

## The problem

### The problem with the current location.

The field is located directly downhill of a watershed and 2 ponds. As long as we have been here the field has never been ready to play on for the first game of the season. We believe this directly relates to the location of the field. Even when the field finally dries up, any sort of rain almost makes the outfield grass unusable. This is because of the lack of irrigation systems in our field, the water has nowhere to drain, which leads to the water building up under the grass.



This is an aerial view of our baseball field here at [redacted] HS. As you can see it is surrounded by bodies of water including [redacted] Lake and downhill of a small pond located right outside left field.

# HS Baseball Field Irrigation System

## Our Research

### What is an irrigation system?

An irrigation system is a form of water drainage. Some irrigation system techniques that could potentially be used on a baseball field is the creation of ditches or gullies alongside the field. A long ditch along the outside of the field directing the water away from the field would solve the issue of surface drainage. This will give the water a way to drain away from the field early on in the spring, it will also catch most of the water flowing off the hill and direct it over to the pond.

We interviewed Coach [redacted] the varsity baseball coach and here were the results:

### What's your opinion on our field's irrigation system?

I honestly don't know. I just know our field is wet more often than not in the spring.

### Do you think the location of our field has anything to do with our success as a baseball program over the years?

I don't think it helped. I think the more time we get on the field the better a team will get.

### If you could do anything to improve our field, what would you do?

Drain quicker

### Would you be interested in moving the location of the field?

Of course

We surveyed fellow baseball players at LRHS, here are the results:

### Do you think a new irrigation system would help benefit our program?

8 responses



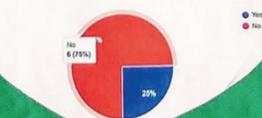
### If you answered the previous question yes, why?

6 responses

- Moving the water means more time on the field for the team.
- It would dry faster.
- With better field and irrigation we could get on field sooner and play better.
- More people from other schools would pay more respect to take report.
- It would make it so we wouldn't have to cancel all events and we could get on the field earlier.
- Because an extra 2 weeks on our field would be nice.

### Are you satisfied with our current field?

8 responses



### If you answered the previous question no, why?

6 responses

- Drainage early in the spring, and the grass in the infield.
- It sucks.
- It's always wet.
- It is like a sponge in the outfield.
- Lumpy outfield.
- We trash the foul line to a curve and I can't get to the batting cages without stepping on a piece of wood.

We surveyed students from all classes on the topic of our baseball field and here are the results:

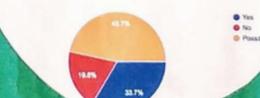
### How would you rate our baseball field's quality?

16 responses



### How would you feel about relocating the baseball field?

12 responses



## The Solution

We recognize that this is both a difficult and expensive issue to resolve, but we know that we can not do this without help. This is why we sent out surveys and created this trifold project; to raise awareness and get people in the community thinking about this issue. The first step to solving a problem is to identify it, so our first step to resolution was to send out an email to our athletic director explaining our observations and research on our baseball field's irrigation system. You can read a copy of the letter below.

### What are the necessary requirements for the ideal baseball field?

The ideal baseball field should be located directly in the sun, so that the grass can be healthy and the snow will melt faster, therefore an earlier start to the season. It also would help if the field was placed either on flat ground or on a slightly elevated surface compared to the surrounding area, therefore rain water will not be leaking onto the field. Also an ideal baseball field should have some sort of an irrigation system to drain the excess water from the field.



This is an aerial view of the [redacted] high school baseball field. This field has an ideal irrigation system. It is located on an elevated surface, and away from bodies of water.



This is a photo of the creation of a gully, used to collect water off of a field.

### Artists Reflection

The first step after identifying the problem with the baseball fields irrigation system was to ask ourselves questions like, why is the field where it is, and who is affected by the current location, and how can we fix this problem. We decided then to gather students, athletes, and our coach's opinion on the topic of our baseball fields irrigation system. We did this through surveys. One answer from the survey that led us to our solution was when a teammate answered "With better irrigation and a better field we can get on the field sooner and play better". We had multiple answers like this which helped us realize that most baseball players are passionate about this problem. After discovering the general consensus, and doing some research on the topic we found multiple solution options, including installing a gully or ditch to serve as a drainage system, this is the cheaper option which would only resolve the problem of excess water on the field during the season. This would not get the team on the field any earlier in the season, overall this is a small fix to a large problem. The more rewarding solution is to move the field all together to the upper section of the high school. This would be an elevated surface, therefore the field would be ready much earlier in the spring, also water drainage would be much more natural. Though, implementing one of these solutions is not our decision to make, we hope this issue is resolved for future baseball teams.

# Student #2: Part 1

# The problem

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## Student #2: Part 2

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#### If you could do anything to improve our field, what would you do?

Drain quicker

#### Would you be interested in moving the location of the field?

Of course



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#### Do you think a new irrigation system would help benefit our program?

