



City of Kingston
Information Report to Kingston Heritage Properties Committee
Report Number HP-25-003

To: Chair and Members of the Kingston Heritage Properties Committee

From: Brad Joyce, Commissioner, Infrastructure, Transportation & Emergency Services

Resource Staff: Luke Follwell, Director, Engineering Services

Date of Meeting: December 18, 2024

Subject: Cricket Field Baseball Diamond Fencing – 32 Bagot Street

Council Strategic Plan Alignment:

Theme: 3. Build an Active and Connected Community

Goal: 3.1 Expand parks and recreation opportunities and participation.

Executive Summary:

In 2023, a new junior baseball diamond was constructed in Cricket Field as the venue for the 2024 Canadian Little League Championship. The park is in the Sydenham Heritage Conservation District.

On September 6, 2022, Council approved the Heritage Committee's endorsement of the project's site alteration application. There were a number of conditions in that application, including the requirement to remove the outfield fence after the tournament. This condition was agreed to by staff with the Sydenham District Association and local councillor during public engagement. The Kingston Baseball Association also agreed to this condition at that time.

The Little League tournament was held in August, at which time, a significant amount of public concern was expressed about the removal of the fence. On September 3, 2024, Council approved a motion directing staff to consult with the Sydenham District Association and Kingston Heritage Properties Committee to identify options for temporary or permanent fencing at the Cricket Field baseball diamond and report back.

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Four fencing options are described within the body of this report for consideration and discussion from a heritage perspective. Committee feedback would be shared and/or incorporated into options when reporting back to Council.

Recommendation:

This report is for information only.

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Authorizing Signatures:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

**Brad Joyce, Commissioner,
Infrastructure, Transportation &
Emergency Services**

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**Lanie Hurdle, Chief
Administrative Officer**

Consultation with the following Members of the Corporate Management Team:

Paige Agnew, Commissioner, Growth & Development Services	Not required
Jennifer Campbell, Commissioner, Community Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Neil Carbone, Commissioner, Corporate Services	Not required
David Fell, President & CEO, Utilities Kingston	Not required
Desirée Kennedy, Chief Financial Officer & City Treasurer	Not required

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Options/Discussion:

Background

On September 6, 2022, Council approved the Heritage Committee's endorsement of the renovation of an existing baseball diamond in Cricket Field. The application included the following conditions:

1. Relocate the baseball diamond approximately 30 metres southwest.
2. Grade the baseball diamond and outfield.
3. Replace the existing backstop with a new backstop. The new backstop is to be 6.75 metres tall and 23.25 metres wide with a cantilevered overhang of 1.5 metres, with galvanized posts and chain-link fencing.
4. Install an asphalt pathway to connect the diamond to the existing paved pathway and sidewalk at Bagot Street.
5. Install a "warning track" made of clay to demarcate the perimeter of the field/outfield (outfield portion to be removed post-tournament).
6. Install a home plate and a pitching plate.
7. Install two foul posts.
8. Install two covered dugouts in concrete approximately 2.7 metres tall, 2.5 metres side and 1 metres wide. Dugouts to have a powder coat finish, with the final colour to be determined with staff.
9. Install two bullpens and associated catcher's areas, one on each side of the diamond infield.
10. Replace, like-for-like, two aluminum sports field bleachers with an approximate capacity of 30 persons each.
11. Install galvanized chain-link fencing around the infield at approximately 1.8 metres tall.
12. Install temporary tournament fencing and gates in a galvanized steel colour around the outfield approximately 1.2 metres tall (outfield portion to be removed post-tournament).

