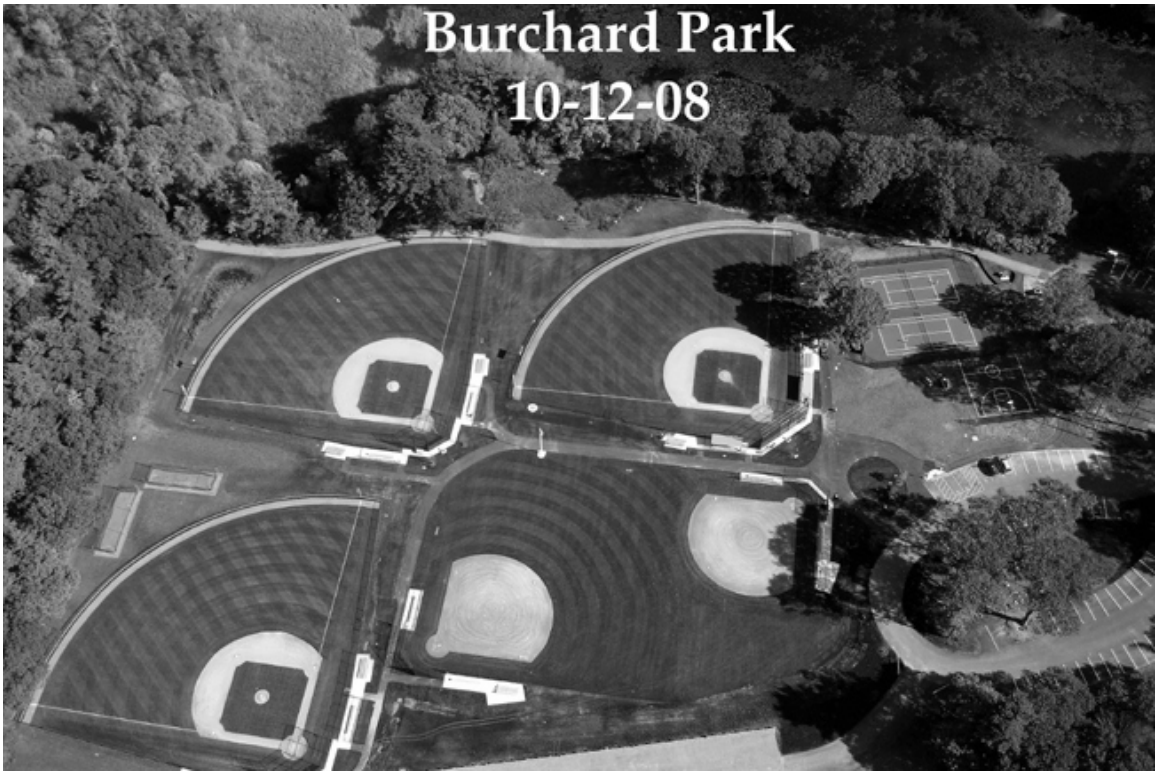
The FSC presented a 10 year Master Plan for the reparation and improvements of the Town fields and outdoor recreational facilities in October of 2005 to the Selectmen and School Committee which was unanimously adopted. The Master Plan called for capital expenditures over 10 years in the form of capital improvements and maintenance of all the Town fields and outdoor recreational facilities (tennis courts, basketball courts). The schedule of sources and uses to date is below:

		TIMING			
PROJECT NAME		**BEGIN**	**COMPLETE**	**DESCRIPTION**	**STATUS**
Sources - Publis Funds					
2006/2007 Fiscal Year CPC Grant	$600,000			Approved May, 2006 Town Meeting	
2007/2008 Fiscal Year CPC Grant	$1,000,000			Approved at May, 2007 Town Meeting	
2008/2009 Fiscal Year CPC Grant	$250,000			Approval at May, 2008 Town Meeting	
2007/2007 Fiscal Year School Committee	$425,000			Approved May, 2006 Town Meeting	
2007/2007 Fiscal Year School Committee	$125,000			Approved May, 2006 Town Meeting	
Total SOURCES: CPA Funds Granted By CPC	$2,400,000				
Uses - Public Funds					
MS/HS Multi-purpose Field	$580,000	9/1/06	11/15/06	Preservation of vacant field	Completed
High School Basketball Court renovation	$425,000	7/1/07	10/1/07	Renovate for safety	Completed
High School tennis/BB courts	$296,700	7/1/08	10/15/08	Preserve tennis (6) & BB (1) courts	Completed
Burchard Park tennis/BB courts	$115,600	7/1/08	10/15/08	Preserve tennis (2) & BB (1) courts	Completed
HS Field #3, #9 & #13	$172,800	7/1/08	9/1/08	Preserve fields:irrigation & drainage	Completed
Proctor Field Bleacher Replacement	$125,000	7/1/08	9/1/08	Renovate for safety	Completed
MS tennis courts	$196,100	8/1/08	11/1/08	Preserve tennis courts	Completed
Cherrybrook court	$135,900	8/1/08	11/1/08	Preserve basketball court	Completed
HS Field #10	$82,000	7/1/09	9/1/09	Preserve field:irrigation & drainage	Pending
Brook School tennis courts	$137,505	5/1/09	7/15/09	Preserve tennis courts	Pending
Possible surplus	$133,395				
Total USES: Master Plan Phase 1 & 2	$2,400,000				
Sources - Private Donations					
Private Donations - earmarked to specific project	$100,000				
Private Donations - Team Up For Weston	$4,300,000			Assumes last $200K will be raised	
Total SOURCES: Private Donations	$4,400,000				
Uses - Private Donations					
High School Varsity Baseball Field Dugouts	$50,000	4/1/2007	7/1/2007	New major league style dugouts	Completed
Country School Field	$40,000	6/1/2008	9/1/2008	New field behind school	Completed
Mini Field	$10,000	4/1/2007	7/1/2007	Renovate field	Completed
Field #14 at HS - Synthetic Turf	$1,150,000	7/1/2008	9/1/2008	New synthetic turf field	Completed
Burchard Park at College Pond Baseball Complex	$2,600,000	9/1/2007	7/1/2008	New 5 field baseball complex	Completed
Alphabet Field	$550,000	7/1/2009	9/1/2009	Renovate field	Pending
	$4,400,000				
Total Sources (Public & Private)	$6,800,000				
Total Uses (Public & Private)	$6,800,000				

Through a collaborative effort of the Town and townspeople, the Fields Master Plan is 90% complete. In total, $6.8 million in funds have been raised - 1/3 public and 2/3 private – to provide for the preservation and renovation of the fields and facilities above as well as construction of new fields. An example of the work is featured in the picture below.



Weston High School – New tennis courts, basketball court, synthetic turf field, varsity baseball and field hockey fields



Burchard Park at Campion – New baseball complex

This work has helped to expand the capacity of playing fields for our town well into the future while respecting the precious commodity of open space which we all revere as a truly unique characteristic of Weston. The Town of Weston now possesses some of the finest recreational facilities in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Much work remains to be done, but the Committee greatly appreciates the cooperative effort put forth by all branches of the Town, the sports clubs, Schools and Townspeople. It is the spirit cooperation and collaboration exhibited on this project that is the essence of Weston.