Above, Existing Banta-Davis Recreation Facilities approved at 1998 Town Meeting: One Little League field, one softball field, one soccer/multi-purpose field

Below, Proposed Buildout of Banta-Davis Recreation Facilities to provide for current and future recreation needs: Two additional Little League fields, one additional multi-purpose field, four tennis courts, additional parking, seating areas, covered picnic pavilion, walking paths, and cross-country course through the woods.

Appendix G: Recreation Commission Plans for the Banta-Davis Land

Given the need for more fields in Carlisle, the Recreation Commission (RecCom) is concerned about proposals to use the location of existing recreation facilities on the Banta-Davis Land for municipally supported affordable housing. In addition to the reduction in land for current and future recreation needs, housing at Banta-Davis may limit activities at existing town playing fields. **Aside from facilities on school property, the Town currently has no in-town alternative for recreation facilities.**

RecCom is committed to the full build-out of the Banta-Davis land as the Town's outdoor recreation facility in accordance with a multi-phase plan first presented at Town Meeting in 1998. Phase 1, funded in 1998 and then constructed, included one Little League field, one adult softball field, one soccer field, bleachers, an irrigation well, and a parking area. Given the documented need for additional fields and facilities, plans for Phase 2 were presented at 2006 Town Meeting fulfilling the 1998 plan, with two additional Little League fields, a second soccer/multi-purpose field, four new tennis courts, and expanded parking and drop-off areas. The 2006 plans added paved ADA-compliant walking paths connecting the proposed new fields, a covered picnic pavilion, and a cross-country course through the adjacent woods to enhance the experiential feel of the site as a park in the community. Both the 1998 and 2006 plans were supported by the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee. The 2006 plan was approved at Town Meeting but fell just short of the necessary votes at the ballot box a week later. The budget impact of two new schools during difficult financial times has put the plans on hold, but in the interim, the need for expansion on Banta-Davis has increased.

Banta-Davis will soon be linked to the Spalding athletic fields with an ADA-compliant boardwalk for which CPA funding was approved at 2013 Town Meeting. The boardwalk will provide safe transit for parents and athletes between the adjoining fields and will eliminate the need to walk between the two facilities on the curving, main road with limited shoulders.

Their central location makes Banta-Davis and Spalding Field an ideal site for the town's outdoor recreation facility, as it abuts the Carlisle Schools property, providing convenient access for student athletes both during and after school. The consolidated facility also provides efficiencies for maintenance and infrastructure, including irrigation and parking.

Some have suggested siting recreation fields and facilities on scattered sites in residential neighborhoods in town, but scattered siting would require duplicating infrastructure and would increase maintenance costs substantially. Aside from the environmental impact of the construction of the fields themselves, the additional clearing required for parking and the impact of irrigation wells would conflict with the town's environmental priorities. The additional cost for acquiring land and maintaining fields and facilities would unnecessarily strain the Town's limited financial resources. In addition, the increased traffic in residential neighborhoods, the inevitable parking alongside our narrow roads, and the inevitable conflicts between organized sports and the quiet enjoyment of neighboring residents further preclude scattered siting as a reasonable option.