On September 3, 2024 Council approved the following motion:

Whereas the Cricket Field located at 32 Bagot Street has been utilized by the community for many years and is part of a municipally designated property under the Ontario Heritage Act; and

Whereas in 2022 following engagement with the Sydenham District Association and the Heritage Kingston, City Council approved improvements to the Cricket Field, including a temporary fence and gates around the outfield to support a national championship tournament in Kingston; and

Whereas the temporary fence around the outfield was intended to be removed post-tournament based on direction from City Council; and

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Whereas some members of the community have shared concerns about the removal of the temporary fence as they see value in its retention for future uses, including potential future events; and

Whereas City Council wants to ensure that it maximizes the taxpayers' investments in community infrastructure;

Therefore Be It Resolved That City Council direct staff to consult with the Sydenham District Association and the Kingston Heritage Properties Committee to identify options that could possibly result in an event based or permanent outfield fence at the Cricket Field, either through use of the existing temporary fence or a new fence; and

That Council direct staff to consider options for reuse or relocation of the temporary outfield fence should it not remain at the Cricket Field to maximize taxpayers' investment; and

That Council direct staff to leave the temporary outfield fence at Cricket Field until staff report back with options in early 2025.

Fencing Options

The Sydenham District Association desires options that allow the park to appear and function as an unconstrained, multi-use, open space as per the park's historic configuration. The permanent homerun fence is the main concern expressed by the group. Two of the options outlined below would address this concern to differing degrees. Staff have included two additional options for committee's consideration and discussion.

Common elements for all options would include:

- The current yellow poly cap protective fence topper would be replaced with a black fence topper.
- Additional access gaps would be added to the current sideline and homerun fence to increase circulation.
- Gates would be installed on all gaps.
- Some reduction of fencing at the player's benches (dugouts) and pitchers' warmup areas (bullpens) would be considered to reduce visual clutter and improve public safety.
- The clay warning track would be retained.

Option 1 – Permanent fencing

Current configuration with above modifications.

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Option 2 – Permanent fencing with sideline openings

Removes 20-metre lengths of sideline outfield fence to increase circulation and visibility.

Temporary event fence would be used during tournaments to close the sideline fence openings.

Option 3 – Seasonal fencing

Includes the removal of the current homerun fence.

Includes some peripheral grading to level the open park lawn with the outfield.

A seasonal homerun fence would be installed approximately May 15 to September 15.

Option 4 – Event fencing

Includes the removal of the current homerun fence.

Includes some peripheral grading to level the open park lawn with the outfield.

Temporary event fence has been used during tournaments as a homerun fence. Typically, the Kingston Baseball Association hosts 5-6 tournaments per season that could be located in this park.

Public Engagement

Staff met with the Sydenham District Association on site in November and have corresponded in relation to options for the fencing. While not a condition of the Council direction, staff briefed the Kingston Baseball Association and Tourism Kingston on the discussions about the fence and took in feedback. At the request of the Sydenham District Association, staff hosted a meeting on November 20, 2024, with the Sydenham District Association, the Kingston Baseball Association, and Tourism Kingston to discuss fencing options. A representative from the Kingston Accommodation Partners also attended.

Existing Policy/By-Law

Kingston City Council Meeting, October 4, 2022 – Clause 3iii of Report Number 91: Received from Heritage Kingston with respect to Application for Ontario Heritage Act Approval – 32 Bagot Street.

Financial Considerations:

Staff would estimate costs and provide budget implications on the fencing options provided to Council for their consideration.

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Contacts:

Luke Follwell, Director, Engineering Services, 613-546-4291 extension 3139

Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:

Neal Unsworth, Manager, Parks & Shoreline, Engineering Services

Kevin Gibbs, Director, Heritage Services

Joel Konrad, Manger, Heritage Planning, Heritage Services

Karen Santucci, Director, Public Works & Solid Waste

Troy Stubinski, Manager, Public Works

Amy Elgersma, Director, Recreation & Leisure Services

Tony Gargaro, Manager, Recreation & Leisure Services

Exhibits Attached:

Exhibit A – Cricket Field Aerial Photo

Exhibit B – Option 1 - Permanent Fencing

Exhibit C – Option 2 - Permanent Fencing with Sideline Openings

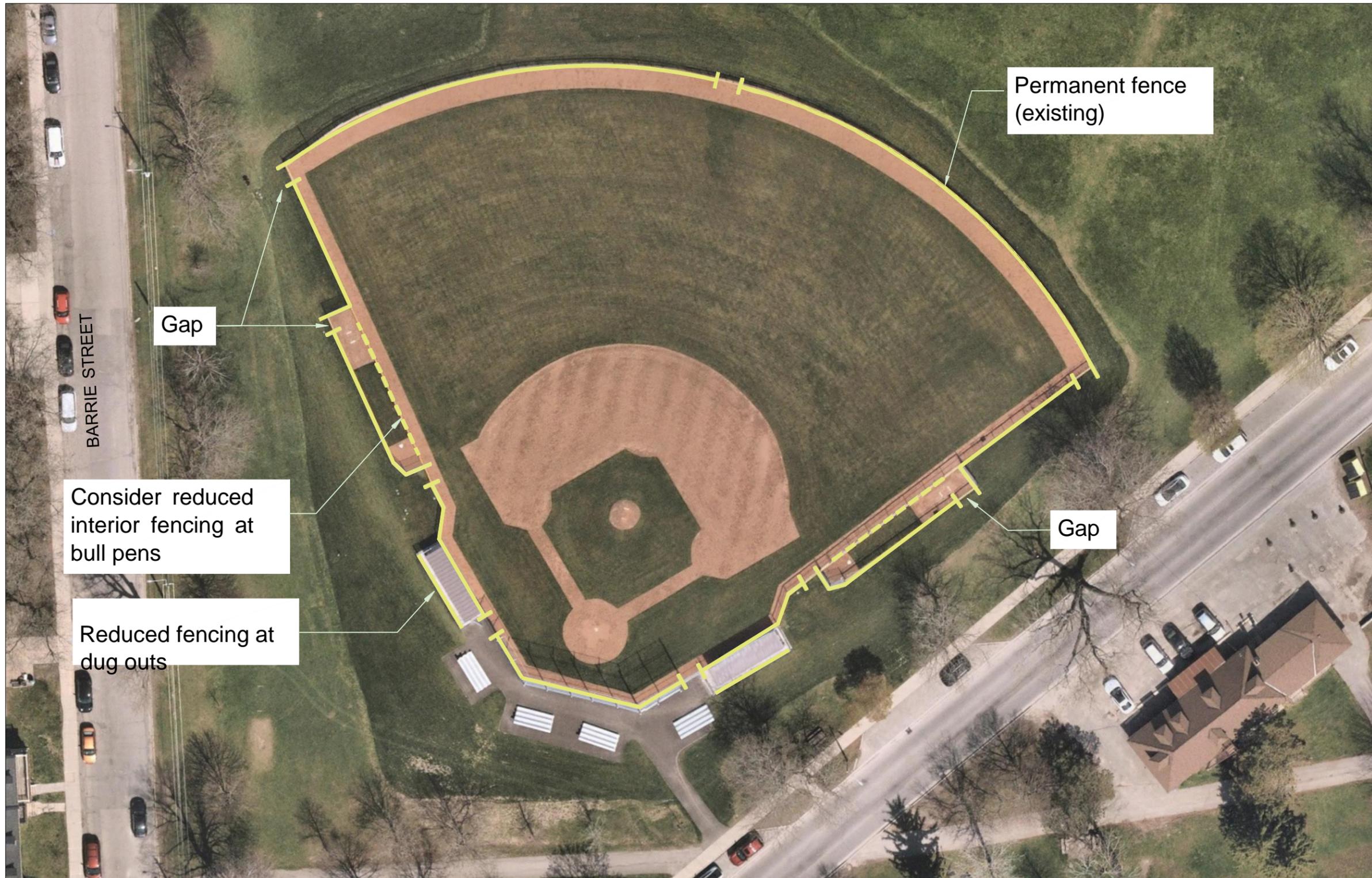
