



**The Field Fund, Inc.**

PO Box 142

Chilmark, MA 02535

thefieldfund@gmail.com

www.fieldfundinc.org

**The Field Fund, Inc.** is a 501(c)(3) organization

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October 20, 2022

West Tisbury Community Preservation Committee  
c/o Sara Fuschetto  
West Tisbury Town Hall  
PO Box 278  
West Tisbury, MA 02575  
cpa@westtisbury-ma.gov

**APPLICATION INFORMATION REQUIRED:**

Project Title: **West Tisbury Town Field Irrigation Project**

Sponsoring Organization: **The Field Fund, Inc.**

Contact: **Mollie Doyle, President**

The Field Fund, Inc.

PO Box 142, Chilmark, MA 02535

Phone: 212.729.7396

Email: molliemdoyle@gmail.com

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

1. Project Category: **Open Space-Parks & Recreation**
2. Funding Scope: The Field Fund is requesting \$54,000 to install a new, efficient, smart irrigation system at the West Tisbury Town field adjacent to the West Tisbury School. This includes the cost of the installation by Bettencourt Irrigation & Landscape and the cost of tunneling the wiring underneath the road by Fenner Construction.

The total project cost, including the field preparation and post project maintenance, is estimated to cost \$71,305. The Field Fund will provide project oversight and subcontractor coordination, as well as cover pre and post irrigation installation field maintenance, and any unanticipated project costs.

Please note this is in addition to the approximately \$10,000 that The Field Fund invests in the West Tisbury Town field annually – and intends to continue to spend – for ongoing field maintenance including supplemental mowing (as frequently as every 3 days during the growing season), aeration, organic fertilizer, soil testing, and slice seeding with high quality turf grass seed.

3. Goals: The Field Fund is seeking funding to install a highly efficient irrigation system at the currently unirrigated West Tisbury town field. This field supports a variety of formal and informal community activities including MV United's Island League soccer, Little League T-ball and Coach Pitch teams, pickup women's soccer, West Tisbury School activities, as well as a range of informal community uses from after school recreation to family/neighborhood activities.

The lack of irrigation combined with the longer periods of drought the island has been experiencing has made maintenance for this important playing field extra challenging. Without irrigation, we have had to try to time seeding and soil amendment applications with the weather forecast. This has proven particularly difficult recently given the island's labor shortage. Having consistent and controlled irrigation after seeding and soil amendment allows for a higher percentage of germination and faster and thicker grow in. The field will be healthier and more consistently able to provide a safe playing surface for the West Tisbury community and island athletes.

At the same time, we recognize the many demands on our aquifer particularly during periods of drought and the need for conservation. Thankfully smart irrigation systems allow us to minimize our water use and activate the system only where and when necessary. Further, according to the NRDC, "Each 1 percent increase in soil organic matter helps soil hold 20,000 gallons more water per acre." In other words, the healthier we can get our soil, the more water it can hold, ultimately reducing the amount of irrigation needed to sustain it.

Since our inception, The Field Fund has worked with natural grass experts, agronomists, and suppliers to assess and make targeted critical improvements (using local, subcontracted labor) to the playing fields around the island.

Our first aim was to improve the overall health of all of The Field Fund's partner fields. Currently that includes seven island fields – Chilmark, Oak Bluffs School's two fields, and four in West Tisbury (the West Tisbury School's two fields, Martha's Vineyard Public Charter School, and the Town field). In the past we have also provided supplemental maintenance for Veterans Park and the Edgartown School.

Depending upon need and use, we invest anywhere from \$5,000 to \$20,000 on each field annually. This includes offering extra mowing, surface and subsurface decompaction, aerating and overseeding with high quality seed. In West Tisbury, we have invested more than \$10,000 per year for the last five years on the Town field and \$15-20,000 per year on the School's main playing field, which is higher use. Additionally, two summers ago, thanks to generous support from the CPC, we upgraded the irrigation system on the West Tisbury School's main field. The results have been striking.

All of the fields have markedly better grass cover, improved drainage, and playability. It should be noted that we use minimal organic fertilizer and amendments (and no soil amendments whatsoever at two of the fields due to their proximity to wellheads). Our applications are always dictated by soil tests and visual field inspections. And when properly applied, healthy fields use nitrogen rather than leach it.

