

Memo

Job No. 13024



To: Jason Kintner, Mercer Island Parks & Recreation Department
From: Don Campbell, RLA
Date: March 26, 2013
Re: South Mercer Playfields Backstops

At your request, I visited the South Mercer Playfields this morning to observe the site conditions with regards to the backstops for the three Little League Fields (Fields 1, 2 & 3). You have received complaints that the backstops do not prevent foul balls from entering the pedestrian plaza and drive/parking area behind the backstops thereby creating an apparent unsafe situation.

You requested RWD to define Options to improve safety. The following is a list of Options for your consideration. The Options fall into two basic categories: 1; Backstop/netting at the source (Source Protection), 2; netting over the plaza (Plaza Protection).

A. Source Protection

A.1 Remove existing backstop and install a 32 foot tall backstop with netting (see sheets L7.4-L6 as an example).

A.2 Remove existing netting above 6 foot chain link fence and install 4, 8 inch by 40 foot posts to secure a wire rope system from which netting can be suspended. This system is similar to the netting system at Safeco Field.

B. Plaza Protection

B.1 Install a netting/post system from the back stops inward terminating at the planter, assuming you wish to retain the tree in the planter.

B.2 Remove the tree in the planter and install a netting/post system over the plaza.

You stated that you seek solutions to this issue at least cost, so it bears stating that using the existing backstop posts can not be done because it is apparent these posts are already at load capacity (as evident by their slight bending). All solutions require the installation of 4-8 inch posts minimum. The proposed posts can be directly set into a concrete anchor or flange mount onto a concrete footing. In either case existing concrete paving will have to be removed and replaced. These Options are not inexpensive and will result in disturbance of existing improvements.

Some may opine that that these solutions appear to be overkill, for there are plenty examples of netting being attached to existing 4 inch posts, and they seem to be working just fine. This is true, however, none of those situations were probably truly designed in strict compliance with the IBC and engineering standards, rather they were probably just installed by resourceful volunteers. When we design new Little League Fields we recommend a minimum 24 foot backstop, but encourage Clients to go with a 32' backstop; when the field will be used almost exclusively for Little League play, almost all of the Clients opt for a 24' backstop. Clients who choose the 32' backstop program Little League, fast pitch softball and slow pitch softball games on the field; they feel they need a higher level of protection for a higher level of play.

In our experience, the backstop level of protection (24 foot) at South Mercer Playfields can be found to be the dominant, typical protection level for Little League complexes across the United States. Most Little League

facility providers decided (probably strongly influenced by funding levels) that this protection level is appropriate for their project. Backstops 24 feet tall and lower are typically produced by fence companies as standard, inexpensive backstops. When backstops are higher than 24 feet tall, backstops are custom designed and engineered with large diameter posts and a deeper footing, yielding higher capital costs. Spectators at, and players in a baseball game understand and accept inherent risks of the game, and as such, attempt to be cognizant of where the ball is during play. When one considers the relative low level of play, typical funding levels for Little League Field capital development (low), and the understanding/acceptance of the inherent risks of the game, it is understandable that 24 foot backstops are typical for Little League Fields throughout the United States. Each community needs to define their own risks tolerance and protection level and be prepared to fund their projects accordingly.

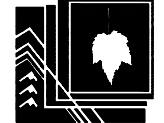
There are many Pros/Cons and costs associated with each Option; we look forward to discussing these with you at your earliest convenience. Thanks!

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Recreation Facilities at Albi Stadium

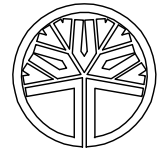
Spokane Parks & Recreation Department
Spokane, Washington

Robert W. Droll
Landscape Architect, P.S.



4403 7th Avenue SE, Ste. 203
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 468-3613
Fax: (360) 468-2068
E-mail: bob@rwdroll.com

Recreational Facilities Design
Landscape Architecture
Site Planning
Environmental Design
Urban Design
Land Planning
Project Management



STATE OF WASHINGTON
REGISTERED
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Robert W. Droll
Certificate No. 689

Project No. 07064

Drawing L7.4 softball details

Designed By CJB, RWD

Drawn By CJB

Checked By RWD

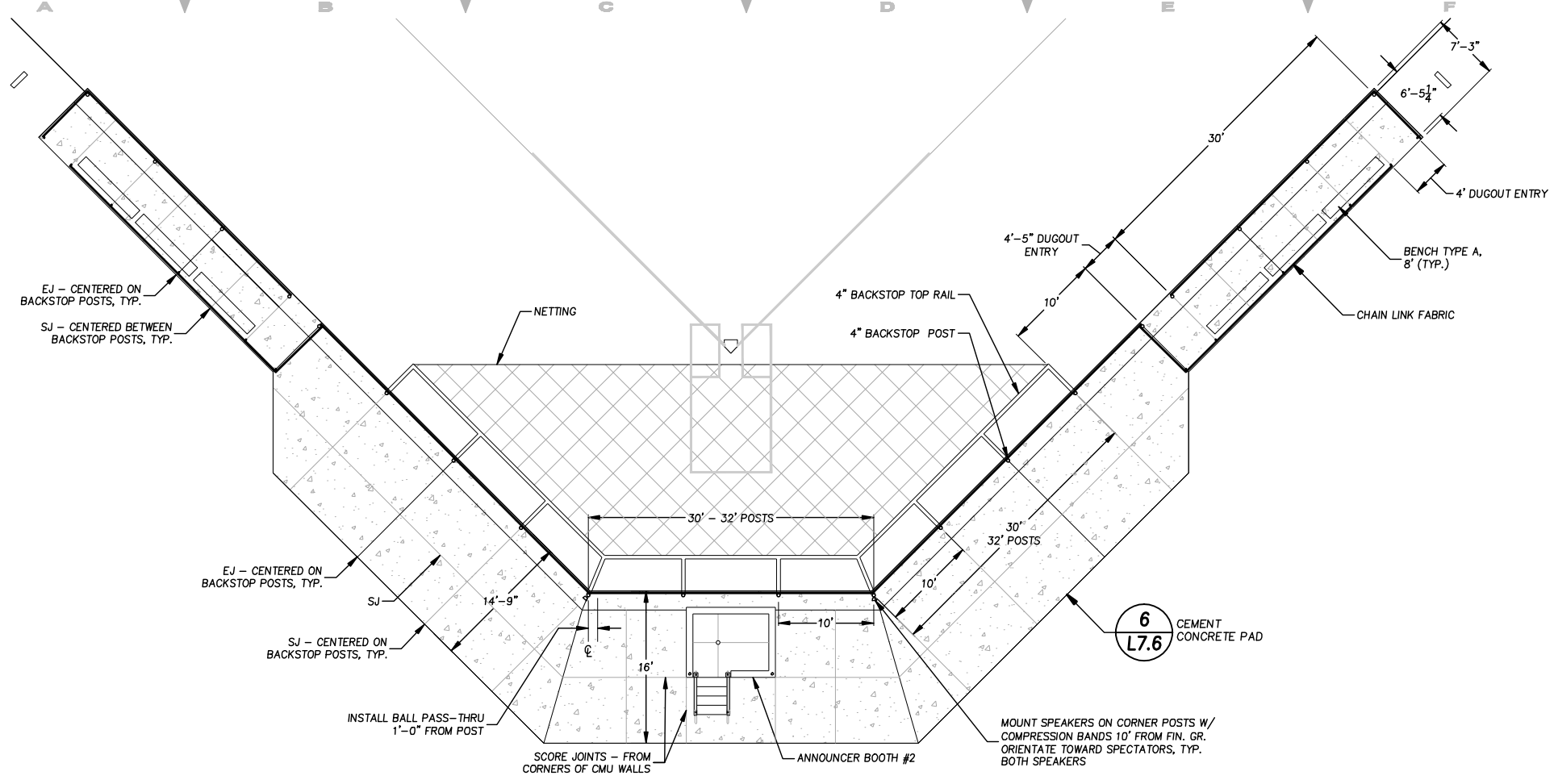
Revision	
Date	Change
4/13/09	32" POST RADII

