

Granite City Electric Field of Dreams IV Sweepstakes Entry
Monson Parks and Recreation Department

Over the past few years America's Past Time, baseball, has gained resurgence in our small community of Monson, Massachusetts. Through the efforts of enthusiastic and passionate parents and coaches the youth baseball program in Monson has developed and become competitive with the surrounding larger communities. Our youth teams have realized championships in the J. L. Sullivan and the Tri-Town Leagues at different age levels and divisions. The efforts of the parents and coaches have even gained attention from our varsity baseball coach who has been drawn into the program and over the winter months donates his time to hold informal baseball clinics with our younger players on pitching, hitting and fielding.

The youth of Monson are dedicated to baseball and grab any opportunity they can to play the game they love. In the dead of winter they will go to one of the three school gymnasiums to get in some batting and fielding practice, as well as a chance to just throw that baseball around. To increase indoor opportunities two pitching mounds were constructed through donated time and materials. As a means of gaining support, sharing their passion for the game and showing their patriotism, the Monson youth baseball program participates yearly in Monson's Fourth of July Summerfest, walking in the parade and sponsoring a booth. Participation in youth baseball provides players the opportunity to be exposed to positive role models that will provide them with the support and guidance they need to develop into mature, passionate and caring individuals. Over the years coaches and parents have seen the young children of Monson mature into caring citizens and above average players that hunger for America's Great Past Time.

Currently, the Town of Monson is in the process of constructing a new field for the 12 and under teams. Through the voluntary efforts of town residents the field area has been cleared, leveled and seeded. The field is starting to take shape; however, there is still work to be done. As you can see by the attached photo we still have some work to finish. The infield grass needs to be cut out, the outfield fence needs to be installed, the backstop needs to be installed and the dugout constructed. It is anticipated that over the next few months these tasks will be completed. Most of our volunteers are now engrossed in the baseball season. As a small community with little financial support available, in these hard economic times, the passionate baseball parents and players of all ages in Monson continue to nurture the Monson youth baseball program and would like to provide its players with a Field of Dreams.

A dream of all youth players is to have the opportunity to play under lights. By awarding the Town of Monson with the lighting system package the Monson's youth would have a "state of the art" baseball field and their dream to be able to play under lights would become a reality. It would be wonderful to see the Monson youth baseball players' dreams come true and have a field that is something to talk about.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen O'Shea, Commissioner
Monson Parks and Recreation Department

