

Castle Field...then and now

On July 25, 1950, the first game was played on Anoka's lit baseball field, Greenhaven Park. Over 1200 people gathered in the stands and along the baselines to watch the games that evening. Two local peewee teams played the first game of the night, playing the last two innings under the lights. It was Anoka vs. Nowthen for the main event.

Anoka was successful in building this field through community donations and the sale of stock. A donation of land from the Anoka American Legion helped make the field possible. Baseball enthusiasts and City leaders worked together to build the "finest lighted field" in the state. The field was of a novelty design; being lowered an additional eight feet below the property's original grade so that bleachers could be erected into the hillside.

The bleachers wrapped around home plate extending down the baselines. Spectators also watched the game from cars with uninterrupted views from the parking lot.

In 1953 the field was named Castle Memorial Field after Willard E. Castle, an excellent baseball player, Veteran, and former employee of Anoka Electric. His memory lives on through all the people that have played on this community ball field.

In addition to the name, the new Castle Memorial Field will continue with all the classic traditions of Anoka baseball. Plans for the new field include 250-seat stadium bleacher with overhead canopy, press box, concession stand, and restroom facilities. Continuing Anoka's tradition of a sunken field, the first row of bleacher seats will be nearly eight feet above the field.

As with the first field, the Anoka American Legion, Anoka-Hennepin School District 11, City leaders, and members of Anoka's baseball community have worked together for the past two years to make this new field a reality.

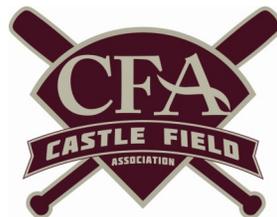
Construction of the field is underway, but it will not be complete without your support! Our goal is to raise \$500,000 through contributions from local businesses, grants, and community member donations for the construction of the plaza area and the concession and restroom building.

As a premiere ball field serving both youth and adults, Castle Memorial Field will fulfill the community needs of Anoka and surrounding cities for years to come.

Become a part of history...

There are several opportunities for you to show your love and support of this ball field and the community through memorial donations.

All monetary donations accepted and appreciated. Receive special recognition by donating a picture mosaic, buying a brick for the plaza, sponsoring a seat in the center bleacher section, or sponsoring a memorial tree. Multiple donation levels are available to allow all community members the opportunity to participate in this exciting and essential fundraiser.



Questions?

Call the City of Anoka's
Park Department at
763-576-2980.

Donation Opportunities

PICTURE MOSAIC

A \$25 donation allows you to be recognized in a picture mosaic at Castle Field. This is a unique display that uses hundreds of individual photos as the background to recreate the picture.



PAVER BRICK

For your donation, your name, logo (8x8 only), or short inscription will be engraved on a paver brick. Bricks will be prominently displayed in the plaza area.

8"x 8" paver brick = \$200

4"x 8" paver brick = \$100



Multiple 4"x 8" Brick Discount:

2 bricks = \$180

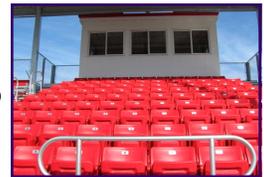
4 bricks = \$320

3 bricks = \$255

5 bricks = \$400

BUCKET SEAT

A \$500 donation provides an inscription and/or logo to be imprinted on a name plate affixed to the backrest of a bucket seat. Only 69 seats available. Sponsor one today!



MEMORIAL TREES

A \$500 donation allows a tree to be planted in memory of a loved one. All gifts of memorial trees will be recognized on a centralized plaque (not at the base of individual trees). A limited number of trees are available, which will include a mix of maple, oak, flowering, and evergreen.