Date: 02/23/08

Backstop Plan & Section/Elevation

L7.4

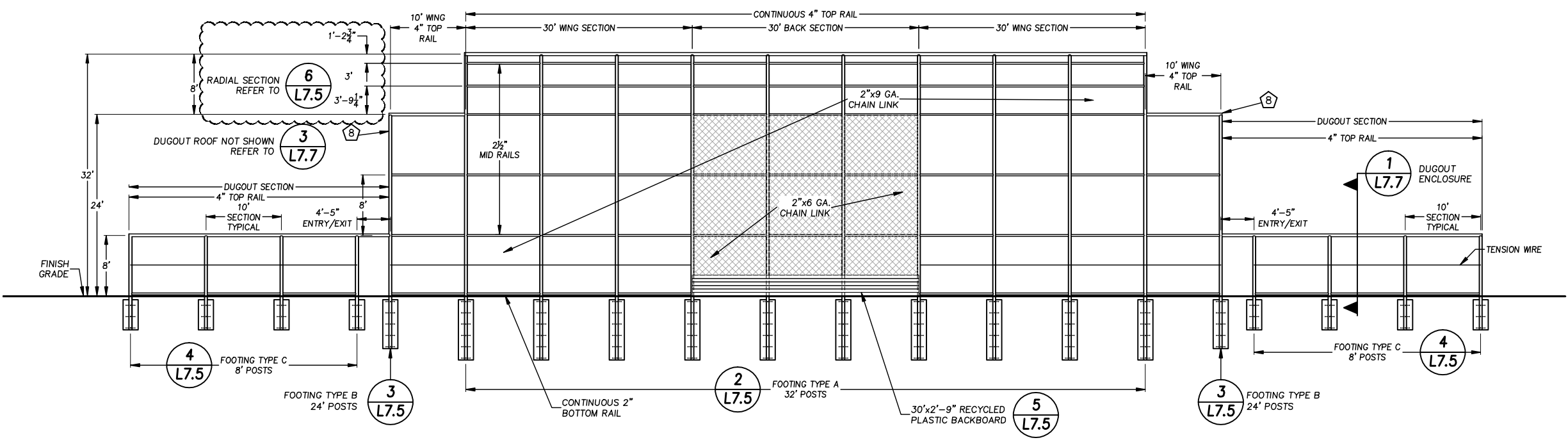
Sheet ___ of ___



Installation Note

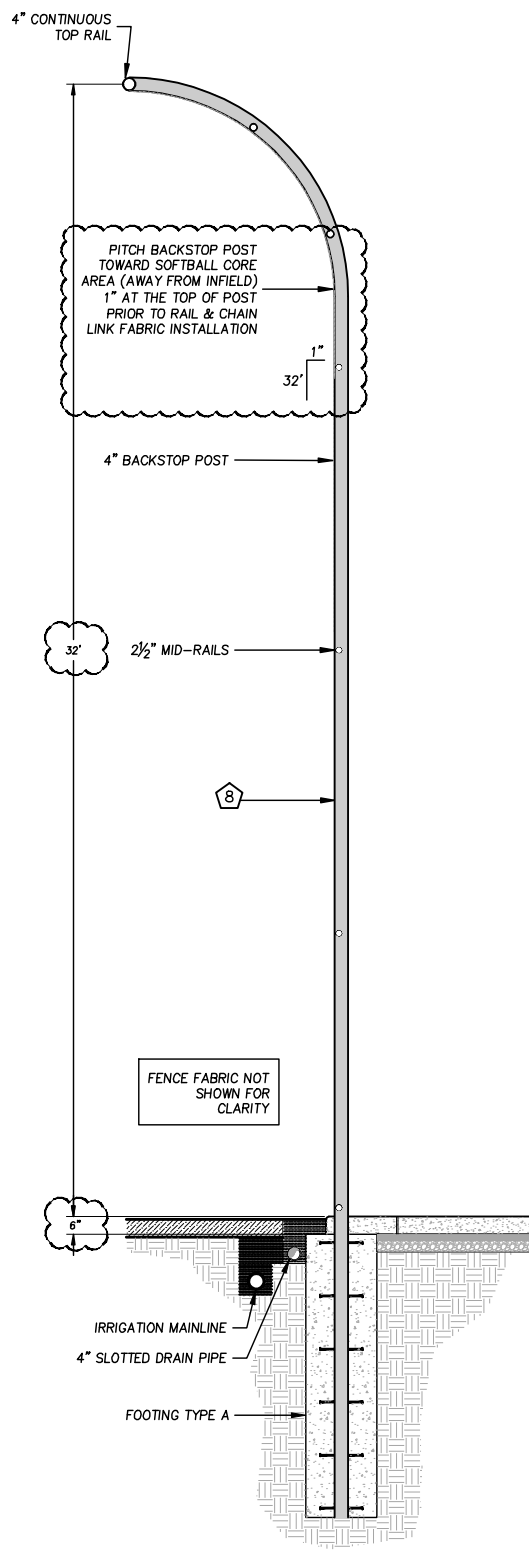
1. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO CENTERLINE OF POSTS.

