

## **Connors Stadium Phase I Donation Policy**

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Denton Sports Complex, the City will nominate Connor's Stadium to the National Register of Historic Places and renovate the baseball park. The complex was completed in 1940 as a WPA project. Connor's Stadium is one of those few in the nation with the designation of "Wooden Ball Park" saved by the WPA in the '40s. The field is also featured as the "best amateur ball park" in the nation in the online Baseball Stadium Museum.

Because it is a historic facility, a significant tourism attraction and more importantly, a treasured local landmark, maintaining the historical design aesthetic and preserving the historical character while modernizing the facility is important. This project is about preserving a landmark that is woven deeply into the community's collective experience. The renovations will honor the teams that have played at this beautiful ball park and ensure the future of the stadium for the youth and community to enjoy.

Phase I includes demolition and replacement of the roof canopy and press box structure in time for the 2016 spring season. The existing structure has deteriorated over the years and the City wishes to ensure a safe facility for baseball teams and fans into the future. Phases II and III include construction of accessible bathrooms and grandstands on the third base line, and renovation of the dugouts and locker rooms.

The estimated cost for phase I (to replace the press box, columns, canopy and any rotted wooden structure) is approximately \$280,000, which will be covered by donations and grants. All donors to this project will be recognized within the stadium in a variety of ways. The names of individuals and groups making unassigned cash donations will be displayed on plaques in the stadium entrance areas. Other funding options with specific recognition are listed below:

### **Funding Options**

#### **American Legion Bricks - \$75 per brick**

The bricks are designed to commemorate the players that have played baseball in Connors Stadium in the past.

Each brick carries the American Legion Emblem to honor the long term commitment and dedication of local American Legion Post #5 to the game of baseball and to Miles City's Connors Stadium in the Denton Sports Complex. Each brick provides three customizable lines of text for name, team or position played and years played on the field.

**THIS IS A LIMITED EDITION OF 381 BRICKS ONLY.** The bricks will be permanently displayed as a cap on top of the wall that runs up the stairs and around the front of the grandstand.

#### **The Following Funding Options Are First Come - First Served**

#### **Benches \$500 half a bench or \$1,000 for a full bench**

Bleachers in each of the three stadium sections may be purchased to commemorate a special person. By purchasing a bench, or half bench, that row of seats will be referred to by the name of the family or

individual commemorated, rather than a number. A plaque with the individual's or family's name will be mounted on the back of that row of bleachers. This donation does not imply reserved seating for those individuals or families as reserved seating is not sold for general events. This does not preclude the sale of reserved seating for special, high attendance events that may be planned for the Stadium as part of this fund-raising effort.

### **Seating Sections: \$5,000 per section for a term of five years**

Business sponsors and non-profit organizations may purchase one of the three sections of seating under the roof canopy in Connor Stadium. Each section will feature the company's painted logo on the back wall of the grand stands above the bleachers, and another sign suspended from the roof canopy in front of the fans. Each section will be referred to by the business's name. Example: Smith family row in the Acme Company section. The City will coordinate sign installation; business sponsors will be responsible for the cost of their professional quality signage as approved by the City and maintenance of that signage in the stadium.

### **Press Box Advertising**

Business sponsors may purchase advertising rights to the Press Box with a donation of one (1) year for \$3,000 or, three (3) years for \$7,500 or, five (5) years for \$10,000. The sponsor is responsible for the cost of installation and maintenance of their professional quality signage as approved by the City in the stadium.

### **Old Growth Beam and Posts Auction**

The City will host an auction to sell to the highest bidder the old growth timber beams and posts from the original construction of the roof canopy. The canopy must be "deconstructed" carefully, rather than demolished. The canopy roof rafters are supported on the rear of the stadium with 8x8 wood timber beams supported off the rear concrete wall. Beam spans range from 40'-4" at the front of the stadium

to 49'-2 at the mid-span condition. The structural engineering report indicates that the 8x8 timber beams are in good condition with the exception of the end of one exposed beam.

9" to 11" diameter wood poles support the beam lines. Two of the poles are in good condition; the remaining six are in various conditions.

Other material may be available for auction upon demolition of the field. All such material will be sold as is.

### **Corporate Sponsor Proposals**

The youth baseball associations and the schools sell signage and advertising to fund teams and events at the Stadium. The City cannot rename the stadium or offer business sponsorship name recognition signage in the areas utilized by these groups.

However, the City will entertain proposals from business sponsors to fund any portion of the construction project. Example proposals might include hosting fund-raising event sponsorship or funding the construction of the press box, replacing the protective netting, or a making a direct donation.