Exhibit D – Option 3 - Seasonal Fencing

Exhibit E – Option 4 - Event Fencing

Exhibit F – Reporting Out – October 5, 2022 Clause 3iii of Report Number 91

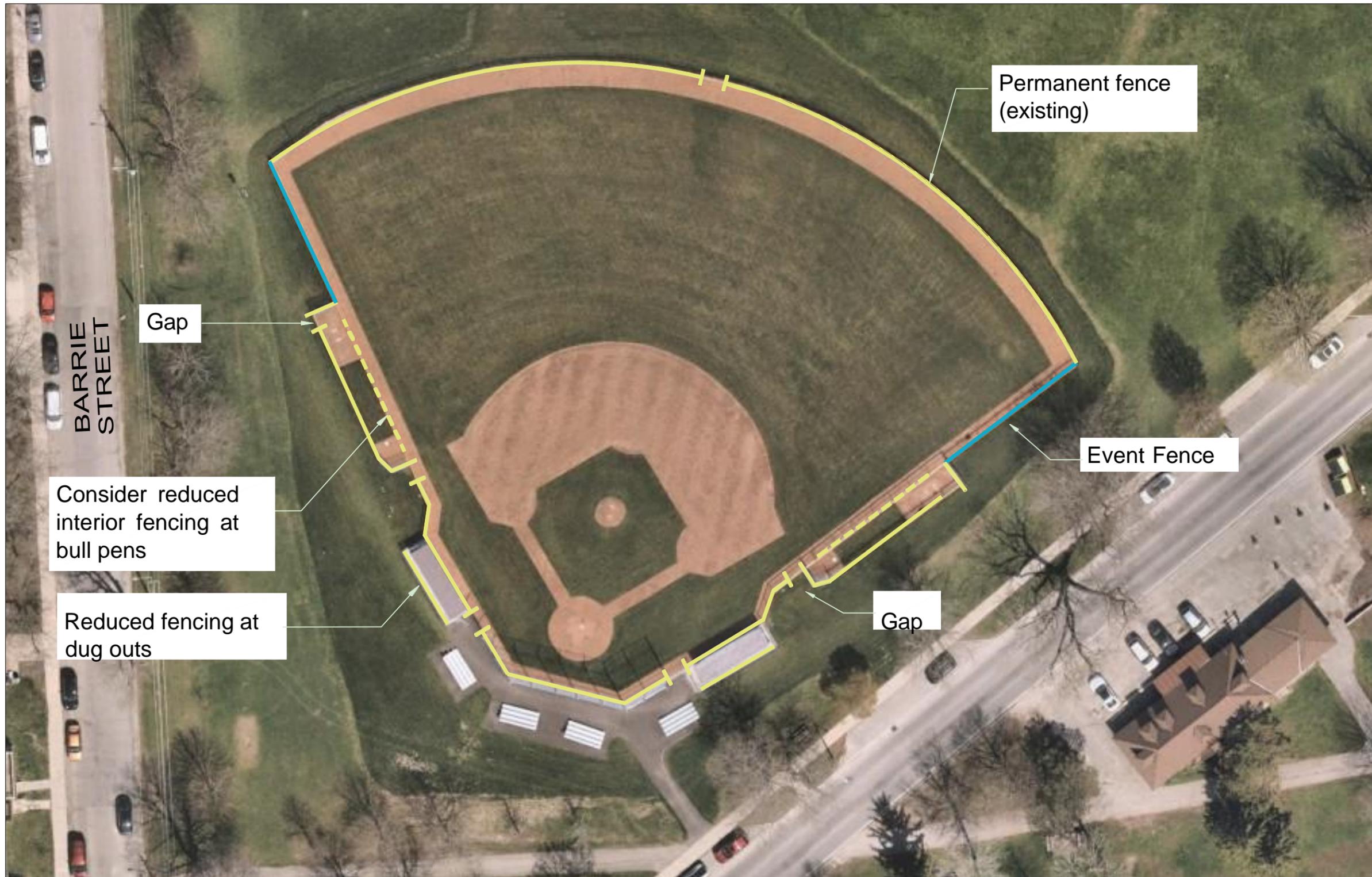


Cricket Field - Existing Condition

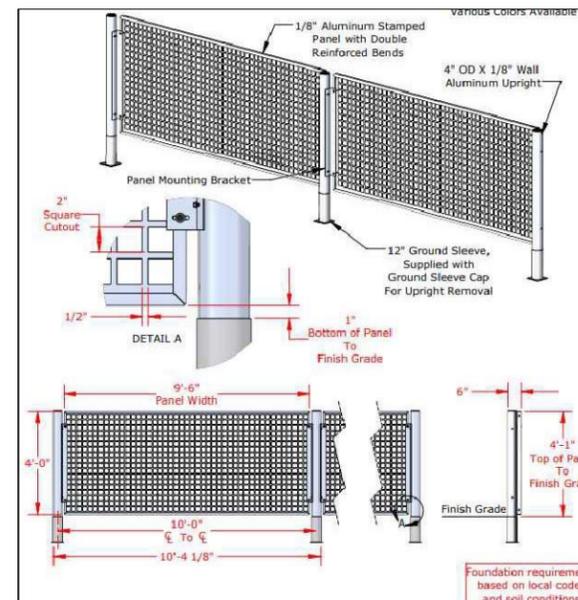
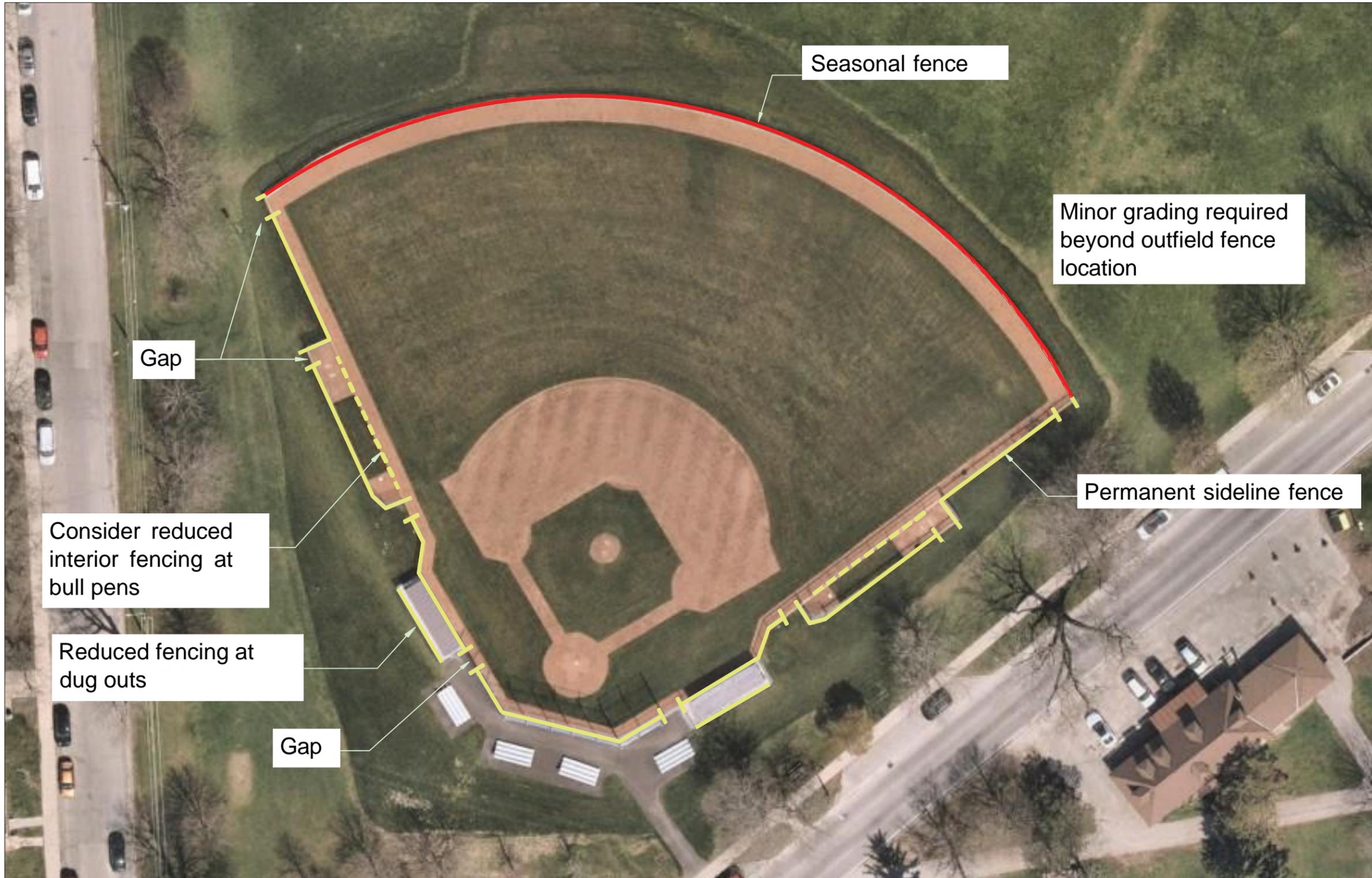