1 Typical Softball Backstop Layout
SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

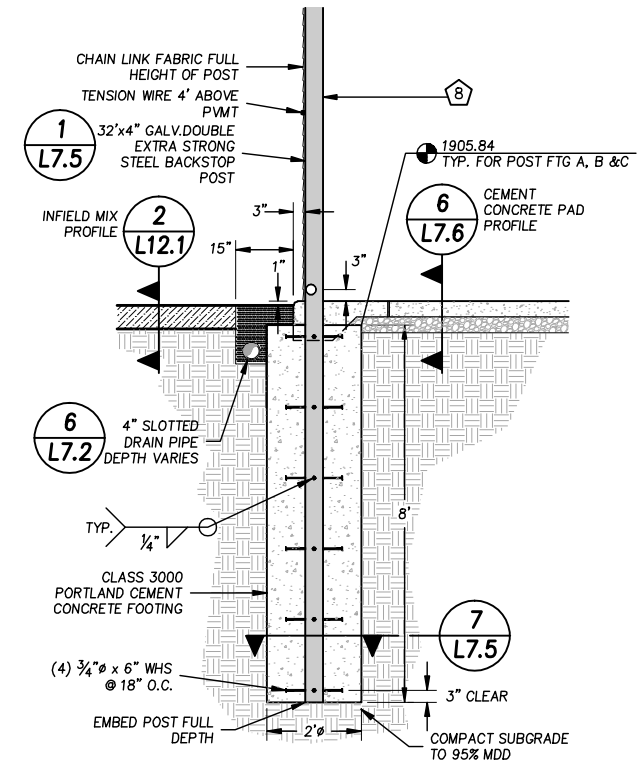


2 Typical Softball Backstop Section/Elevation
SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

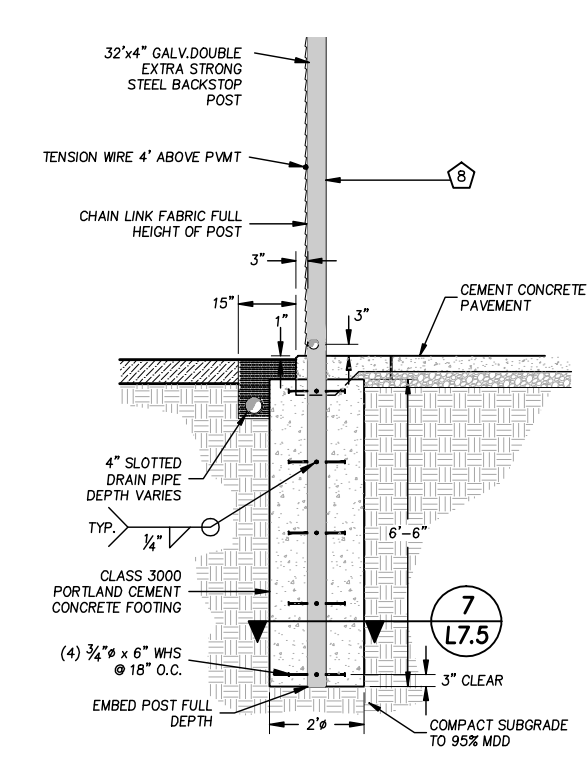
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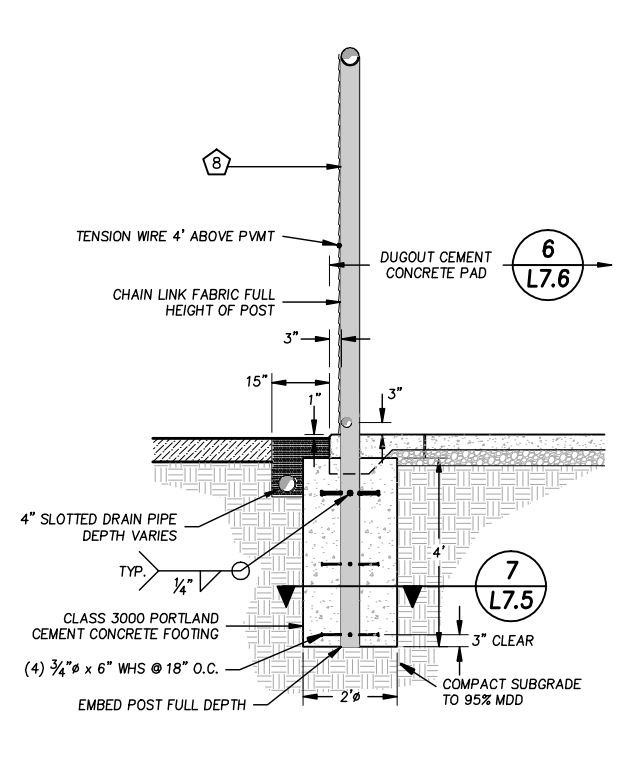
1 32' Post - Typical
L7.5 SCALE 3/8"=1'-0"



