



# Needs Assessment Study

Final Report  
July 27, 2018



**BALLARD \* KING**  
& ASSOCIATES LTI

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Recreation Facility Planning and Operation Consultants

## **FIRM PROFILE**

Ballard\*King & Associates Ltd. was established in 1992 by Ken Ballard and Jeff King in response to the need for market-driven and reality-based planning for parks and recreation agencies. B\*K has achieved over 26 years of success by realizing that each client's needs are specific and unique. With over 75 combined years of recreation planning experience in the public, non-profit, collegiate and private sector, our consulting firm has been involved with over 12 athletic field complex studies and has completed over 700 recreation facility projects in 49 states.

B\*K forms a consulting team that provides a variety of services for clients who are considering the development of an athletic field complex. From pinpointing specifics to broad visions, B\*K provides services to ensure the long-term success of your project. B\*K has built our reputation on telling clients what they need to hear in order to make sound decisions.

B\*K offers a broad range of services that can be integrated into a project. Some of our services include: needs assessment and feasibility studies, operations analysis, maintenance cost estimates, revenue projections, staffing levels, budgeting, marketing plans and economic impact projections. Additionally, we perform assessments for existing facilities as well as broad based recreation master plans.

By bringing practical, proven experience to a project we can accurately represent the client's best interests. B\*K has a keen awareness of the impact an athletic field complex has on a community and subsequently the entity that operates it. Thanks to our extensive field experience, we are able to provide assistance with practical tools, an uncommon ability to see the overlooked and view your project from a wealth of expertise and knowledge.

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*Ballard\*King and Associates is committed to comprehensive planning and operations consulting services, providing for the effective and efficient use of available resources to develop and operate sports, recreation and wellness facilities.*



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## **KEN BALLARD, C.P.R.P** **Principal in Charge**

### **\*Professional Experience**

As a founding partner of Ballard\*King & Associates, Ken has over 35 years of experience in parks and recreation planning. Ballard\*King & Associates was established in 1992 by Ken Ballard and Jeff King in response to the need for market driven and reality based planning for recreation agencies. Ken has provided planning, feasibility and operations consulting for more than 300 recreation projects across the country. This includes studies for 11 athletic field projects across the United States. Ken is well known for his vast knowledge of recreation programming, facility development and operations, as well as organizational planning and facility maintenance. His expertise has been developed over the years from a wide breadth of experiences within the parks and recreation field.

Key athletic field projects that Ken has been responsible for include:

- Raccoon River Regional Park, West Des Moines, IA
- Pelican Park, Mandeville, LA
- Lake Charles Multisport Complex, Lake Charles, LA
- Central Moore Park, Moore, OK
- Clark County Southwest Regional Park, Las Vegas, NV
- Ft. Missoula Regional Park, Missoula, MT
- JC Bermudez Park Study, Doral FL
- Fremont Athletic Complex Study, Fremont, NE
- Clement Park Redevelopment Study, Littleton, CO
- Carmel/Clay Central Park Study, Carmel, IN
- Farmington Sports Complex, Farmington, NM

### **\*Education**

University of Colorado  
BS Recreation, BA History

Certified Parks & Recreation  
Professional

### **\*Professional Affiliations**

Athletic Business Conference  
Advisory Board

Colorado Parks & Recreation  
Association

National Recreation & Park  
Association

Metropolitan State College of  
Denver – Former Adjunct Faculty

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## **Section I – Needs Assessment Introduction**

In an attempt to further define the need for additional sports fields in general, and the Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex in particular, Ballard\*King & Associates (B\*K) has been contracted by Doubleday Sports Complex, Inc. to complete a needs assessment study for the planned complex. This study is a companion to the original “Market Analysis and Operations Proforma Study” that was completed in November 2017 for the complex.

The needs assessment study focused on the determination of need for additional sports fields and how the proposed Doubleday Sports Complex could help meet these requirements. In addition, other community recreation uses of the complex were also investigated. The study was based on the following information:

- Two different surveys that were sent to organizations that could potentially utilize the complex.
- Follow-up conversations with some of the same organizations.
- Review of written data and other information provided by the organizations.
- Review of market analysis information from the first report.
- Site visit to Sheridan (previous study) to see existing fields and parks as well as conversations with different potential user groups.
- Community sports fields best practices in public recreation.

While this study focused on the need for additional sports fields, it also examined possible usage by other organizations of the Doubleday Sports Complex as well as the general public.



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## **Section II – Needs Assessment Summary**

Based on the information that was gathered during the needs assessment process, the following is a summary of sports field needs that could be solved by the new fields at the Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex as well as other community park and recreation needs that could be served by this facility as well.