While The Field Fund's work to improve the fields has made a significant difference, a smart irrigation system covering all the grass at the field would be a game changer. The seed we slice into the soil would thrive and the established root systems would become much more substantial. A healthier root system means the grass will be a more resilient, safer play surface for West Tisbury residents and island athletes of all ages while conserving water resources, sequestering carbon, and helping to cool the planet. And the proposed highly efficient system will ensure we do not overtax our water resources. A success indeed!

4. Community Need: The West Tisbury Town field is a well used island field. Between the girls and boys soccer teams, there are approximately 130 MV United Island League participants, from 5th through 8th grade. The youth soccer scene is flourishing on the Island. While the Recreational program uses the WT School field across the parking lot, the middle school Island League requires more field space. The league relies on the Town field for both practices and games. In the summer and fall of 2021, we had very little rain and the field took a major beating. Without irrigation we can't encourage proper root growth and the grass cover is more easily damaged and struggles to recover. If we have a dry spell with an irrigated field we can provide enough water for the grass to maintain a strong root system. It is then less likely to be damaged by heavy play and in turn is safer for the athletes.

In addition, Little League baseball uses the field for some of their T-Ball and Coach Pitch events (each has 3-6 teams, with 10-15 children per team), and an informal women's soccer league has used it for games off and on over the last five years. In addition to those more organized sports programs, the field is also sometimes used by the West Tisbury School students during the day.

As an island community, we have done a wonderful job of preserving our wild areas, watersheds and fields, but as a community we have not been as diligent about our green spaces – particularly our parks and fields. These are the places where families gather, picnic, hang out on a summer afternoon or weekend. They are critical to community building and, when cared for, can also help cool our rapidly warming climate.

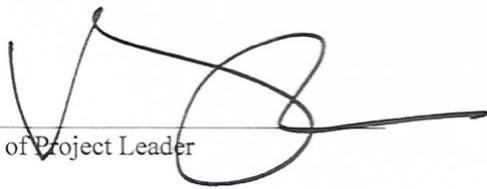
5. Community Support: *See attached.* The Field Fund has worked to foster partnerships with the schools and towns across the island. As described above, we partnered with the Town of Oak Bluffs CPC to support a campus upgrade, which included new tennis courts and a basketball court and two new fields. We are also partnering with the Town of Chilmark to improve its town field with support from its CPC and the West Tisbury School's antiquated irrigation system was upgraded several years ago thanks to a fruitful collaboration between The Field Fund, the WT CPC, and the U.S. Soccer Foundation. We have strong relationships with the schools and programs we support, including MV United, the island's youth soccer program. As you can read in our letters of support, these partnerships have been beneficial for all.

Regarding this project specifically, West Tisbury Parks and Rec Department, which manages this property, is in favor of the project (see letter below). West Tisbury School Principal Donna Lowell Bettencourt and MV United Island League have also expressed support (see below). At their October 17 meeting, the UIRSD Committee voted 4-0 to allow us to connect to the WTS's non potable well for this project, avoiding the need to dig a new well. West Tisbury Health Agent Omar Johnson also gave his approval for the use of the well.

6. Budget: See *attached*. Please note that for the past five years, we have assembled and trained an island Field Fund team to execute our field work. These people include our Project Manager, Clark Myers, mower Donnie Sexton, landscaper Ali Hedin, irrigation specialist Tim Bettencourt of Bettencourt Irrigation & Landscape, and Danny Rogers Excavating.
7. Written Estimates: See *attached*. Please note that we have not attached two quotes as irrigation Bettencourt Irrigation & Landscape is the only contractor on the island that the irrigation design firm SiteOne deems capable of installing this highly technical system, which is today's industry standard for high use natural grass fields. While we could get a quote from an off island firm, we believe in using local labor whenever possible.
8. Funding: Other than seeking funding from the West Tisbury CPC, The Field Fund will also be privately fundraising to fund this project. Additionally we have invested a total of more than \$150,000 in the West Tisbury School and Town fields over the last 5 years. We will be paying the additional \$17,305 to manage and complete the project; and are committed to a long term relationship offering both the school and West Tisbury Town supplemental field maintenance.  
  