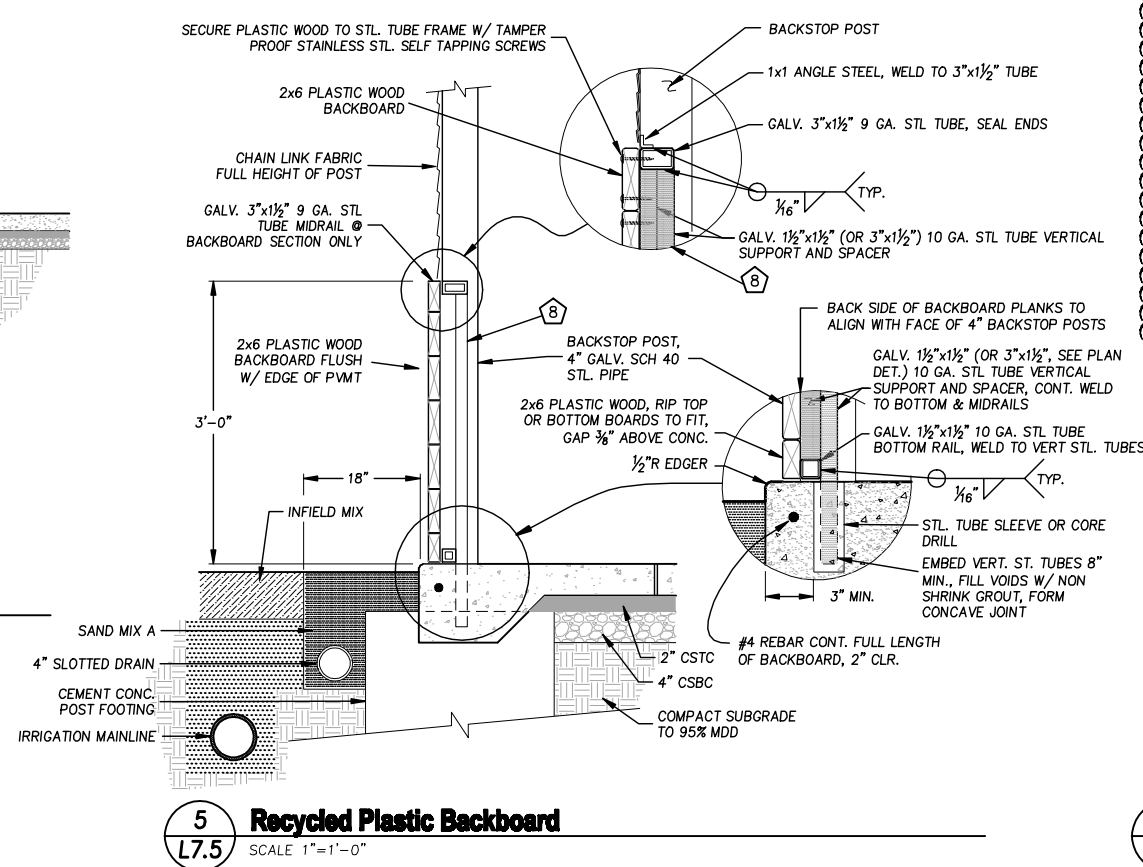
2 32' Post Footing Typical - Type A
L7.5 SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"



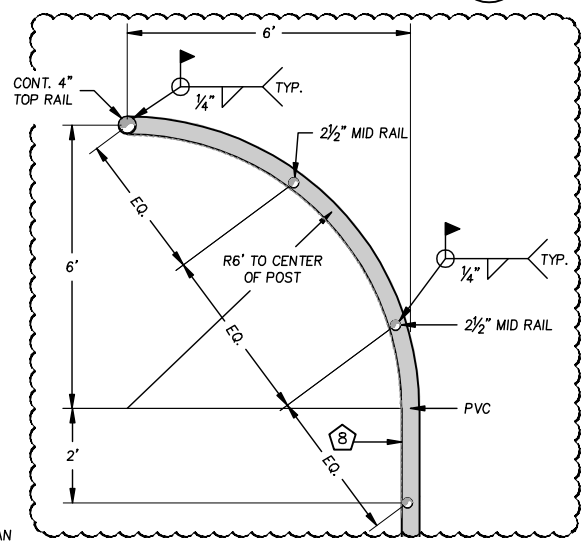
3 24' Post Footing Typical - Type B
L7.5 SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"



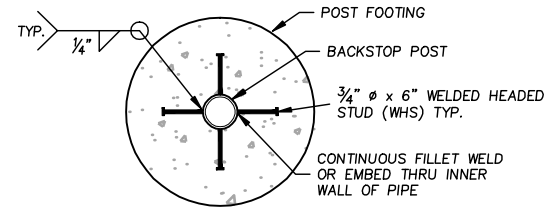
4 8' Post Footing Typical - Type C
L7.5 SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"



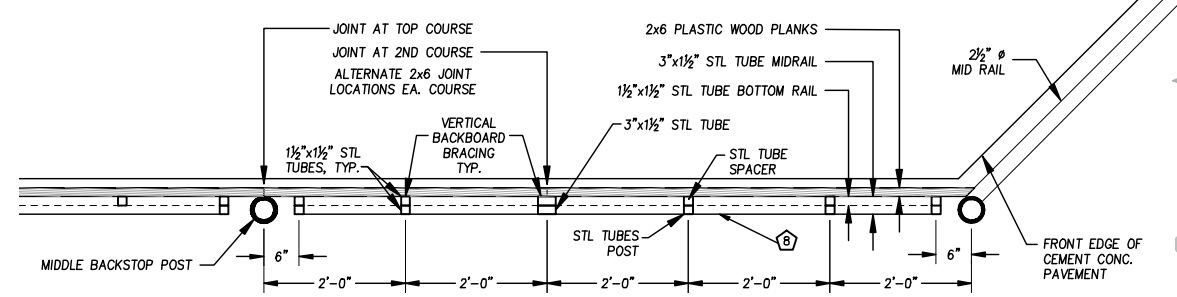
5 Recycled Plastic Backboard
L7.5 SCALE 1"=1'-0"



6 32' Post Radial Section Typ.
L7.5 SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"



7 WHS - Welded Headed Stud Array Typ.
L7.5 SCALE 1"=1'-0"



8 Backstop Backboard Plan
L7.5 SCALE 1/2"=1'-0"

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4405 7th Avenue SE, Ste. 203
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 468-3613
Fax: (360) 468-2068
E-mail: bob@rwroll.com

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Robert W. Droll
Certificate No. 639

Project No. 07064
Drawing L7.4 softball details
Designed By CJB, RWD
Drawn By CJB
Checked By RWD

Revision	Date	Change
1	4/13/09	32' POST RADII

Date: 02/23/09

Backstop Details

L7.5

Sheet ___ of ___

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Spokane, Washington

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Landscape Architect, P.S.



