

NEW SPORTS COMPLEX PLANNED FOR NORTHEAST WICHITA

April 11, 2006—Wichita, Kansas: Central Plains Youth Sports (CPYS) has been selected to partner with the City of Wichita to construct a sports complex in northeast Wichita. The sports complex, located on the northwest corner of 29th and Greenwich Road, will have an emphasis on Little League baseball and softball. The city is donating use of the land, while CPYS will engage the community in raising the funds necessary to build the complex. Construction is scheduled to begin later this year, with the fields being ready to play as early as Spring, 2007.

CPYS is a not-for-profit organization, formed 2 years ago by a group of local baseball enthusiasts. “Sports are a great way to engage our young people and teach leadership and teamwork skills. Right now, our local teams have to travel out of town for tournaments. This sports complex will allow us to host league play and tournaments and keep our players closer to home,” said Galen Worley, CPYS President.

The project will include constructing up to seventeen fields on approximately 60 acres of land owned by the city of Wichita. The sports complex will be built in three phases, to allow organizers to generate revenue along the way to pay for development of the following phase. Phase one includes construction of six baseball fields to serve youth from the ages of five through twelve. Phase two consists of an additional three fields to be completed approximately two years after phase one. Phase three consists of an additional eight fields to be completed approximately four years later, bringing the total number of fields to 17.

The fields will support both league play and tournament play for youth in all skill levels in baseball and softball. In addition, the fields will provide an opportunity to stage National tournaments for teams all across the country, bringing them to Wichita to compete at the highest level. The sports complex will also offer clinics, camps and individual instruction, providing young ball players opportunities to develop their skills.

“The interest and support we have received from the Wichita City Council has been tremendous,” Worley said. “In particular, Council members Sue Schlapp and Carl Brewer have been instrumental in moving this project forward. We’ve also had several local businesses step up and offer to donate materials, labor and time. This community support is the building block of our success.”

In addition to supporting youth baseball and softball well into the future, the sports complex will have a significant economic impact to the community. Local restaurants, hotels, shops and theatres will all benefit as out of town ball players and their families come to Wichita for tournaments.

“We believe that there is a great need for this baseball and softball complex,” Worley concluded. “Our intent is to develop a kid-safe, kid-friendly, fun arena where we can encourage our children and our children’s children to experience the national pastime.”

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