

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Kogon and Amherst Town Council
From: Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation
Date: January 21, 2019
Subject: Request for Batting Cage at Robb Complex

A request to Mayor & Council from William Jobes of the Amherst Intermediate Baseball Club to add a batting cage to the Robb Complex was received in December. The request was supported by ARHS Baseball, Amherst Bantam Baseball, Amherst Midget Baseball and Amherst Little League.

A batting cage is an enclosed fenced area for Baseball and Softball players to practice the skill of batting. Typical cages are designed like a shoebox. The standard size for a batting cage is 14' wide, 70' long and 12' high. The cage is made of chain link fencing and has a netting over the top of it. Most modern cages today have a cement or asphalt floor covered by artificial surface. For this model it is suggested to use the same surface as on the Robb playing fields.

While not considered in the initial Capital Budget project list for 2019-20, from a Robb Complex development perspective, a batting cage would be a nice-to-have asset. Currently the old tennis courts have been converted to outdoor basketball. The fencing is sub-standard and the asphalt surface has many issues that require extensive repair. With the addition of the new tennis facility at Lions Park, thoughts on removing the fence and the asphalt surface have been considered. A batting cage or cages could easily be situated in the old tennis court area.

The removal of the existing fencing and part of the old tennis surface is expected to be done internally.

Preliminary estimates to install a professional batting cage are as follows:

Fencing	\$15,000.
14'wide x 70' long x 12' high	
Two entry / exit gates, cross bars to hold netting	
Netting	
# 42 Strength Twine	\$2000.
Net Saver	\$500.
Batting Tee(s)	\$250. each x 2
Portable Pitcher's Mound	\$750.
Pitchers protector	\$500.
Estimated cost	\$19,250. (plus removal of surface and fence)

This pricing is to construct a batting cage using today's Baseball Canada standards. There may be an opportunity to recycle fencing and other materials from the existing outdoor basketball facility.

The initial request sent to Council did not indicate that any of the user groups were prepared to contribute to the costs of this project.