- The Primary Service Area that the Doubleday Sports Complex will serve will continue to grow at a slow but steady pace. In the next five years there is expected to be additional growth of almost 8% in the 5-17 age group. This will increase the need for more sports fields.
- The demand for field space continues to grow across virtually all youth sports groups. This is due to the ever-expanding seasons for some sports, the continued growth in popularity of other sports, the introduction of new sports, and increases in population. The growth in overall participation is expected to continue to increase in most sports over the next five years. Without the additional sports fields that the Doubleday Sports Complex will provide, it will be very difficult to meet this need.
- The greatest demand appears to be the need for more diamond fields to support the needs of youth baseball, girls' softball, and adult softball. The Doubleday Sports Complex will help alleviate this issue.
- The need for additional rectangular fields is being fueled by growth in the participation rates in soccer and new sports such as lacrosse and rugby. The Doubleday Sports Complex will provide these fields.
- With greater demand for sports fields than can currently be met, the following has occurred:
  - Existing fields are often in poor shape due to overuse. This situation is only expected to get worse in the coming years.
  - Sports have been limited on the number of practices per week that can be held, this is particularly true for youth baseball, softball and soccer.
  - Some youth sports have to schedule games and practices late in the evening even for younger age groups. This is not conducive to youth sports participation.
  - Sports are forced to use fields that are not designed for the activity that they are hosting. Open grass fields at elementary schools are having to be used for practice. This raises safety concerns.

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

## *Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex*



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- Age groups are having to use fields that are not sized for their needs. This results in inappropriate use of fields and can result in possible safety issues.
  - Organizations have not been able to add teams or seasons to their offerings. This limits overall participation.
  - Most sports have to practice and play games on the same fields. In other areas of the country it is not unusual for fields to be designated as game only fields.
  - Many youth sports organizations have to use multiple field locations to support their programs. This makes coordination and developing an overall “team” feeling much more difficult.
  - It has been more difficult to meet the needs of girls’ sports organizations. This raises equity issues for girls’ sports that cannot be ignored.
  - There is difficulty meeting the field needs for new sports such as rugby and lacrosse as well as new organizations such as Cloud Peak Girls Fastpitch Softball.
  - With poor field quality, lack of practice time, and unrealistic game times, parents and players can become disillusioned with the sport and eventually quit playing.
- Other critical field issues are:
    - It is highly likely that the fields at Sheridan College will not be available for adult softball and other sports within the next year or so. This will result in the loss of 3 community diamond fields that will have to be replaced elsewhere.
    - Many sports fields are reported to be utilized at 100% of capacity during the season. This results in overuse and poor turf quality. Many cities and recreation districts are now setting capacity limits that are closer to 70% of capacity to allow for field rejuvenation. Reducing capacity increases the demand for additional fields.
    - Sheridan School District #2 and Sheridan College provide fields for not only their own programs but also for the community as well. This takes a heavy toll on their fields and reduces the usability for them.
    - It is difficult for sports teams to support tournaments in Sheridan due to the lack of a sports complex.

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## *Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex*



- A number of other community organizations remarked on the need for places to hold cross country meets, the importance of trails and the desire for pickleball courts. This will drive additional use of the Doubleday Sports Complex.
- The Doubleday Sports Complex can also serve as a public park for a variety of informal recreation activities for individuals and families. It will be important to have community use amenities at the complex in addition to sports fields to make it a true community destination.
- Most of the sports organizations are paying very little for use of existing fields. This will make it more difficult to collect fees for use of Doubleday. The trend nationally is to now charge some level of fees for field maintenance.
- Since the Doubleday Sports Complex is going to be utilized for tournaments, there will need to be a high level of field maintenance.

### **Doubleday Sports Complex Opportunities**

Constructing the new Doubleday Sports Complex will provide the following opportunities for the community:

*Capacity* – Providing fields for existing sports organizations that can be utilized for more games, practices and tournaments.

*Growth* - The ability to support the continued growth in both youth and adult sports teams and programs as well as new sports. Girls’ sports can also be better accommodated.

*Replace* - Will provide fields for adult softball and other community organizations to replace those potentially lost at Sheridan College. There will be less dependence on elementary school fields to serve the needs of youth sports and less dependence on middle school and high school fields.

*Quality* - The complex will provide a first-class location for sports programs (both youth and adult). There will be less demand on other existing fields that will also improve their quality.

*Economic Impact* - Tournaments will provide a positive economic impact to the City of Sheridan. With a minimum of 10 new tournaments a year, the complex will bring considerably more visitors to Sheridan.

