

Stillwell **MOST** Frequently Asked Questions

What is the insurance cost and is the District liable for incidents on the property?

The District's insurance provider, NYSIR, provided an estimate of \$7,000 for the Stillwell property, which is the incremental difference of adding it to the District's existing property insurance. Should the school district acquire the property, it is viewed by the insurance provider as similar use as our other school properties, just an expansion of acreage. It's also important to know that all groups using the property would be required to have their own insurance and list the District as an additional insured. This risk transfer helps mitigate any risk to the school district. This liability of an event happening on the Stillwell property would be no different than an event happening on any other school district property.

How will use of the property be prioritized?

Should voters approve the Propositions, the cleared portion of Stillwell becomes school district property, and the school district would always have first priority. Second priority would go to groups that have existing use permits for the fields, such as Syosset Soccer, Syosset Lacrosse, Syosset Baseball and Syosset Softball. Last priority would go to other groups for any remaining time available.

What is the total investment, and how will it impact taxes?

A total investment of \$10.5 million would be used to revitalize the property. About half of that would come from reserves and County funds. The County would provide \$3 million with the transfer of the property, and \$2 million would be used from District reserves coming from two local developers. The other half of the investment would come from a bond. The District is about to roll off a more expensive bond, and this less expensive bond would take its place, so the tax levy would not increase.

What is the expense of maintaining the property, and how will it impact taxes?

We conservatively estimated ongoing operating expense at approx. \$340,000 annually, which means we projected the highest amount we anticipated the expense would be after consulting with our architects, engineers and head of facilities. But we anticipate offsets that would bring that expense down, such as doing the turf maintenance in-house, funds pledged from outside user groups, and costs avoided from the current need to bus students to off-site athletic facilities. The net amount after the offsets is projected to be approx. \$175,000 annually. For every year since the calculated tax cap was introduced, the District has been at or below the tax cap, and we don't anticipate anything within the scope of this project would change that.

Can the fields on existing District property be utilized more ?

Stillwell Fields represents additional land, which would provide flexibility for future needs in a densely-developed part of the County. Developing fields scattered around the district would not be as cost efficient and would be challenging for parents with children playing at different sites. And the grass fields behind the high school are used frequently and need to be rotated – additional fields would take the pressure off that rotation and allow the fields to rest between uses.

What community outreach has the District done regarding the Stillwell Propositions?

The following outreach has been done:

- Press release issued to local media on March 16, 2021.
- Emails sent from the District to over 9,400 contacts each on March 19, March 26, April 9, April 23, and April 30.
- Three Community Engagement meetings held for all residents to attend in-person or watch online on April 14, April 27, and May 4. A method of providing questions was available for those unable to attend in-person and/or viewing the live stream. Recordings of the meetings are [available on the District website](#) for all to view at a convenient time if they were unable to attend one of the meetings.
- Printed budget newsletter mailed out to every resident in the District with 2 full pages dedicated to outlining the Propositions. The newsletter will arrive in homes during the first week in May, as per the normal schedule.
- The newsletter was posted online in advance of the mailing with a link emailed to the community on April 23. You can find the newsletter here: [Budget Information / 2021-2022 Budget Information](#).
- Dedicated pages of the website containing detailed information and questions sent in by residents: [Budget Information / Stillwell Fields](#).
- Discussion at the March and April Monthly Board of Education meetings, which are open to the public to attend in-person and view via live stream. Recordings of the meetings are [available online](#).
- Images on the homepage of the [District website](#) linking directly to the pages with information on the Stillwell Propositions.
- Post on social media on March 15 announcing the Propositions, and a post pinned to the top of the District Facebook page with information on attending the community engagement meetings.
- Direct outreach to homes immediately adjacent to the Stillwell property.
- Meetings held with local sports organizations that hold existing use permits.
- Meetings held with local civic organizations.
- Meeting held with local senior residences.
- Meeting held with the Syosset Fire Department.