

VICTORY FIELD



Address:	Orchard Street at Marion Road
Owner:	Town
Managed By:	Recreation Department, DPW
Public Grants:	None
A.D.A. Accessibility:	See Appendix A
Zoning:	OSC
Level of Protection:	Zoning

Description:

This large, centrally located multi use complex is the Town's most extensive sports and recreation facility and is the home of the Watertown High School Athletic Program. Youth and adult formal and informal recreational and athletic activities are conducted at Victory Field in addition to community events such as the Watertown High School graduation. The facility is also used by outside groups for a fee, when not in use by our residents.



Main Stadium Facility

The main component of Victory Field, which is adjacent to Whitney Hill Park, was renovated in 2013 and includes a 160,000 square foot artificial surface that is utilized by residents and outside groups in many ways. Amenities include the artificial surface, lighting, baseball dugouts, bullpens,

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batting cage, stands for the multi-purpose field and baseball field, a press box, three score boards, storage, and ticket booths. A World War I cannon was renovated and relocated adjacent to the facility.

The field house is located in this section of the facility and includes locker rooms, coaches office, sports medicine room, snack shack and public bathrooms. This along with the multi-purpose stands, press box were renovated in 2003. The field house was renovated and is ADA compliant.

The facility is designed for optimal playability in all weather conditions for competitive athletic events in the sports of baseball, field hockey, football, lacrosse and soccer as well as open recreational play for our residents

Track, Field and Court Facility

The track and field side of the Victory Field Complex includes a multi-purpose grass field, a 400 meter track, one discus pad, a long jump area, high jump area, pole vault area, shot put area, several bleachers, five tennis courts, one basketball court, and one tot lot (renovated 2003). The tennis and basketball courts are lighted.

This facility is also used for active, recreational and community events and is the home for the high school and middle school track and field program, the tennis program and provides a secondary field for sub-varsity competition and practice as well as youth soccer and lacrosse.

The track is used extensively by residents of all ages and interests. Community events such as the "Relay for Life" have been held there on a regular basis.

Activity:

School Department baseball, field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, track and field
High school physical education classes
Recreation summer parks program and programming throughout the year
Formal and informal adult and youth athletic and recreational activities
Community events

Conditions and Key Issues:

The central location and good condition of the facilities makes this site very popular with Town residents. Indeed, on any given night during seasonable months it is likely that there will be several residents exercising on the track and multiple games or practices take place.

The main stadium section of the complex is in excellent condition and has been an enormous success and well worth the \$3,000,000 investment. \$300,000 was raised through private fundraising efforts. The playability and flexibility of the artificial surface has improved the quantity and quality of play for all users and lowered maintenance costs for the Town.

The track has become extremely popular among seniors who congregate during the day and early evenings to walk. The track and field side of Victory Field, along with the tennis, and basketball

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courts are in need of major renovation. Upgrades and new features should include: a natural or artificial surface, field, court track and parking lighting, track, and field amenities, upgraded tennis and basketball courts, additional parking, spectator seating, benches, tot lot resurfacing, appropriate storage units, and multiple accessibility adjustments.

The multi-purpose stands were replaced along with the press box. Unfortunately, the press box is not accessible to the disabled since the elevator is not in working condition.

Victory Field is irrigated. Fertilization needs are based on the results of annual soil fertility tests. Practice and game use should be monitored closely on this field in order to protect turf quality and reduce weed infestation.

However, this may be difficult to do so as this grass field is utilized by high school, youth and adult practices and games on a regular and scheduled basis. Consideration of installing an artificial surface with field lights would satisfy use requirements and would allow for multiple uses of the facility per day as needed as this field is integral part of the Town's main athletic and recreational complex.

Characteristic	Rating	Comments
Turf Density/Quality	8	Very Good
Thatch	<1/2 inch	Optimum
Weeds	7	Center Field-clover/crabgrass/chickweed
Compaction	5	Optimum for athletic fields
Tensile	5	Optimum for athletic fields
Disease		None observed
Insects		None Observed

Additional Recommendations:

1. New track and field facility
2. New surface for the Mary Williams Shea tennis courts
3. New surface for the basketball court
4. Add new lighting
5. New tot lot surface
6. Install shade trees
7. Install bleachers and benches
8. Install signs to alert users of game and event schedules
9. Park needs storage building
10. Pave area from beginning of track straight to Marion Road
11. Additional parking spots including turn around opportunity
12. Consider synthetic grass in field lighting for inside the track
13. Internet Connection

ADA Minimum Compliance Recommendations:

Restrooms in field house
 Note the following areas of concern:
Minimum Compliance

- Sink pipes should be uniformly laid out as well as wrapped.
- Entry doors weight exceeds tolerances and do not meet ADAAG.