In terms of revenue potential, the Town charges for some uses of the field. This project would help ensure that those utilizing it are recreating on a more consistently safe, healthy surface.
9. Timeline: We will aim to commence work as soon as possible after town meeting so we can take advantage of the new irrigation when we seed in spring 2023. However, we recognize that the work depends entirely on subcontractors with busy schedules, so the timeline will be guided by their availability. Once we have a sense of the timeline, we will confer with the Parks and Rec Department to make sure it works for them.
10. Implementation: The Field Fund will be responsible for implementing the project. Clark Myers will be the Project Manager. Along with overseeing The Field Fund's install of two new fields in Oak Bluffs, the irrigation upgrade at the WTS, and all of our work around the island, Clark has managed large scale projects such as Featherstone's complete campus overhaul. He is professional, diligent, thoughtful and gets excellent work done on time.
11. Maintenance: The ongoing maintenance of the new irrigation system will be conducted by Bettencourt Irrigation & Landscape, overseen by the Town of West Tisbury, with technical support from The Field Fund.

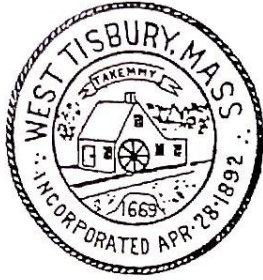
12. Further Documentation: Please see photo of the field from an Island League game last fall following several months of drought. The Field Fund had recently aerated and seeded the field, but without appropriate amounts of water, germination rates were low and compaction rates remained high.
13. Feasibility Reports: *Attached herewith*: the aerial view and irrigation plan for the site.
14. Zoning Compliance: Smoothing the field and installing irrigation do not violate any Town bylaws nor does it need a permit from the Town or MVC. The natural contours of the land will not be impacted.
15. Other information: Irrigation on the West Tisbury Town field is critical for a better playing surface and healthier field. Taking care of our fields, promoting microbial life with better air and feeding it appropriate amounts of water, is also a best practice for our planet. The Field Fund's long term aim is to turn every playing field on the island into a carbon sink. As a Green Community, the Town of West Tisbury will continue to demonstrate environmental leadership with this project, optimizing their fields to be carbon sequestering, climate mitigating tools, which would not only be cooling, but also very cool.
16. This is a single request.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Project Leader



\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
Title

#5. Community Support Letters



Town of West Tisbury  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
West Tisbury, Massachusetts 02575

Mark Bernard-Chair  
Skip Manter  
Lisa Amols  
Matt Gebo  
John Rau

Dear Community Preservation Committee,

The Field Fund presented the project to upgrade the irrigation system at the ball field at the West Tisbury school at our meeting on August 3, 2022. There was talk of being mindful of water consumption and that a field with better grass coverage is healthier and safer for our community and our environment considering our changing climate. That field gets so much use in the fall with the island soccer league that it was quite bare at the end of the season last year because of lack of rain. The Field Fund aggressively over seeded and aerated and it has bounced back amazingly well but it would be nice to have water to support the maintenance they are doing.

The Parks and Recreation Committee has partnered with The Field Fund for the last 4 years and has seen the positive work they are doing around the island. We fully support the implementation of a new irrigation system.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peggy Stone".

Peggy Stone  
Board Administrator  
West Tisbury Parks and Recreation



Donna Lowell-Bettencourt  
Principal

Mary Boyd  
Assistant Principal

West Tisbury School  
P.O. Box 250  
West Tisbury, MA 02575  
ph 508-696-7738 fx 508-696-7739  
[www.wtisburyschool.org](http://www.wtisburyschool.org)

Molly Cabral  
Guidance

Graham Houghton  
Student Support & Intervention

October 12, 2022

Town of West Tisbury  
Community Preservation Committee  
P.O. Box 278  
West Tisbury, MA 02575

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the West Tisbury School, I offer my wholehearted support of the proposed town field irrigation project.

Irrigation will improve the overall health and longevity of an important town space. The project will greatly improve an area which gets abundance use from a variety of community groups and organizations, as well as WT School students.

Sincerely Yours,

Donna Lowell-Bettencourt  
Principal

DLB/ars



MARTHA'S VINEYARD UNITED  
SOCCER



October 19, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

The Board of Directors of Martha's Vineyard United Soccer would like to express our support for The Field Fund's grant application in order to help fund the installation of an irrigation system on the West Tisbury Town field. We understand they are applying for Community Preservation Act monies to help fund the project in order to better maintain the playing field.

