

MAJOR LEAGUE CRICKET AND BASEBALL BALLPARK

FCCAB

[04/20/2023]

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
Department of Intercollegiate Athletics



Agenda

1. Existing Conditions
2. Washington Freedom Cricket Team
3. Community Engagement
4. Next Steps & Timeline



EXISTING CONDITIONS



Existing Conditions

Alignment with the Master Plan

- Campus Master Plan contemplates potential future development on West Campus towards the academic core
- This likely requires relocation or reconfiguration of:
 - Field House
 - Stadium
 - Vehicular access
 - Event parking
- Nearly all ICA facilities on West Campus are experiencing either functional or market obsolescence
- Redevelopment could occur on West Campus
 - West Campus is 190+ acres



Existing Conditions

University Strategic Direction – Our Strategic Priorities

- <https://budget.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Strategic2023.pdf>



Delivering a distinctive and inclusive student experience that fosters lifelong engagement



Expand the impact of Mason's research, scholarship, and creative enterprise



Expand partnerships for economic and social impact



Exemplify a university culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion



Invest in faculty and staff success

Existing Conditions

Spuhler Field



WASHINGTON FREEDOM CRICKET TEAM



Washington Freedom Cricket Team

Washington Freedom

- **MLC is hosting its first season in Dallas in Summer 2023 with 6 teams**
- **Owner**
 - Sanjay Govil, founder of Infinite Computer Solutions and Zyter which are both headquartered in Rockville, MD; McLean resident
 - Graduate of Auburn University (Bachelors), Syracuse University (Masters), and University of Pennsylvania (Wharton – Masters)
 - Infinite Computer Solutions achieved a commitment of \$1.8B on its first day of trading on the Bombay Stock Exchange in 2010 and currently employs more than 10,000 globally; currently estimated at generating \$1B in revenue annually
 - [Profile article on Forbes](#)
- **Ballpark and Mixed-Use District**
 - Employing Ground Rule Companies as the Owner’s Representative to consult on delivering a permanent ballpark in the DMV by June 2025
 - Intending to fund and construct a multipurpose ballpark in partnership with George Mason University as part of a mixed-use sports district

Example of a near-term schedule ensuring both teams can operate within available time

MLC Stadium 2023 - 2025 Usage		
Event Type	Number of Events	Months
Major League Cricket Season	6-8	Late May - September
Minor League Cricket Season	4-6	Late May - September
Exhibition Matches	1-2	Late May - September
Special Events	TBD	Late May - September

GMU Athletics & Baseball Usage			
Event Type	Number of Event Weekends	Months	Notes
Camps	0	June - Aug.	Mostly weekday mornings; do not require a mound or field conversion
Mason Baseball Practices	2	Aug.Sept.	Weekdays and Sat. mornings beginning in Aug.
Tournament Rentals	6	May - September	Timing TBD
GMU Baseball Season	TBD	Feb - May	GMU Baseball Use Only

Washington Freedom Cricket Team

University Strategic Plan Alignment



MLC and international cricket matches would provide a completely unique experience to campus and the venue could position the Mason Baseball program to improve while also attracting a wide range of special events



Hosting Washington Freedom professional cricket matches could be a recruitment and retention enhancement for new students, professors, and donors; there are also opportunities for expansion of Sports Performance research with a professional sport and international collaborations with New South Whales (the Freedom's international player development partner)



Professional Domestic and International events will catalyze new spending in the market and generate significant marketing value for the University



The MLC and Washington Freedom directly enhance the University's ability to recruit and retain a diverse student body, faculty, and staff and positions George Mason University to become a well-known brand in India



The Washington Freedom and the MLC plan to privately fund the development of the ballpark and additional contributions to enhance the campus experience

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Community Engagement

- FCCAB
- Fairfax County Sports Tourism Task Force
- FCPA
- Visit Fairfax
- Local and State Elected Officials
- Community Town Hall
- Other stakeholders as appropriate



NEXT STEPS & TIMELINE



Next Steps & Timeline

- | | Timeline |
|---|--|
| 1. Connections with the mixed-use retail feasibility planning | Ongoing; anticipated completion late Spring 2023 |
| 2. Multipurpose Ballpark concepts and feasibility study | Ongoing; anticipated completion late Spring 2023 |
| 3. Community Engagement with the feasibility study | TBD; anticipated to be conducted in Fall 2023 |
| 4. Negotiations, term sheets, and agreements | TBD; anticipated to be conducted in Fall/Winter 2023 |
| 5. Initial approvals | TBD; anticipated to be conducted in early 2024 |

Community Engagement is also an iterative process that would occur throughout these next steps

Dedicated session(s) would be led by the Washington Freedom in partnership with Mason

THANK YOU