*Safety* – A park and complex that is a safe place for sports activities and community use.

*Community Pride* – A field complex and park that the community can be proud of and one that will allow more “hometown” tournaments. There will be central hub for many sports.





## **Conclusion**

The Sheridan community has sports field and other recreational needs that are not being adequately met by existing facilities. A collaborative effort between the City of Sheridan, the Sheridan Recreation District, and Doubleday Sports Complex to develop the complex can serve these needs and foster a positive recreational environment. More diamond and rectangular fields are critical for the development of sports and recreation in Sheridan and surrounding communities.



**Section III – Needs Assessment Surveys**

One of the primary sources of needs assessment information were two different surveys that were administered to different potential user groups of the Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex.

**User Group Survey:** A user survey was sent to all of the identified sports field groups and organizations in the greater Sheridan market area, as well as other possible community user groups, to determine needs that might impact the amenities that would be included in the Doubleday Sports Complex and their possible use.

The following groups and organizations responded to the survey:

**Primary Users** – Those organizations that would have the greatest need for additional sports fields.

Sheridan Storm Soccer
Sheridan Recreation District
Webb Wright Baseball
Little Guy Football
Adult Flag Football
Girls Softball
Sheridan Softball Association
Youth Lacrosse
Babe Ruth Baseball
American Legion Baseball
Sheridan Rugby
Cloud Peak Girls Fastpitch Softball
Sheridan YMCA

**Secondary Users** – Organizations that have their own fields but could utilize additional fields as well.

Big Horn High School
Tongue River High School
Tongue River Middle School
Sheridan High School
Sheridan College Men’s Soccer
Sheridan College Women’s Soccer

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

*Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex*



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## Other User Groups

These other groups would not be primary users of the sports fields planned for the complex but could have other sports needs that may be able to be accommodated at the facility.

Big Horn Mountain Pickleball
The Sports Stop
Sheridan Senior Activity Center
Bomber Mountain Bicycle Club

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

## Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex



**Primary User Group Survey Findings:** The following table represents the number of participants in the primary user groups over the last 4 years and projects future growth.

**Table A – User Group Organization Numbers**

	2014		2015		2016		2017		Future Growth	
Activity	Teams	Part.	Teams	Part.	Teams	Part.	Teams	Part.	Teams	Part.
<i>Sheridan Rec. District</i>										
Adult Softball	43	650	38	615	40	630	37	600	42	660
Adult Flag Football	5	50	5	57	7	75	6	75	8	96
Little Guy Football	26	400	28	420	29	430	31	450	34-36	500
Webb Wright Baseball	25	320	27	345	31	385	30	420	38-40	470
Girls Youth Softball	11	130	9	100	8	105	10	130	12	150
<i>YMCA</i>										
Adult Summer Soccer	10	121	10	95	8	100	10	101	12	120
Adult Fall Soccer	4	33	6	46	8	65	8	76	8	80
Youth Spring Soccer	75	800	53	724	53	738	52	551	72	725
Youth Fall Soccer	38	484	34	377	30	322	34	235	50	500
<i>Comm. Sports Organizations</i>										
Babe Ruth Baseball	4	48	5	62	5	65	5	60	6	72
Sheridan Soccer (Spring)	14	188	16	199	19	205	20	213	25	225
Sheridan Soccer (Fall)	3	36	6	65	6	62	7	78	10	85
Travel League Baseball	3	42	4	50	4	50	3	42	4	56
American Legion	2	30	2	30	2	30	2	30	3	45
Sheridan Rugby		N/A		N/A		N/A	1	35	N/A	N/A
Cloud Peak Fastpitch Soft.		N/A		N/A		N/A	2	30	5	100

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex



**Note:** Cloud Peak Fastpitch is a new program and 2017 numbers represent 2018.

**Sports Participation Changes:** Utilizing data from Table A, Table B summarizes the change in percent of participation over the last four years.

## **Table B – Program Participation Changes by Percentage From 2014 -2017**

### *Increased in Participation*

<b>Program</b>	<b>Percent Increase</b>
YMCA Adult Soccer	130%
Sheridan Soccer (Fall)	117%
Adult Flag Football	50%
Web Wright Baseball	31%
Babe Ruth Baseball	25%
Little Guy Football	13%
Sheridan Soccer (Spring)	13%

### *No Change in Participation*

<b>Program</b>
Girls Youth Softball
Travel League Baseball
American Legion
Sheridan Rugby
Cloud Peak Fastpitch Soft.