New fence topper

OPTION 1
Permanent fencing.
New fence topper.
All gaps would have gates.
Maintenance gate included.



OPTION 2
Permanent fence.
New fence topper.
All gaps would have gates.
Reduction of sideline fencing. Event fencing to enclose outfield as required.



Seasonal fencing



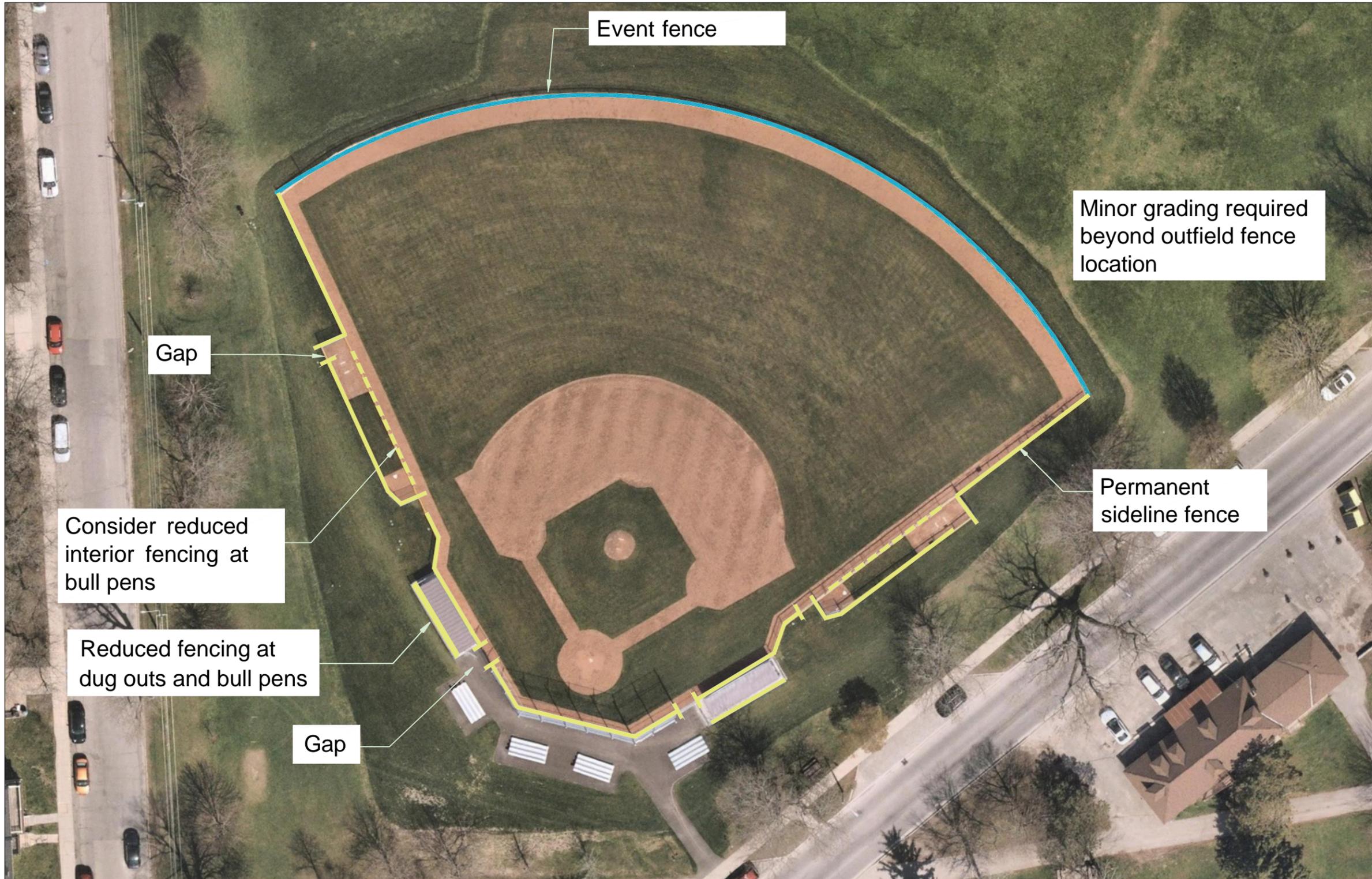
Fence topper

OPTION 3

Seasonal outfield fence - in place May 15 - September 15.
 Permanent sideline fence with maintenance gate. All gaps would have gates.
 Outfield fencing to be removed and stored in off-season.

Legend

█ Seasonal fence



Event fencing



Fence topper

OPTION 4
Event fencing.
Permanent sideline fence with maintenance gate. All gaps will have gates.
Event fencing to be removed and stored between events.

Legend
Event Fence



Office of the City Clerk

October 5, 2022

Via email: lpquin@cityofkingston.ca
nunsworth@cityofkingston.ca

Laurie Paquin, Project Manager
Neal Unsworth, Manager
The City of Kingston
216 Ontario Street
Kingston, ON K7L 2Z3

Dear Laurie & Neal:

Re: Kingston City Council Meeting, October 4, 2022 – Clause 3iii of Report Number 91: Received from Heritage Kingston with respect to Application for Ontario Heritage Act Approval – 32 Bagot Street

At the regular meeting on September 6, 2022, Council approved Clause 3iii of Report Number 91: Received from Heritage Kingston with respect to Application for Ontario Heritage Act Approval – 32 Bagot Street:

That alterations to the property at 32 Bagot Street be approved in accordance with the details as described in the application (P18-082-2022), which was deemed complete on July 25, 2022 with said alterations to include:

1. Relocate the baseball diamond approximately 30 metres southwest;
2. Grade the baseball diamond and outfield;
3. Replace the existing backstop with a new backstop. The new backstop is to be 6.75metres tall and 23.25 metres wide with a canted overhang of 1.5 metres, with galvanized posts and chain-link fencing;
4. Install an asphalt pathway to connect the diamond to the existing paved pathway and sidewalk at Bagot Street;