4405 7th Avenue SE, Ste. 203
Lacey, WA 98503
(360) 456-3813
Fax: (360) 493-2063
E-mail: bob@rwdroll.com

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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
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Designed By CJB, PM, RWD
Drawn By PM
Checked By RWD

Revision
Date Change

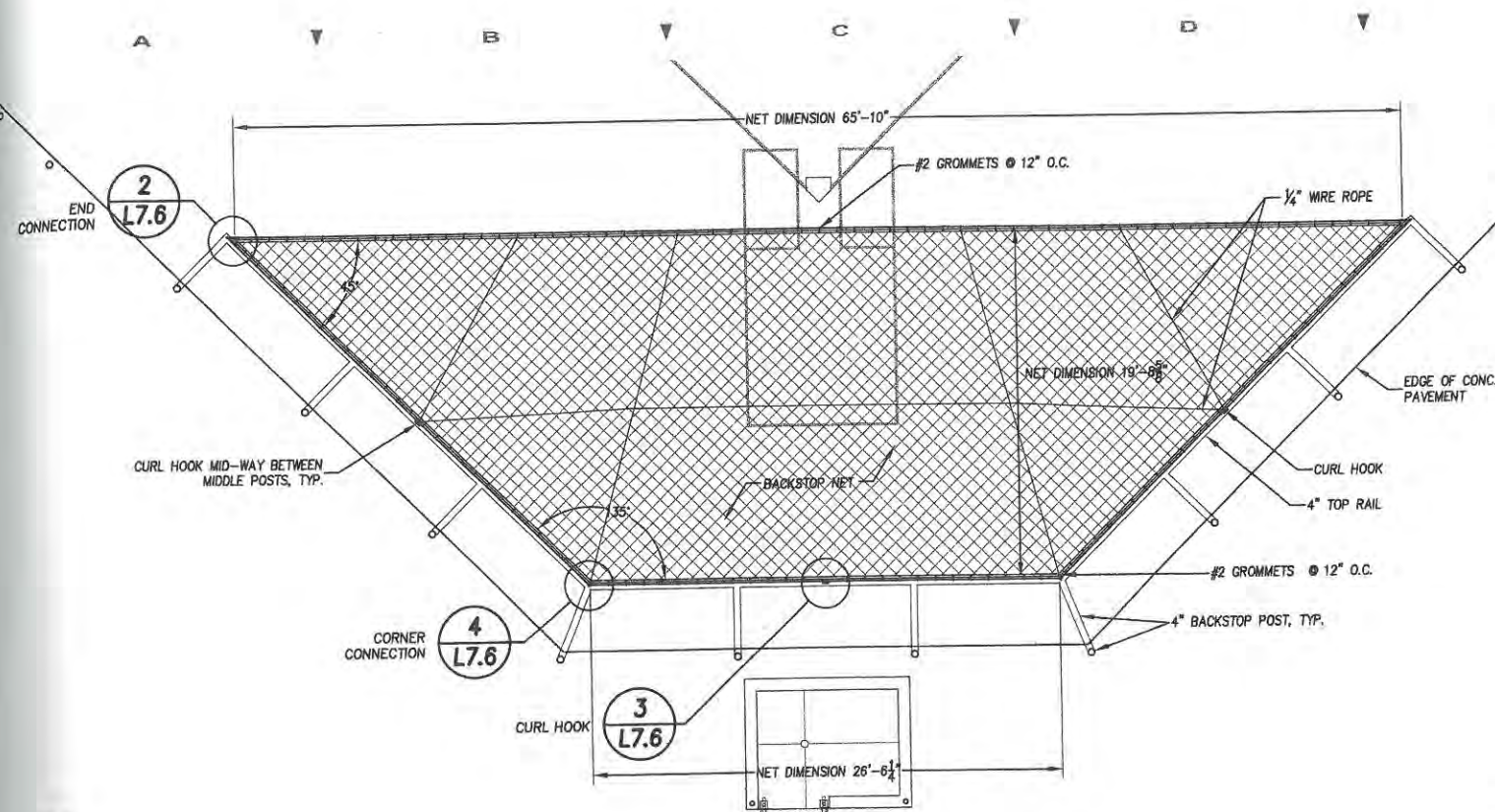
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Date: 02/23/09