### *Decreased in Participation*

<b>Program</b>	<b>Percent Decrease</b>
YMCA Youth Fall Soccer	-51%
YMCA Youth Spring Soccer	-31%
YMCA Adult Summer Soccer	-17%
Adult Softball	-8%

Note: Sheridan Rugby and Cloud Peak Girls Fastpitch Softball are new programs with no participation history.

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

*Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex*

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## Summary Notes:

- The majority of sports programs (7) have seen an increase in participation in the last four years, while a smaller number have remained steady (5) and only four have decreased.
- Virtually all of the sports are predicting steady growth in participation in their sports in the coming years.
- Sheridan Rugby and Cloud Peak Girls Fastpitch are new programs that have started in the last year.
- The Sheridan Recreation District is planning to start a youth lacrosse program soon.
- In addition to the sports noted above, the YMCA also has a winter indoor soccer season for both youth and adults and a pick-up soccer program for youth and adults on a year-round basis. In addition, they offer a summer youth soccer camp program.

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## Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex



**Sports Seasons:** The table below indicates the basic parameters of the programs that are currently offered to give a sense of the timing and magnitude of the sport and season.

**Table C – Sports by Season**

**Sheridan Recreation District**

Sport	Start date (first practice)	End date (last game)	# of weeks	# of games	# of practices per week	Tournaments/ other events
<b>Adult Softball</b>						
Spring-Summer	Mid May	Mid Aug	12	310-4 leagues	.5 per team	1
<b>Adult Flag Football</b>						
Fall	First Sept	End Oct.	10	10-12	0	1
<b>Little Guy Football</b>						
Fall	Mid Aug	Late Oct	11	216	3-4	Internal end of season
<b>Webb Wright Baseball</b>						
Spring-Summer	Early May	Mid July	9-10	114	3-4	1
<b>Girls Youth Softball</b>						
Summer	End May	Mid July	8	48-3 leagues	2	N/A

**YMCA**

Sport	Start date (first practice)	End date (last game)	# of weeks	# of games	# of practices per week	Tournaments/ other events
<b>Adult Summer Soccer</b>						
Summer	Mid June	Mid Aug	9	8-10	0	1-Last 2 weeks
<b>Adult Fall Soccer</b>						
Fall	Mid Sept	End Oct	8-9	8-10	0	1-Last week
<b>Youth Spring Soccer</b>						
Spring	End March	Late May	9	6-8	1-2	1 – Jr. High in week 9
<b>Youth Fall Soccer</b>						
Fall	Early Sept	Mid Oct	7	6-7	1-2	N/A

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

## Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex



### Community Sports Organizations

Sport	Start date (first practice)	End date (last game)	# of weeks	# of games	# of practices per week	Tournaments/ other events
<b>Babe Ruth Baseball</b>						
Spring-Summer	First April	End July	18	44	8	0
<b>Sheridan County Soccer</b>						
Spring	First March	First June	13	25-30	5	6
Fall	Mid August	Mid October	10	15-20	5	4
<b>Travel League Baseball</b>						
Spring-Summer	First April	End July	18	60	8	14
<b>American Legion</b>						
Spring-Summer	March	August	24	60	8-12	Every Weekend
<b>Sheridan Rugby</b>						
Summer	June	Mid July	6	None Yet	3	None Yet
<b>Cloud Peak Girls Fastpitch Softball</b>						
Spring	First May	End June	9	18	2	None Yet
Summer	First July	Mid August	7	14	2	None Yet

### Summary Notes:

- Most sports have 8-10 week seasons. Baseball has a much longer season.
- Most sports play 8-10 games a season with baseball playing many more.
- With the exception of adult sports, most sports have a minimum of 2 practices a week. Some competitive teams can practice 4 to 5 times a week.
- Sheridan County Soccer has two seasons of competition. Cloud Peak Girls Fastpitch Softball also has two seasons, but they are back-to-back.
- Baseball and soccer play in a large number of tournaments but most other sports play in a more limited number.



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*Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex*



**Compilation of Sports Seasons:** The following table summarizes the months of use for sports that use diamond fields and those that use rectangular fields.

**Table D – Compilation of Sports Seasons**

***Diamond Sports***

Sport	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Adult Softball								
Webb Wright BB								
Girls Softball								
Babe Ruth BB								
Travel Baseball								
American Legion								
Cloud Peak								

***Rectangular Sports***

Sport	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
Adult Flag Football								
Little Guy Football								
Y-Adult Soccer								
Y-Youth Soccer								
Sheridan Cty Soccer								
Sheridan Rugby								

**Summary Notes:**

- For sports that use diamond fields, the greatest demand is between May and July.
- For sports that use rectangular fields, the greatest demand is between September and October.
- This point loads the need for fields during these months and makes the need for additional fields more acute.

