

1. Attach a narrative and supporting documentation describing the local need for the proposed project, and how your project will address that need. Include information such as the number of similar facilities within the service area; amenities, size, condition, accessibility and ADA compliance of the existing facility; current use of the facility; and the anticipated maintenance, operation, and level of use of the proposed facility. Identify any special mandates, threats, or emergency situations affecting the need for the project, and probable consequences if the proposed project does not advance. Rating points can be awarded only if supporting documentation is attached.

Cite and attach evidence, such as maps, usage studies, inspection reports, government citations/consent decrees, requests for services, expressions of concern or recommendation from interested parties, etc.

[Please note: **General** letters of support should be attached only in Q_15733.]

This proposed project pertains to the municipal park of the Town of New Lisbon. It is comprised of three parts: (1) resurfacing of the basketball court, (2) replacement of the baseball/softball field backstop and (3) replacement of the Town Park sign.

The town park, which is located approximately at -75.1691, 42.6463, is the only recreational area of its type in the town and in the immediately surrounding area. As can be seen in the included photos, the park comprises a pavilion with picnic tables and a grill, a playground, a basketball court and a ball field, which are proximate to each other and to the town hall, which has bathrooms and a kitchen that are available to users of the park. The park is used in the spring, summer and fall by community residents in and outside the town as well as by visitors to the area. The town hall provides bathrooms and a kitchen.

The only other park in or near to the town is Gilbert Lake State Park (GLSP), which lacks a ball field, is often crowded and requires an entrance fee during the warm weather months. Morris Central School has a ball field, basketball half-courts and a playground but they are disconnected from each other. The playground is across a state highway from the ball field and basketball half-courts and is behind the school building. The ball field and the basketball half-courts are separated by distance and a

village street. The only bathrooms are in the school building which is normally not open after hours or on weekends.

The basketball court in the Town Park was improved about five years ago with a new hoop and backboard donated by a town resident but the court cannot be used for basketball (other than for shooting games like Horse) because the surface of the court is severely damaged due to age. As can be seen in the included photos, it is full of cracks, holes and loose gravel making it difficult and unsafe to play on, and is therefore in desperate need of resurfacing.

Benches around the playground area were rebuilt and repainted about five years ago by a local contractor who donated his time and materials. The playground is inspected monthly by the Facilities Committee of the Town Board. The playground set was repainted by community volunteers about five years ago and will be painted by volunteers again this summer.

As can be seen in the included photographs, the Town Sign needs to be replaced. The Facilities Committee of the Town Board, following discussions with sign providers, estimates the cost of a replacement sign to be about \$1,000.

At this point in time, the most frequent user of the park is Morris Rec Youth Sports (MRYS), a 501(c)(3) corporation based in the neighboring Town of Morris and serving area residents including New Lisbon residents. Their baseball/softball program has approximately 105 children between the ages of five and twelve, about 65 of whom are boys and about 40 are girls. They use the field for T-ball, softball and baseball practices and games Mondays through Saturdays from mid-April to early July. While the children of MRYS use the ball field, siblings use the playground and play basketball shooting games on the basketball court. The town hall is available during these times for use of the bathrooms and kitchen.

In addition to the MRYS program, the playground, pavilion, ball field and basketball courts are used by town and area residents as well as by visitors to the area but there is no mechanism to quantify the numbers of users or uses.

The ball field itself is in good shape, largely due to the efforts of MRYS volunteers, but the backstop is not. As can be seen in the included photos, it is in serious need of repair. The posts, especially on the backstop but also on the dugout fences, are old and deteriorating, the chain link fencing is a patchwork of corroding pieces and is loose and not well secured, the dugout fences are of less than desirable length, the on deck boxes are small and exposed, and the backstop lacks overhead fencing.

We fully expect usage of the playground, basketball court and ball field to increase if we are able to make the basketball court usable again and to repair the ball field backstop and related structures. With these improvements, the town will promote usage of the park and try to use it to generate revenue that can be used to help maintain the park going forward.

Unfortunately, the town is unable to pay for the needed resurfacing of the basketball court and reconstruction of the ball field backstop, dugout fences and on deck boxes. The cost of the project, based on the included preliminary estimates with an estimate of \$1K for the sign, would cost the town about \$36,350. Given the town's 2025 tax levy of

\$798,725, that amount is equivalent to a 4.6% tax increase, which is well above the NYS tax cap. Therefore, if the grant is not awarded, the town will be unable to effect the needed repairs, leaving town and area residents without a useful basketball court and ball field and leaving the park unattractive and therefore less often used.

The area between the playground and the parking area has about a 20% grade. However, as shown in the included aerial photo, there is emergency and vehicular access along the edge of the park, from which the playground, pavilion, basketball court and ball field can be reached, which has about a 5% grade and is about 200' long.