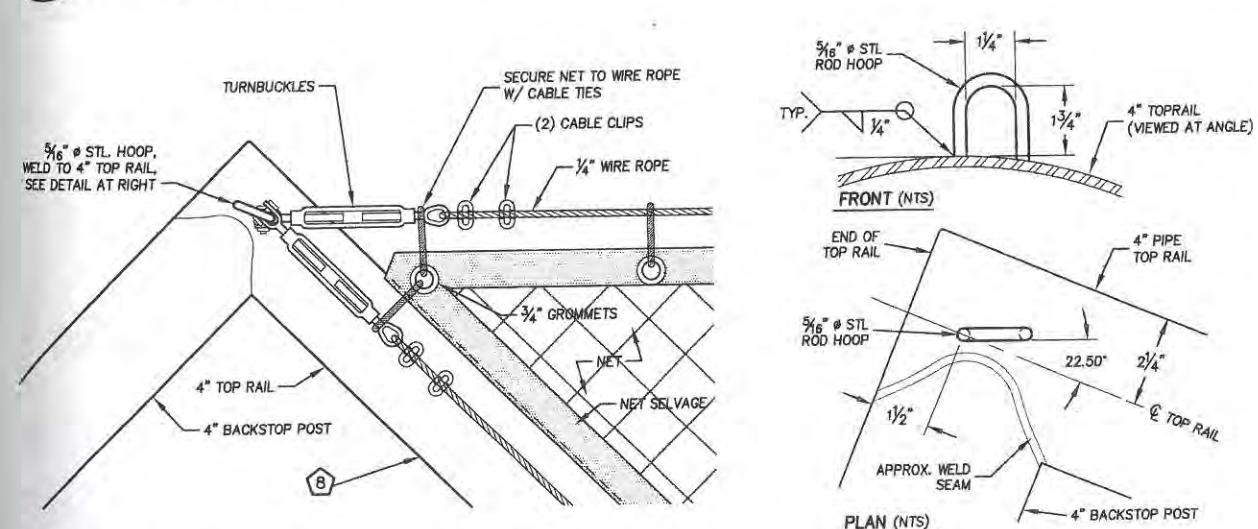
Backstop Details

L7.6

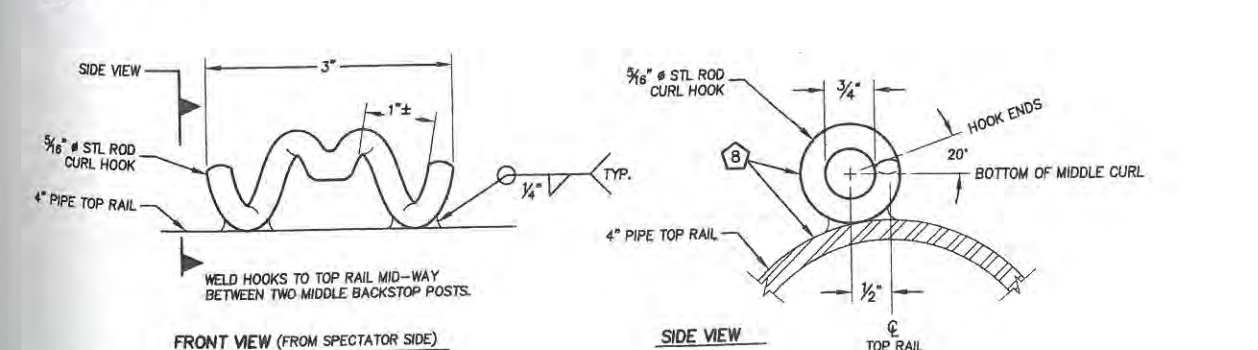
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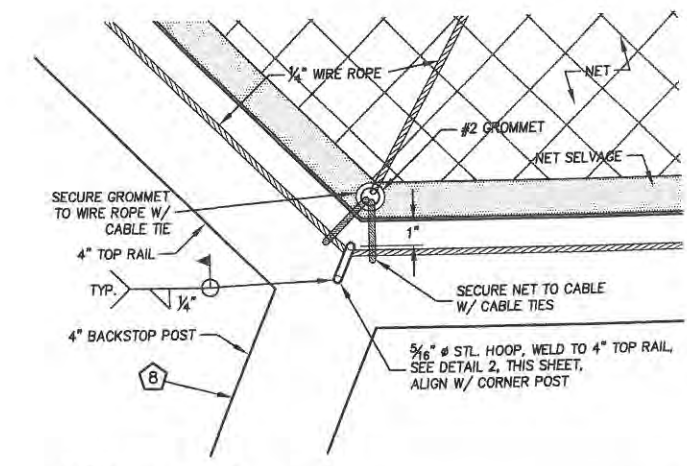
1 Softball Safety Net
L7.6 SCALE 3/16"=1'-0"



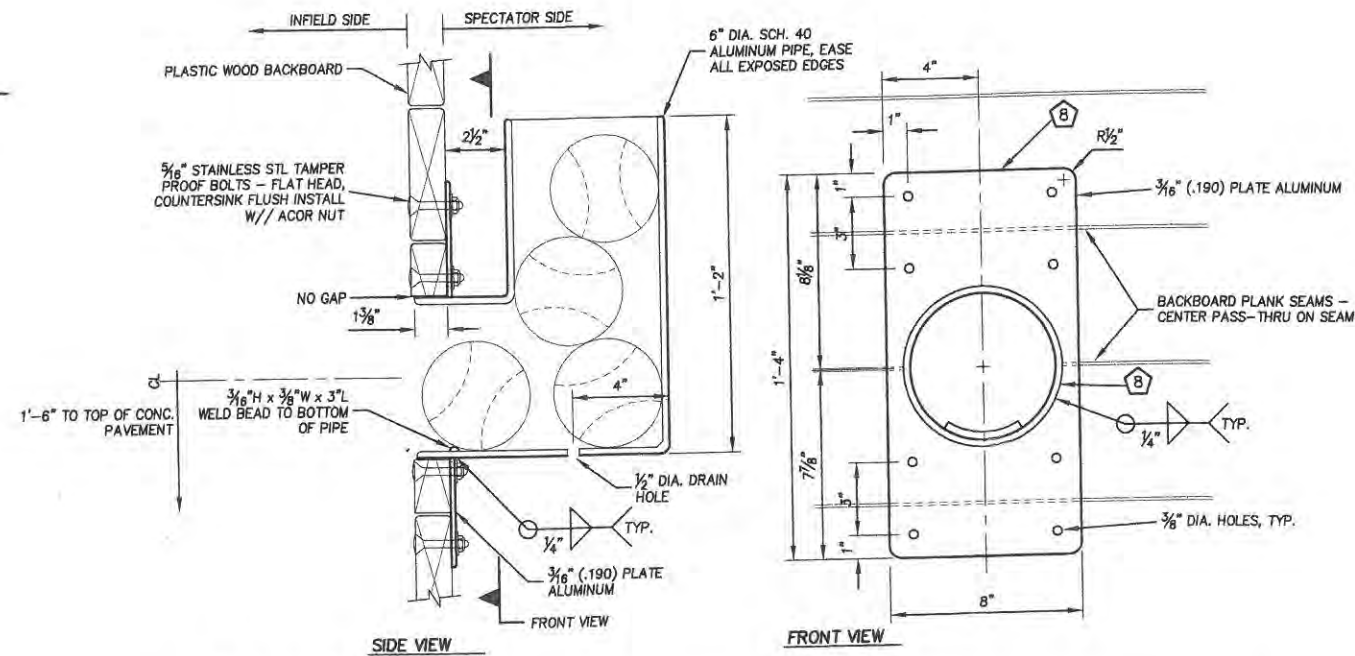
2 End Connection
L7.6 SCALE 3"=1'-0"