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

## Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex



**Field Use Locations:** To help determine the demand for additional athletic fields it is critical to understand the current field use characteristics of the various sports.

**Table E - Field Use Locations by Sport**

Sport	School/park/ Other location	Community /Owner	Field/ Size	Fields Lighted (y,n)	Fees Paid	Day(s)	Time	Games/ practices/ Both
<b>SRD</b>								
Adult Softball	Sheridan College	College	3-Full-sized	Yes	\$1,000 for lights	M-Sat.	6pm-11pm	Both
Adult Flag Football	Sheridan HS	School District	Full-Sized	Yes	N/A	M-Th	6:30pm-10pm	Games
Little Guy Football	Elem. Schools Madia	School Dist. City	100 x 50 200 x 100	No Yes	N/A	M-Th.	5pm-9pm	Practices Games
Webb Wright Baseball	John Oatts Elem. Schools Middle School	City School Dist.	3-Little League	Yes No	N/A	M-Th.	5pm-9pm	Games Practices
Youth Girls Softball	John Oatts-6 <sup>th</sup> St. Ballfields	City	3-Little League	Yes	N/A	M-Sat.	5pm-8pm	Both
<b>YMCA</b>								
Adult Sum. Soccer	Black Tooth 3-4	City	Full sized	No	N/A	Sun & Wed	5pm-8pm	Games
Adult Fall Soccer	Black Tooth 3-4	City	Full sized	No	N/A	Sun & Wed	5pm-8pm	Games
Youth Sprg. Soccer	YMCA-2 Black Th-11 Tongue River MS-3-4	YMCA City School Dist	Size varies	No No No	N/A	M-W-Th	3:30pm-8pm	Both
Youth Fall Soccer	YMCA-2 Black Th-11 Tongue River MS-3-4	YMCA City School Dist	Size varies	No No No	N/A	M-W-Th	3:30pm-8pm	Both

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## Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex



Sport	School/park/ Other location	Community /Owner	Field/ Size	Fields Lighted (y,n)	Fees Paid	Day(s)	Time	Games/ practices/ Both
<b>Community Sports Organizations</b>								
Babe Ruth Baseball	Thorne-Rider Redle Field	City	Full-sized	Yes	\$2,000 Season	M-Sun.	4pm- 9pm	Both Tourn.
Sheridan Cty. Soccer	Black Tooth	City	14-Multi sized	No	None	T-Th	4- 8pm	Both
	Sheridan HS	School	Full	No	None	M-F	6-8pm	Practice
Sheridan Cty. Soccer	Marshall Park	City	Open	No	No	M & W	5-8pm	Practice
	Elem. Schools	School	Open	No	No	M & W	5-8pm	Practice
Travel League Baseball	Oatts/6 <sup>th</sup> St. Redle Field	City	3-6 <sup>th</sup> - Redle	Yes	\$5 Prac \$50 Game	M-Sun.	4pm- 9pm	Both
American Legion	Thorne Rider Legion Field	City	High School	Yes	N/A	70 Days	All Day	Both
Sheridan Rugby	Thorne-Rider	City		No	N/A	T-W-Th	5:30-7pm	Practice
Cloud Peak Fastpitch Sft	Sheridan Coll.	College		Yes	None	3days/wk	Evenings	Both
	Oatts/6 <sup>th</sup> St.	City		Yes	None	3days/wk	Wknds	
	Madia	City		Yes	None	3days/wk		

### Summary Notes:

- Most of the organizations use a variety of sports fields for their program and the use the same fields for practices and games. This puts a great deal of pressure on existing fields and results in poor field conditions and a lack of practice time due to games having a priority.
- There is a definite lack of field space to support practices for most sports. This results in fewer practices being held on a weekly basis.
- The vast majority of sports organizations are not paying much (if anything) for the use of the fields. This will make it more difficult to charge fees for field use at Doubleday but there is a trend to have user groups begin to pay for a portion of field maintenance across the country.
- Most sports also utilize some school and/or college fields for their programs.



- Travel League Baseball shares the fields at 6<sup>th</sup> St. and sometimes at Redle with other baseball programs. They do not have an assigned field.
- Webb Wright Baseball and Girls Softball have to utilize the same fields which limits both programs.
- Cloud Peak Girls Fastpitch Softball also does not have an assigned field for practice or play. As a result, they do not have any evening time available and they only have one home night for games this year.