8 responses



#### If you answered the previous question yes, why?

6 responses

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8 responses



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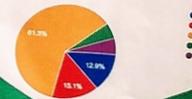
6 responses

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13 responses



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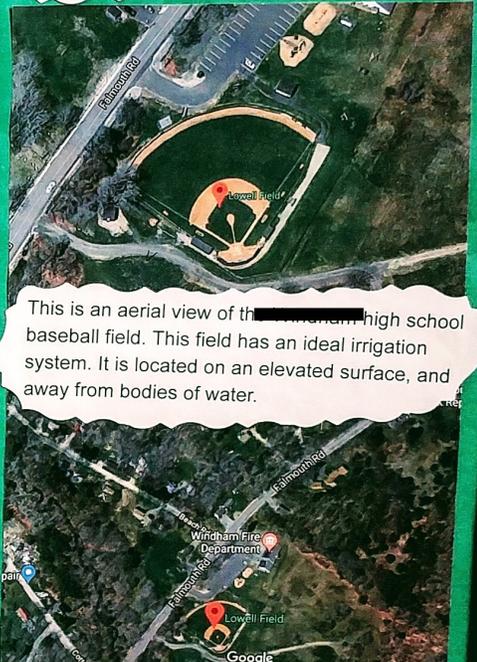
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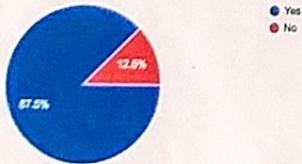


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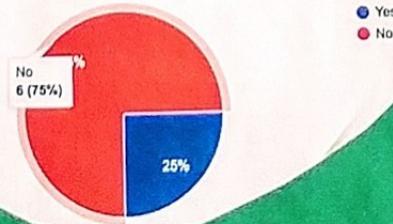
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8 responses



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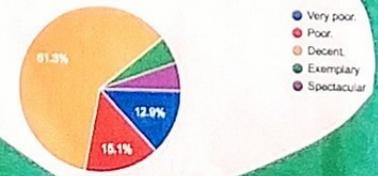
6 responses

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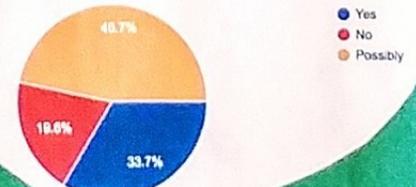
How would you rate our baseball fields quality?

93 responses



How would you feel about relocating the baseball field?

92 responses



## Student #2: Part 3

# The Solution

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Dear Coach [REDACTED]

In our humanities class, [REDACTED] and I have been assigned to recognize an "invisible problem" or issue with the local environment that affects students here at [REDACTED] HS. We decided to choose a topic that we know best: baseball. The problem that we identified deals with the irrigation system in our baseball field.

As you know our field's grass and surrounding area is always wet to say the least. At the start of every baseball season our field is layered with inches of snow, with no end in sight. The lack of drainage and sunlight on our field makes for a very slow melt. Because of this, I personally have never seen our field ready to be played on for opening day. Not only does this affect our schedule but also forces us to practice inside for weeks, while other teams in surrounding towns have been on their field for weeks.

As a coach you know how important it is to practice like you play, and I think we can agree that this lack of on-field preparation has had an affect on our baseball team, both now and in the past. As the snow melts, and the year goes on, any rain shower in the early spring water-logs our field, making it unplayable. Also, not only is the baseball field located directly downhill of a small pond and swamp area, but after doing some research we discovered our location is in the middle of the [REDACTED] Lake watershed. All this excess water has nowhere to drain, and usually just ends up building up in our outfield and at the base of the hill, where our fans walk. This lack of quality in our baseball fields irrigation system leads to multiple consequences, including less time on the field for the team, increased amount of cancelled games due to small rain showers, and a lack of respect from visitors.

We have researched two solutions that could potentially solve this issue. The more simple fix is installing a gully alongside the field for water to drain off the hill that is behind the backstop. This would be the cheaper option and would fix the problem of draining during the season, though this would not change the amount of time, in the early spring, before we can practice on the field. The more rewarding solution is to relocate the baseball field and its entirety to the location of the lacrosse and football practice fields. Though, this would be a large and costly project, it would completely resolve every issue in regards to the baseball field. The field would dry quicker in the winter, because of the direct sunlight. The field would be on an elevated surface, therefore drainage would be much more efficient. Finally, visitors would be very impressed with our beautiful new complex.

We are reaching out to you, our Athletic Director, as the first step in solving this problem. We understand that this is both a difficult and expensive problem to fix, but a solution to this problem would benefit not only our baseball program, but the whole Lake Region sports community.

Thank You,  
[REDACTED]



This is a photo of the creation of a gully, used to help drain or collect water off of a field.

## Artists Reflection

The first step after identifying the problem with the baseball fields irrigation system was to ask ourselves questions like; why is the field where it is, and who is affected by the current location, and how can we fix this problem. We decided then to gather students, athletes, and our coach's opinion on the topic of our baseball fields irrigation system, we did this through surveys. One answer from the survey that led us to our solution was when a teammate answered "With better irrigation and a better field we can get on the field sooner and play better". We had multiple answers like this which helped us realize that most baseball players are passionate about this problem. After discovering the general consensus, and doing some research on the topic we found multiple solution options, including installing a gully or ditch to serve as a draining system, this is the cheaper option which would only resolve the problem of excess water on the field during the season. This would not get the team on the field any earlier in the season, overall this is a small fix to a large problem. The more rewarding solution is to move the field all together to the upper section of the high school. This would be an elevated surface, therefore the field would be ready much earlier in the spring, also water drainage would be much more natural. Though, implementing one of these solutions is not our decision to make, we hope this issue is resolved for future [REDACTED] baseball teams.

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