Currently, Martha's Vineyard United relies on the West Tisbury town and school fields to run our Recreational and Island League programs. These programs are utilized by close to 500 children on the island. The West Tisbury town field typically hosts multiple Island League practices during the week and games on Saturdays during the soccer season. However, the lack of irrigation causes the field to become dusty and compacted during periods of drought making it less safe for players. Proper irrigation would help sustain a safe field that could be utilized consistently.

Our organization is run entirely by volunteers dedicated to providing a soccer program to all of the young people on the island, and field access is an ongoing challenge. This irrigation project will help to provide a healthy, reliable playing surface for all.

We hope the West Tisbury CPC will support this project.

Sincerely,

Martha's Vineyard United Board of Directors





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## Field Fund Irrigation Project

**WEST TISBURY Town Field, West Tisbury, MA**

### IRRIGATION INSTALLATION BUDGET

- Irrigation - \$51,000
- Tunneling to connect to West Tisbury School well - \$3,000
- Aerate with deep tine VertiDrain aerator (by off-island contractor) - \$3,750
- Topdress with compost - \$3,500 (material + labor)
- Slit seed Kentucky bluegrass - \$1,350 (seed + labor)
- Aerate with Redexium Spike aerator - \$2,000
- Broadcast spread Perennial ryegrass - \$960 (seed + labor)
- 3-3-3 Myco-Replenish - \$745 (material + labor)
- Project Planning/Management/Grow-In Oversight - \$5,000

TOTAL: \$71,305

## #7. Written Estimates

Bettencourt Irrigation & Landscaping, Inc.  
 PO Box 2338  
 Edgartown, MA 02539  
 508-627-7100  
 Office@bettirr.com  
 bettirr.com

## Estimate

ADDRESS
West Tisbury School

ESTIMATE #	DATE
1166	09/22/2022

DATE	ACTIVITY	QTY	RATE	AMOUNT
	Installation of Irrigation System for the field around the baseball field and the tennis courts.	1	51,000.00	51,000.00
TOTAL				<b>\$51,000.00</b>

Accepted By

Accepted Date

Payment in full is expected within 30 days. Interest will be charged to accounts that are past due at a rate of 1.5% per month, which equals 18% per annum.

# Fenner Construction

27 Tabor House Road  
 Chilmark, MA 02535  
 (508) 645-5030

# Estimate

Date	Estimate #
10/15/2022	2975

Name / Address
The Field Fund, Inc. West Tisbury School 401 Old County Road West Tisbury, MA 02575

Project
Irrigation Project - ...

Description	Total
401 Old County Road ~ West Tisbury  Directional drill project for West Tisbury School Irrigation Project Directional drill approx 100 ft under paved road Pull back one - 2" water line(supplied by others) Leave ends for others to connect Clean up disturbed area with onsite material  Any concealed conditions or additions to the above mentioned will be billed as an extra. The following are a few examples not included in the contract price Permits / Easements Con Com order of conditions Any utility relocation if needed Any detailed landscaping will be an extra cost or done by others  Please note: Price subject to change due to rising material cost  Upon acceptance deposit due in the amount of \$1,000.00, progress payment invoices will be sent as necessary and balance is due upon completion.  Proposal may be withdrawn by Fenner Construction LLC if not accepted within 30 days.	3,000.00
<b>Total    \$3,000.00</b>	
Upon acceptance of estimate, please sign, date & return with deposit payment.	
_____ Signature & Date	