**Future Field Needs:** Each of the field user groups were asked to identify future field needs based on current unmet needs as well as projections for growth in their programs.

### Sheridan Recreation District

*Adult Softball* – The sport could use another field to support the program. Future use of the Sheridan College fields could be an issue. There is the likely loss of the 3 fields currently being used unless they are relocated. Finding a new location with 3 fields plus a fourth field to keep games from going until midnight will need to be a priority.

*Adult Flag Football* – The current use of the Sheridan High School Turf field is sufficient for most anticipated future needs. However, the program must share the field with high school sports, so they can be displaced for their activities.

*Little Guy Football* – The program needs additional fields for practices and games. Currently the last game time for 1<sup>st</sup> grade and kindergarten is scheduled at 8:30pm. (can be even later by the time they start play), which is too late for this age group.

*Webb Wright Baseball* – There is a significant need for additional fields as many practices do not take place on actual baseball fields. Many of the existing fields are older, can flood, and do not have adequate parking.

*Girls Softball* – They share fields with boy's baseball and could use their own field(s). This results in limited time for the program.

*Lacrosse* – Once the lacrosse program is started, they will need access to larger rectangular fields to support both practices and games.

### YMCA

The YMCA, with the use of their own fields and the continued development of the Black Tooth fields, as well as the use of some school fields, have the number of fields that they currently need



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for their program. However, they expect a 5% to 10% increase in participation in most every program in the coming years. This continued growth will require additional fields.

### Community Sports Organizations

*Babe Ruth Baseball/Travel League Baseball* – There are not enough fields for the number of teams and many are not regulation size. The 12 and under travel league team does not have a regulation field and the 13 and 14 and under share fields with Babe Ruth teams for both practices and games. With participation growing in Travel League Baseball, this will place even more demand for fields in the future.

*Sheridan County Soccer* – There is a need for additional field space for practices. Teams often have to utilize two different locations during the course of the week for practices and games and the club has teams scattered throughout the community.

*American Legion* – Their needs are currently being met by existing fields and any additional demand for the future is tied to growth in participation in baseball at the younger age groups. However, due to the field size requirements they will stay at Thorne-Rider and Trooper Stadium.

*Sheridan Rugby* – The program is just starting so future requirements have not yet been identified.

*Cloud Peak Fastpitch Softball* – The program is expected to grow quickly over the next several years and having an assigned field for the program for both practices and games is essential.

**Tournament Needs:** In addition to on-going field needs, there were also questions regarding possible additional tournaments that could utilize the Doubleday Sports Complex fields.

### Sheridan Recreation District

*Adult Softball* – They would hope to host another 1 to 2 tournaments in addition to the one that is currently offered.

*Adult Flag Football* – Since most of the communities in the immediate area do not have adult flag football leagues, it is anticipated that only one additional tournament may be added.

*Little Guy Football* – The program would like to host at least one tournament in the future.

*Girls Softball* – The program would like to host one tournament.

### YMCA

*Adult Soccer* – There are no plans to offer tournaments for this program at this point.



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*Youth Soccer* – This is more of a recreationally based program and as a result it is not anticipated that there will be any tournaments.

### Other Organizations

*Babe Ruth Baseball/Travel League Baseball* – They could host up to 9+ tournaments a year.

*Sheridan County Soccer* – They would like to host another 2 tournaments a year in the future.

*Travel League Baseball* – They would like to host several tournaments in the future.

*American Legion* – There is not anticipated to be any use of Doubleday for tournaments due to the field size requirements.

*Sheridan Rugby* – Since this program is just starting they are not yet playing in tournaments.

*Cloud Peak Fastpitch Softball* – Would like to host one tournament a year.

### **Summary Notes:**

- There is already a strong need for more field space for most sports organizations, but the future will require even more to allow for the growth in participation in existing sports as well as accommodate the needs of new sports.
- The needs of girls' sports programs for more fields is growing.
- The potential loss of the Sheridan College diamond fields will place another demand for additional fields.
- There is a strong demand for additional fields that could support tournaments.

**Other Survey Information:** Other key information that was gathered from the user surveys included:

- The softball fields at Sheridan College will likely be lost in the next year or two, due to the construction of new facilities and the program will need to find new fields to play. The College believes that it may be possible to rebuild the fields at another location, but it has not been determined if this could meet the needs of adult softball as well as the College's needs.
- The YMCA fields are able to support youth and adult soccer as well as summer camp programs.

