

Fall River, MA is an old mill city in southeastern Massachusetts with a population of over 96,000 people. There are six (6) city parks (Abbott Court, Columbus Park, Dumont Field, John F. Kennedy Park and Maplewood Park) that are home to eight (8) junior size baseball fields. These fields are used by over 1,500 children ranging from ages 5 to 12 years old each spring and summer. These children participate in five different youth leagues run by adult volunteers who donate their time.

There is a wide range of youth baseball being played in Fall River. There are two Little league baseball programs (American LL and National LL), two independent programs (Columbus Independent Youth Baseball and the Fall River Federal Baseball League) and a Pony League program (Maplewood Youth Baseball League). There will soon be another junior size field at Maplewood Park. This new field is being constructed by the volunteers of the Maplewood Youth Baseball League. There is currently one field in the city at Maplewood Park that has lights that were purchased and installed by the league. It took the league several years of planning and fundraising to accomplish that goal.

The fields in these parks are all owned by the City of Fall River. The city does provide some assistance to maintain the fields, a lot of the extra work is done by the league volunteers.

This generous donation by the sponsors of this contest would benefit the over 1,500 youth who participate in baseball programs throughout the city of Fall River. It would allow more games to be played at every level of baseball. It would also improve a city field and would be added security to a city park, allowing more parents to attend their children's games at a later time in the evening. Bring the experience of night baseball to the entire family.

This experience would be the experience of a lifetime for the youth of our city. Making this a true **"Field of Dreams"** just like their dreams of being major leaguers like their favorite players.

Jeffrey Silvia
Little League Baseball, MA District 6, Administrator
Board of Park Commissioners, City of Fall River