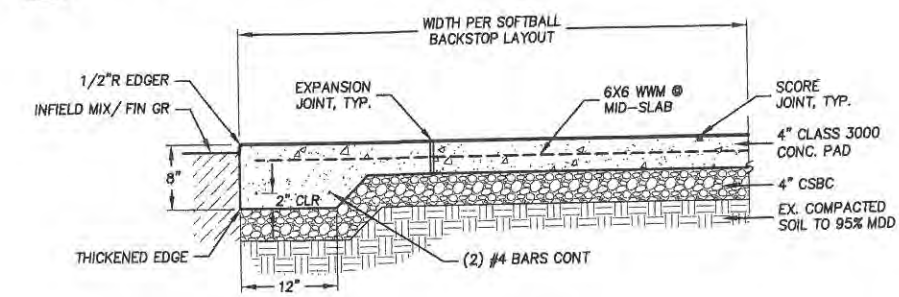
3 Curl Hook
L7.6 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE



4 Corner Connection
L7.6 SCALE 3"=1'-0"

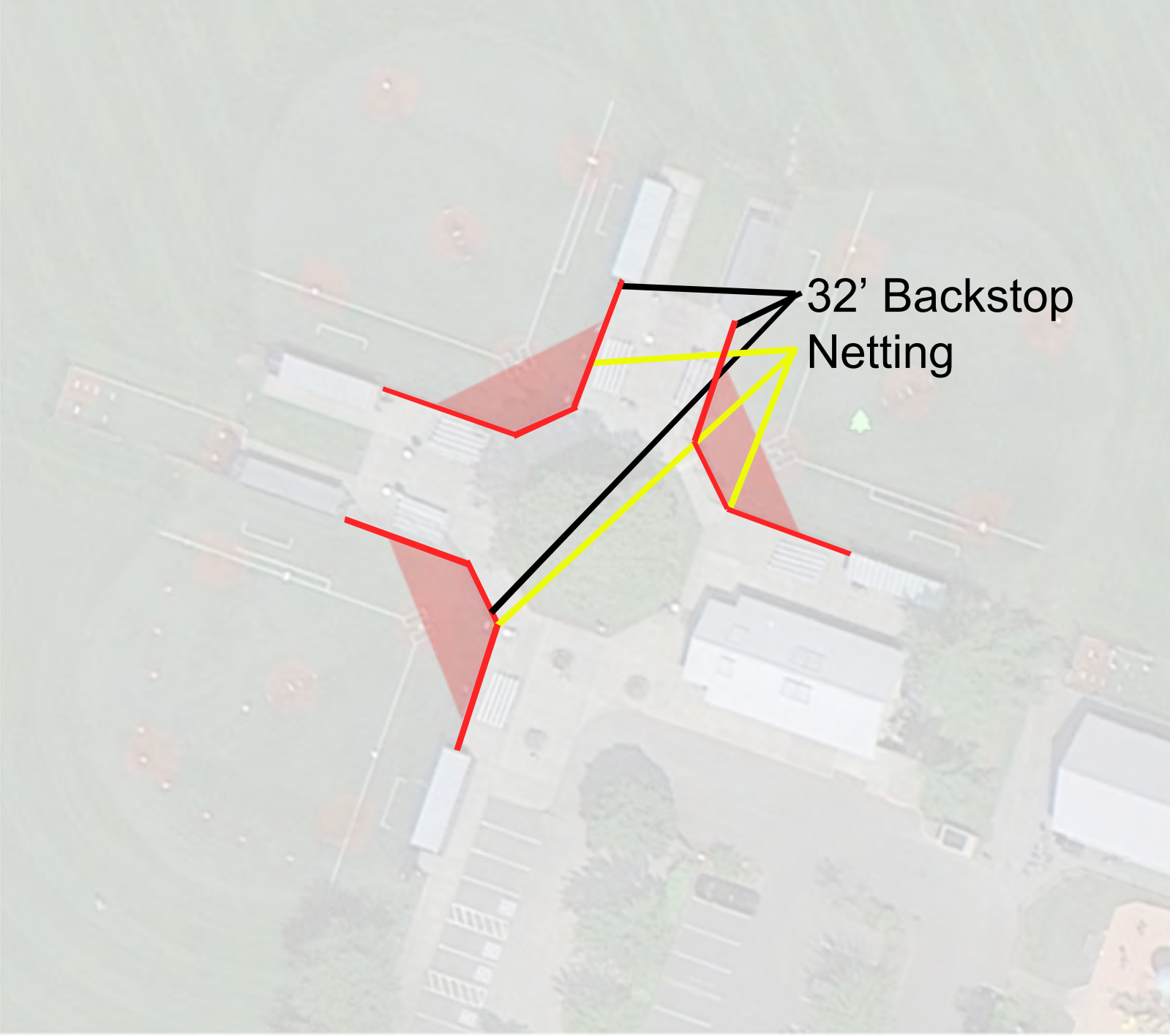


5 Ball Pass-Thru
L7.6 SCALE 1/4"=1'



6 Cement Concrete Pad
L7.6 SCALE 1"=1'-0"





32' Backstop
Netting

Mercer Island Parks & Recreation
South Mercer Playfields

Option A.1

RWD 3/26/13

40' posts typ.