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

## *Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex*



- The Sheridan Recreation District hopes to start a fall season for adult softball with a 6-week season, 10 teams and 150 players.
- The Sheridan Recreation District also has a cross country program that has both a spring and fall season. Using the complex for cross county meets is a possibility.
- Lighting the fields at Black Tooth Park would help with the field availability issue.
- The future growth of American Legion baseball is tied directly to the growth in ages 6-14 youth baseball. It is difficult to increase use in these classifications due to the lack of game and practice fields.
- Efforts are underway to establish a youth lacrosse program that will eventually be requiring rectangular fields to support these efforts. It is also important to realize that lacrosse nationally is one of the fastest growing field sports.
- The baseball programs at times have trouble using fields for practice because they have already been prepped for games.
- Many of the fields do not have adequate parking or park amenities to support other family uses.
- Some sports practice on fields not meant for that purpose (baseball using fields that do not have backstops).
- Rugby has had to share fields with adult softball teams practicing.
- There are no regulation baseball fields in Ranchester or Dayton.
- There is a big need for additional youth sized baseball fields.
- There are user group complaints regarding the age and condition of many of the existing fields.

**Secondary User Group Survey Findings:** The following represent the basic findings from the secondary user groups which is made up of local school districts and Sheridan College.

*School Districts* – Each of the school districts reported that their basic field needs are being accommodated by their own fields. There is interest in having use of the Doubleday Sports Complex for some tournaments (soccer and football). They might also use the complex for cross country meets. There are only small increases expected in sports participation numbers in the coming years.

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

## *Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex*



It is important to note that school district fields are in heavy demand for sports organization use. This results in overuse and impacts the playability of the fields for their own programs.

*Sheridan College* – The game needs of their men’s and women’s soccer teams are being met with the existing field at the college most of the time, unless weather makes their natural turf field unplayable. However, practice puts undue wear on the field and as a result open natural grass areas at the College have to be used or the high school’s field. Being able to use Doubleday for practice would be a big help. They would also be interested in conducting a tournament or two at the complex. Their softball fields are heavily utilized by the community for recreational sports. They also have a need for an indoor turf field for practices.

Big Horn High School
Tongue River High School
Tongue River Middle School
Sheridan High School
Sheridan College Men’s Soccer
Sheridan College Women’s Soccer

**Other Groups Survey Findings:** These other groups would most likely not be direct users of the sports fields planned for the complex but could have other sports needs that may be able to be accommodated at the facility.

*Big Horn Mountain Pickleball* – They would like to have outdoor courts at the Doubleday Sports Complex (10-12 so they can host tournaments) and they could also use more indoor courts. They currently have about 100 players that play year-round at the YMCA and outdoors at Thorne-Rider and Emerson parks. They host 4 tournaments a year and would like to host sanctioned tournaments in coming years. They do not have any permanent courts.

*The Sports Stop* – Their interest in the Doubleday Sports Complex is primarily for running races and trail runs. They would like to see more trails that connect Sheridan, Ranchester and Dayton. There is also a need for an indoor track, indoor soccer, and gym space.

*Sheridan Senior Activity Center* – They really do not have any need for outdoor field space or even outdoor park amenities at the complex. As community members they may use the park if it had general use facilities.

*Bomber Mountain Bicycle Club* – They did not fill out a survey but emphasized the need for bike paths that would lead from town to the complex as well as paths the go around the facility. These need to be hard packed paths as well as soft/single track paths.



# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

*Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex*



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Big Horn Mountain Pickleball
The Sports Stop
Sheridan Senior Activity Center
Bomber Mountain Bicycle Club

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

## Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex



**Field Use Scheduling Survey:** In addition to the user group survey, a separate survey was distributed to the primary user groups regarding scheduled field use. The intent of this survey was to determine the use and capacity of existing sports fields in the Sheridan area.

**Table F – Field Utilization**

	Diamond Fields				Rectangular Fields			
Field Location	Number of Fields	User Groups	Use Schedule (Months)	Percent of Capacity	Number of Fields	User Groups	Use Schedule (months)	Percent of Capacity
<i>City of Sheridan</i>								
Thorne-Rider Park (Madia Football Field, Redle Baseball Field, Trooper Stadium)	1	Amer. Legion (Trooper)	March-Aug	100%	3	Sheridan Soccer	4 Months	90%
	1	Babe Ruth (Redle)	March-Aug	100%	3	Little Guy Football	3 Months	100%
	1	Cloud Peak Fastpitch (Redle)	March-Aug		3	Sheridan Rugby	June-July	100%
	1	Girls Softball	2 months					
Marshall Park					2	Sheridan Soccer	4 Months	100%
Oatts Memorial Park/6 <sup>th</sup> St.	3	Webb Wright Baseball	3 months	100%				
	1	Cloud Peak Fastpitch	4 months	100%				
Black Tooth Park					3	Sheridan Soccer	7-8 Months	100%
					3	Little Guy Football	3 Months	50%
					14	YMCA Soccer 50 Teams	Mar-May June-Aug Aug-Oct	100% 75% 75%