5. Install a “warning track” made of clay to demarcate the perimeter of the field/outfield (outfield portion to be removed post-tournament);
6. Install a home plate and a pitching plate;
7. Install two foul posts;
8. Install two covered dugouts in concrete approximately 2.7 metres tall, 2.5 metres side and 1 metres wide. Dugouts to have a powder coat finish, with the final colour to be determined with staff;
9. Install two bullpens and associated catcher’s areas, one on each side of the diamond infield;
10. Replace, like-for-like, two aluminum sports field bleachers with an approximate capacity of 30 persons each;
11. Install galvanized chain-link fencing around the infield at approximately 1.8 metres tall;
12. Install temporary tournament fencing and gates in a galvanized steel colour around the outfield approximately 1.2 metres tall (outfield portion to be removed post-tournament); and

That the approval of the alterations be subject to the following conditions:

1. Heritage planning staff shall be consulted on the relocation of any trees;
2. Heritage Planning staff shall be consulted on the final colours of the fencing and dugout;
3. Heritage planning staff shall be circulated the Grading Plan for review/comment;
4. A Grading Plan be submitted and approved, as necessary;
5. A Building Permit shall be obtained, as necessary;
6. Heritage Planning staff shall be circulated the drawings and design specifications tied to the Building Permit application for review and approval to ensure consistency with the scope of the Heritage Permit sought by this application; and
7. Any minor deviations from the submitted plans, which meet the intent of this approval and does not further impact the heritage attributes of the property, shall be delegated to the Director of Heritage Services for review and approval.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Bolognone', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Bolognone
City Clerk
/nb

C.C. Erin Semande, Ontario Heritage Trust
Ryan Leary, Heritage Planner