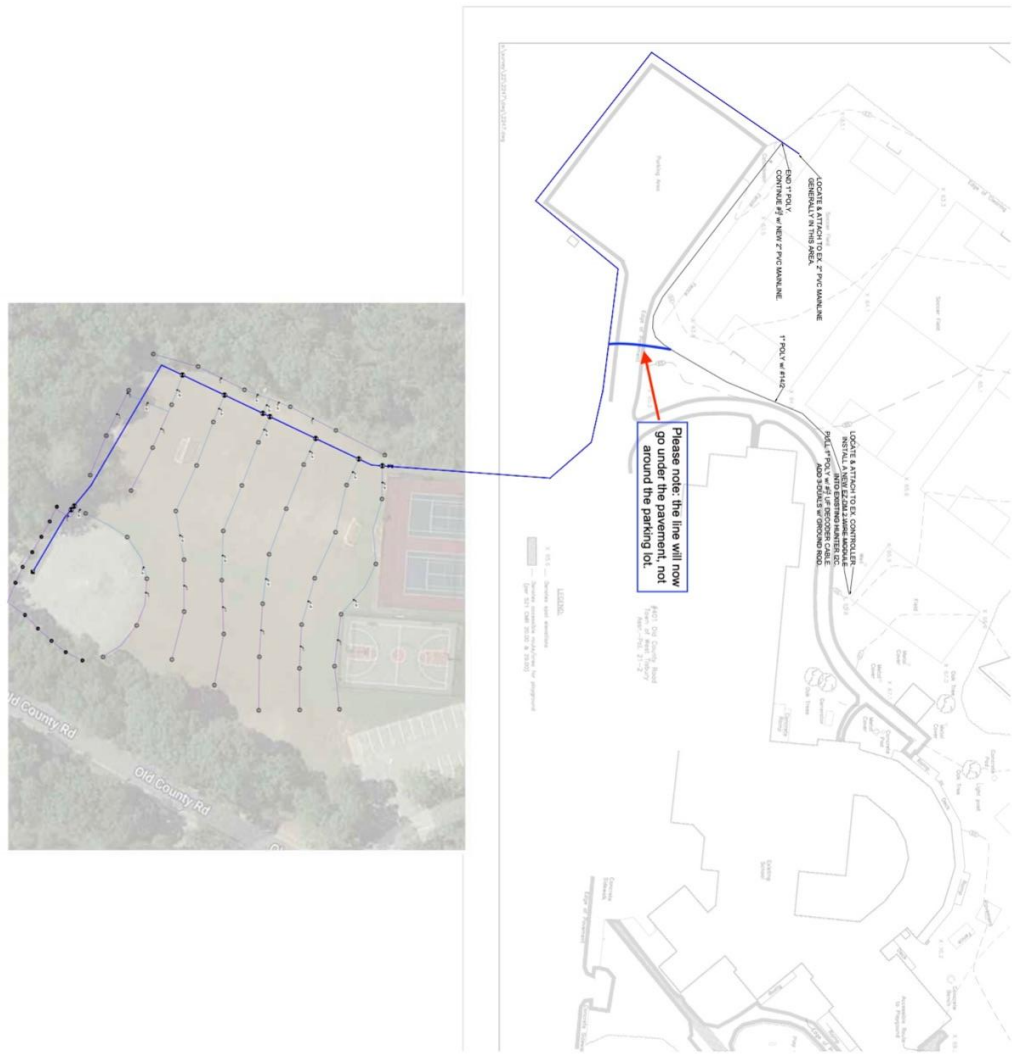
## #12. Further Documentation

Fall 2021. The West Tisbury Town field during an Island League game following several months of drought. The Field Fund had recently aerated and seeded the field, but without any water, germination rates were low and compaction rates remained quite high.



## #13. Feasibility Reports





Please note the line will now go under the pavement, not around the parking lot.

### IRRIGATION SCHEDULE

SYMBOL	MANUFACTURER/MODEL	SIZE
①	MANFAC/TYPE/MODEL	11
②	MANFAC/TYPE/MODEL	12
③	MANFAC/TYPE/MODEL	12
④	MANFAC/TYPE/MODEL	12
⑤	MANFAC/TYPE/MODEL	12
⑥	MANFAC/TYPE/MODEL	12
⑦	MANFAC/TYPE/MODEL	12
⑧	MANFAC/TYPE/MODEL	12
⑨	MANFAC/TYPE/MODEL	12
⑩	MANFAC/TYPE/MODEL	12

### IRRIGATION NOTES

1. THE LOCATION OF ALL IRRIGATION IS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN AND SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS APPROXIMATE. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY THE LOCATION OF ALL IRRIGATION WITH ALL LOCAL STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES AND OBTAIN ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS.
2. ALL REPORT CONTROL VALVES ARE TO BE INSTALLED IN VALVE BOXES AS SHOWN.
3. ALL CONTROL VALVES DOWNSTREAM OF THE CONTROLLER IS TO BE 4\"/>



IR RIGATION PLAN  
 Date: 08/11/2022  
 Drawn By: J. HARRIS  
 Project Number: 27545

**WEST TISBURY SCHOOL**  
 SOCCER & SOFTBALL ADDITION  
 OLD COUNTY ROAD, WEST TISBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