netting

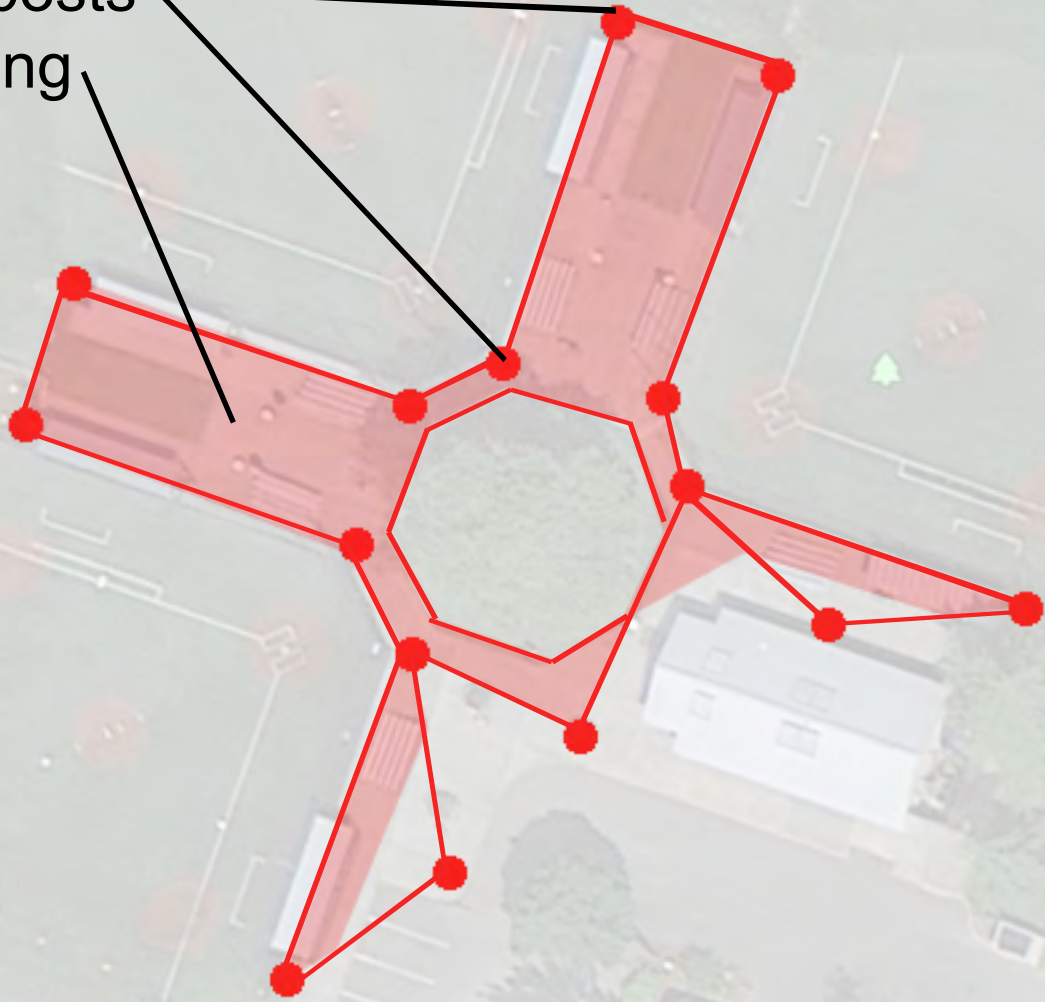


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Option A.2

RWD 3/26/13

20' posts
netting

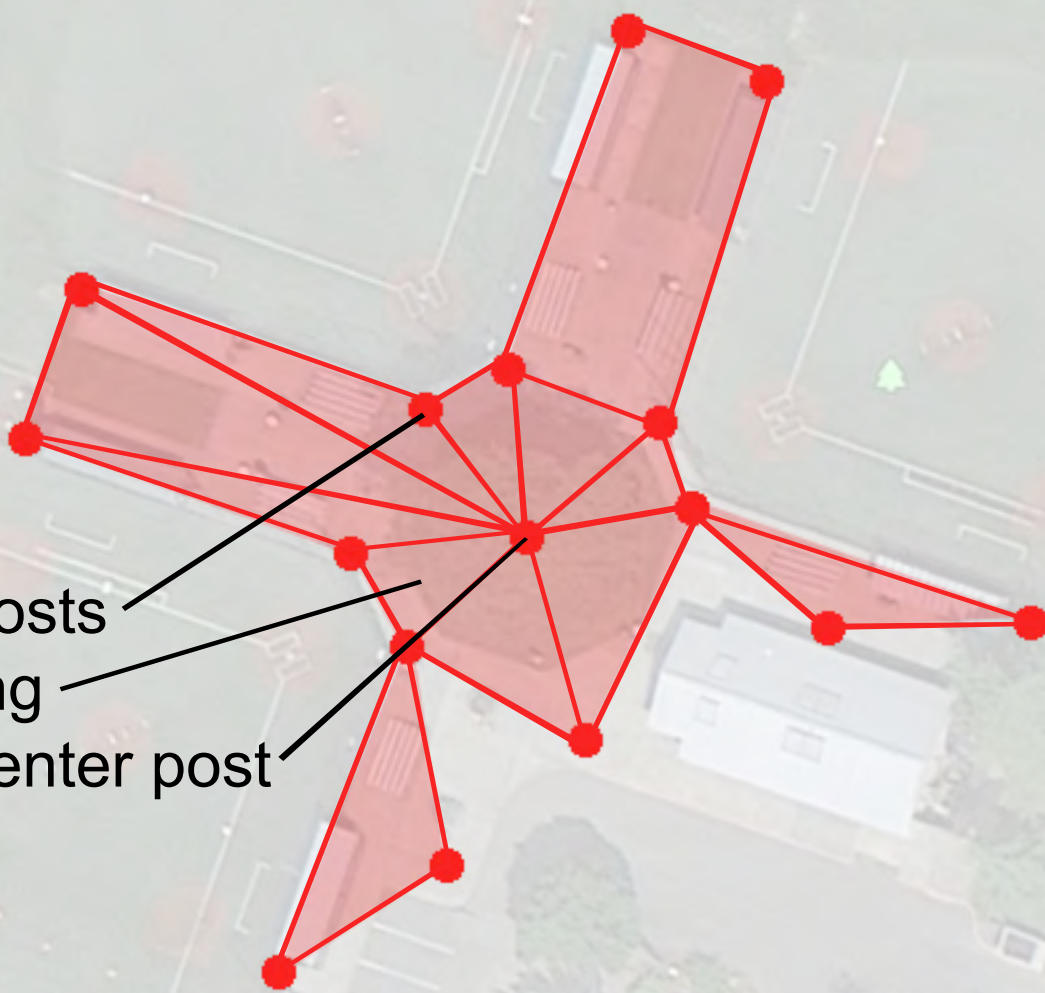


Mercer Island Parks & Recreation
South Mercer Playfields

Option B.1

RWD 3/26/13

20' posts
netting
30' center post



Mercer Island Parks & Recreation
South Mercer Playfields

Option B.2

RWD 3/26/13