Ramp into rear of field house
 The ramp has a vertical lip at the bottom and is a hazard.
Minimum Compliance

- Remove vertical lip.

Slope to access road via double gate
 If this is a pedestrian entrance, the existing slope is too steep to be easily traversed.
Minimum Compliance

- Either replace existing slope with a ramp (or a 5% walkway) OR ensure an alternate accessible route is nearby.

Sloped walkway to lot adjacent to field house
 This walkway has a slope of approximately 10.7% but could be fairly easily re-graded and made into a ramp.
Minimum Compliance

- Either replace existing slope with a ramp (or a 5% walkway) OR ensure an alternate accessible route is nearby.

Refreshment stands serving window
 The window is 37" high which works for people standing however it is too high for a person seated in a wheelchair or scooter to utilize.
Minimum Compliance

- Either provide a lower counter OR raise the exterior grade approximately 4" so that the counter would then be no more than 34" high.

Pathway along basketball and tennis courts
 There is an informal pathway but it is not accessible. Seating options are limited.
Minimum Compliance

- All features must be connected by an accessible route.

Gate to courts
 A person using a wheelchair will get their foot rests caught in mesh. The gate does not open a fully because of the adjacent landscape grade and there is no connecting accessible route.
Minimum Compliance

- Make gate accessible.

Gate to track from parking area
 The path is not paved and obviously puddles.
Minimum Compliance

- Establish an accessible route from the parking lot to the track.

Bleachers and gate in between track and tennis courts
 There is no accessible route connecting the courts to the track and the bleachers are not located on an accessible route.

Minimum Compliance

- Establish an accessible route between the facilities.
- Add a concrete pad under the bleachers and extend it 4' on all sides of the bleachers.

Entry into play structure from track
 The sloped walkway does not provide a 5' level landing at the pull side of the gate. A person using a wheelchair will get their foot rests caught in gate mesh.
Minimum Compliance

- Remove gate OR make gate accessible and establish a 5' level landing.

Play structure
 The structure is, in general, accessible; however, there is only one transfer entrance/platform.
Minimum Compliance

- Add a transfer entrance.

Accessible walkway around play structure
 The Play structure, unlike others, has a wide walkway around it. The structure is fortunate to have trees around half of it to provide shade that could also shade future benches and picnic tables.
Minimum Compliance

- Head up trees to at least 8' so that when wet, they do not hang below 80".

Play structure entry gate and fencing along Orchard Street
 For scooter users or parents with double strollers, the entry is awkward because of its narrowness. A person using a wheelchair will get foot rests caught in mesh.
Minimum Compliance

- Make gate accessible.

Orchard Street sidewalks
 The existing sidewalks have a variety of tripping hazards including vertical displacements, holes and patches. The sidewalks are 54" wide but do not have passing locations (5' X 5'). From a practical standpoint, the sidewalks are not wide enough for two people to walk side by side comfortably and allow someone to pass. The planting strip is not level with the sidewalk - creating a tripping or twisted ankle hazard. Where the strip is compacted dirt, pedestrians are likely crossing Orchard Street despite the absence of a crosswalk.
Minimum Compliance

- Establishing 5' x 5' passing locations along the sidewalk at reasonable intervals not to exceed 200'.
- Repair sidewalks accordingly.

Track entrance along Orchard Street sidewalk
 This entrance is used frequently however there is no accessible route from the sidewalk to the track, despite a gentle slope. The gate is not accessible
Minimum Compliance

- Establish an accessible route from the sidewalk to the field.
- Make gate accessible.

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Track entrance at parking lot

The existing walkway is 11%. There is no level landing at the gate entrance.

Minimum Compliance

- *Establish an accessible route from the sidewalk to the track.*
- *Establish an accessible route to the bench and trash can.*
- *If gate is kept, make accessible including a level landing and 18" clear space on latch side.*

Additional Recommendations:

1. New track and field facility

2. Install shade trees
3. Install benches
4. Add new lighting
5. Install new irrigation system
6. Install signs to alert users of game and event schedules
7. New surface for the Mary Williams Shea tennis courts
8. New surface for the basketball court
9. Park needs storage building
10. Put up signs to alert of games and events
11. Pave area from beginning of track straight to Marion Road
12. Consider synthetic grass on football/baseball field/soccer/lacrosse