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

## Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex



	Diamond Fields				Rectangular Fields			
Field Location	Number of Fields	User Groups	Use Schedule (Months)	Percent of Capacity	Number of Fields	User Groups	Use Schedule (months)	Percent of Capacity
<i>Sheridan Schools</i>								
Highland Park Elem					1	Sheridan Soccer	4 Months	100%
	1	Webb Wright Baseball	3 Months	75%	1	Little Guy Football	3 Months	75%
Sagebrush Elem	1	Webb Wright Baseball	3 Months	75%	1	Sheridan Soccer	4 Months	50%
					1	Little Guy Football	3 Months	75%
					2	YMCA Soccer	Mar-May Sept.-Oct.	50% 50%
Woodland Park Elem	1	Webb Wright Baseball	3 Months	75%	1	Little Guy Football	3 Months	75%
					3	YMCA Soccer	Mar-May Sept.-Oct.	100% 50%
Meadowlark Elem	1	Webb Wright Baseball	3 Months	75%	1	Little Guy Football	3 Months	75%
					2	YMCA Soccer	Mar-May Sept.-Oct.	75% 50%
Coffin Elem	1	Webb Wright Baseball	3 Months	75%	1	Little Guy Football	3 Months	75%
					1	YMCA Soccer	Mar-May Sept.-Oct.	50% 25%

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

## Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex



	Diamond Fields				Rectangular Fields			
Field Location	Number of Fields	User Groups	Use Schedule (Months)	Percent of Capacity	Number of Fields	User Groups	Use Schedule (months)	Percent of Capacity
Sheridan Jr. High					1	M.S. Football P.E. Sheridan Soccer	Fall Spring	100%
Sheridan High School					2 1- grass 1-turf	H.S. Soccer Football P.E.	March-Nov	100%
					2	Sheridan Soccer	7-8 Months	100%
					1	Adult Flag Football	Aug-Oct	100%
<i>Other Communities</i>								
Dayton (City/School)	1	Baseball (Scott Park)	3		1	H.S. Football & Track	Aug-Oct Mar-June	100%
Ranchester (City/School)	1	Webb Wright Baseball	3	100%	1	Little Guy Football	3	100%
					4	YMCA Soccer	Mar-May Sept.-Oct.	100% 50%
Big Horn (School)					1	H.S. & M.S. Football	Aug-Nov	50-100%
					1	Little Guy Football	3	100%
					1	Webb Wright Baseball	3	100%

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

## Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex



	Diamond Fields				Rectangular Fields			
Field Location	Number of Fields	User Groups	Use Schedule (Months)	Percent of Capacity	Number of Fields	User Groups	Use Schedule (months)	Percent of Capacity
<i>Other</i>								
Sheridan YMCA					3	YMCA Soccer	Mar-May Sept.-Oct. Summer	100% 100%
Sheridan College	3	Sheridan Adult Softball	May-Sept.		1	Sheridan College Soccer	Aug-Dec Jan-May	100%
		Cloud Peak Fastpitch	May-Aug.			Sheridan Soccer	7 Months	90%
	3	Travel League Baseball	April-July					

**Other Notes:**

- For school district fields, the artificial turf fields are preferred since they can be used in any weather.
- The YMCA, Sheridan County Soccer and Sheridan Recreation District work together to schedule the fields at Black Tooth Park. Typically, the YMCA has the fields on Sunday, Monday and Wednesdays; Sheridan Soccer has it Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
- Black Tooth Park would benefit by having lights and completing the rest of the fields as well as improving drainage. There is also limited parking and other support amenities (restrooms). Even with these improvements, the needs of the community for sports fields would still not be met.
- It is becoming more difficult to use school district fields due to the cost.
- New sports organizations have difficulty getting enough fields for their needs.

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT STUDY

## *Sheridan Doubleday Sports Complex*



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- The elementary school fields that are often used for practices are informal fields that are not designed for actual competition but more for open play. However, they have to be utilized for practice since there are simply not enough fields available.
  - Big Horn does not have any type of organized youth baseball field and is just an open area that has limited use for the sport.
  - Several sports organizations noted the need for indoor space for their programs during the winter months.