

Big Train Fan Focus Group – Covid-19 Planning -- Tuesday, March 30, 2021 – Summary Report

Big Train President Bruce Adams welcomed the 18 participants to the second of the Big Train's three fan focus groups to be held this Spring to gather fan input as part of our planning for the 2021 season. Bruce explained that the new Board of the reconstituted Bethesda Community Base Ball Club (BCBBC) is dedicated to being one of the country's most welcoming and fan friendly environments in all of baseball.

The BCBBC board established a work group chaired by Vice President Eric Cole to explore and explain the Covid-19 protocol that we have drafted for this season at Povich Field. This fan focus group is an important part of the work group's process.

Bruce explained that we are working hard on a plan to submit to the County to allow for about 250 fans for each game at Povich – about one-third capacity. Bruce thanked Patrick Chapman for designing a 250-fan seating plan for 2021 that was shown to participants.

As part of our plan to keep the fans safe we had Board and staff members – Eric Cole, Kristi Voigt, Chris Rogers, and Patrick Chapman – explain the plan we are developing for this summer at Povich Field.

Eric Cole (BCBBC Vice President/COVID Work Group Chair): Overview

Eric explained that the Covid Work Group has met with representatives of a number of summer college and minor league teams to learn Covid best practices. Eric explained that we will be following all the Covid-19 Protocols that the County has in place:

- Masks & Face Coverings
- Sanitation Stations
- Social Distancing
- Contact Tracing
- Assigned Seating

Big Train fans suggested:

- The entrance of the ballpark is narrow; Povich Field should consider adding another.
- Adding a port-o-potty to alleviate restroom lines. Switching it out each game would help with sanitization as well.
- Having the ushers in charge of making sure people are wearing a mask when not eating or drinking.
- Vaccinated people with proof should be able to sit together closer together and in larger groups.

Kristi Voigt (Athletic Trainer): Player/Coach Safety

Kristi informed the fans of the protocols that the players will have to follow in order to play:

- All players will be masked at all times in the dugout but not while they are on the field.
- The players will all be spaced in the dugout and coaches will make sure that the players are doing what they are supposed to.
- Players will not be allowed to spit seeds during the game.
- Players must fill out a daily check-in (health assessment) before they are allowed to enter the ballpark and participate in team activities.
- Unfortunately, there will be limited fan-player interaction.

Big Train fan suggestions, comments and questions:

- Having pre-signed player cards or balls for fans.
- Will the players from the visiting teams have to comply with same protocols as Big Train players?

Chris Rogers (General Manager) and Patrick Chapman (Volunteer): Seating and Ballpark Overview

Chris presented the seating map created by Patrick (attached), which allows fans to be safely spread out within Povich Field.

- There will be a maximum of 272 assigned seats divided up into different sized pods.
- We will be setting up an online ticketing reservation system so fans can reserve seats for the game(s). The online ticketing system and designated seats will also help us facilitate contact tracing if necessary.
- Season pass holders will get priority on all games this season.

Patrick discussed the picnic pavilion set-up:

- Regular tables (6x5)
- Long tables (8x5) that are wheelchair accessible
- Access paths that are wheelchair accessible.
- Ceiling fans are available to be on at all times to keep the air fresh and circulating
- We can add possible dividers between tables
- Capacity:
 - Socially distanced capacity of 52 compared to 114 normal picnic capacity
 - Ability to offer one group of 52 or two groups of 26 each, or four groups of 12 or 13 each
 - Additional tables on the sides of pavilion could seat 18
 - Planning to move the seven additional tables to back side of third base grandstand (players to eat before the game)

Chris explained some of the ballpark protocols that will be implemented this season:

- Everyone **MUST** be masked inside the park unless eating and drinking.
- Staff will wipe down/sanitize the seats, railings, and any other high touch surfaces before and after the game, and during when possible.
- Markers on the ground will be used to indicate where people should stand in line in order to stay physically distanced
- Bathrooms will be cleaned on a regular basis
- Food vendors will implement a mobile ordering system (touchless pickup)

Unfortunately, COVID protocols do lead to:

- No on field activities to limit contact to the players along with other fans
- No before or after game autographs

Big Train fan comments and questions:

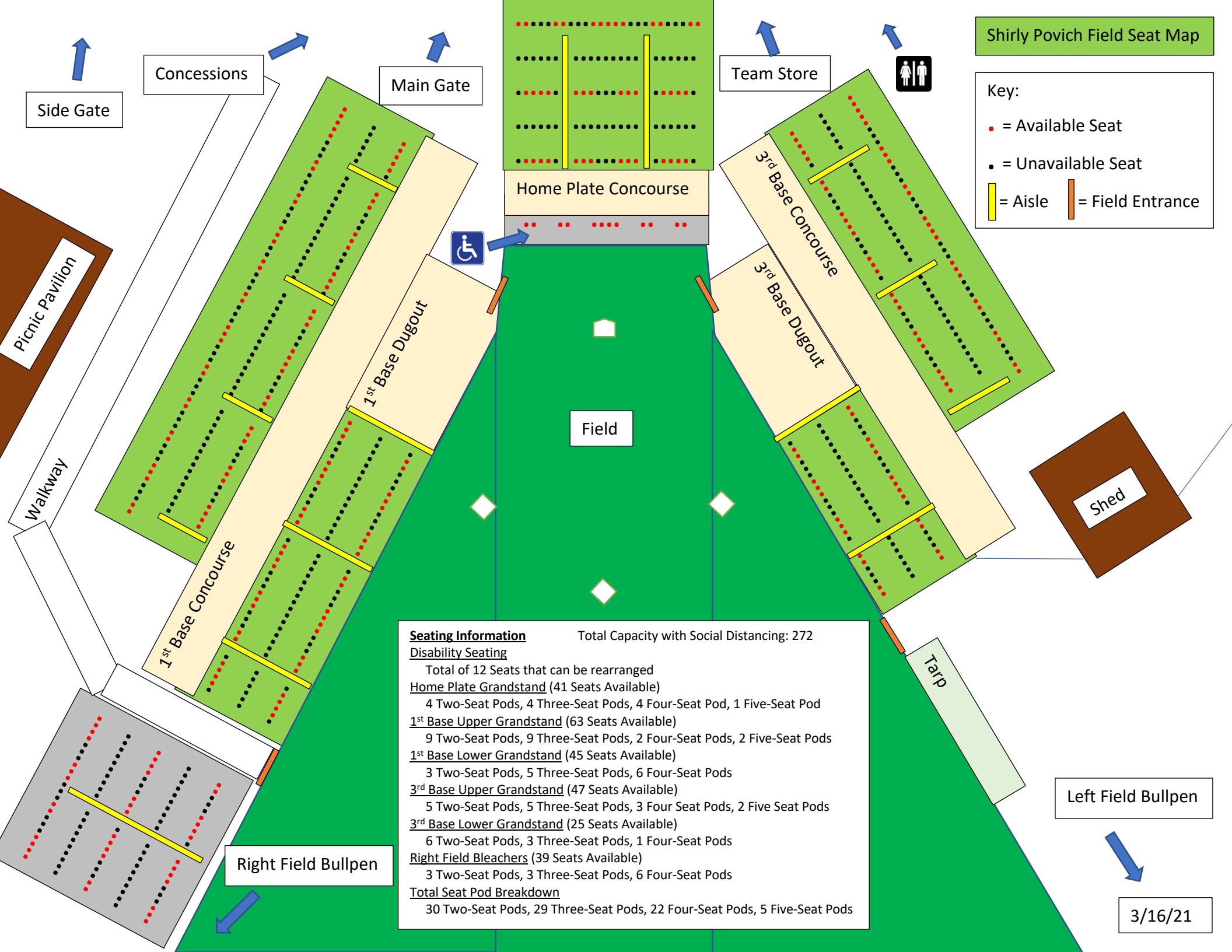
- The ceiling fans in the pavilion circulating air from different pods may do more harm than good.
- Will there be early entry?
 - Response: Once we have the dates released for the games, we will let you know
- Will there be birthday parties allowed?
 - Response: Depending on what the county permits, we are hoping to open up for birthday parties and picnics this summer.
- Will everyone be leaving at the same time? How will we manage the crowds during departure?
 - Response: We will use the side gate to create a smoother entry/exit operation and minimize cross traffic.
- How will we handle a heavy rain that starts in the middle innings?
 - Response: We're still figuring that out, but right now the best solution is for all fans to head to their cars to avoid bunching up under the archway or in the pavilion.
- Will we be able to bring our own chairs?
 - Response: Yes, but you must tell us so we can count you against the limited capacity requirements the county allows.

Bruce thanked the Big Train fans for their input and thanked our Board and staff members for their participation. Bruce reiterated that Big Train is dedicated to bringing the fun back to Povich Field this summer and running a fan-first operation. To make sure our fans are part of the conversation as we move forward, we will have one more fan focus group, a general 2021 Povich Field Outlook on Tuesday, April 13.

Shirly Povich Field Seat Map

Key:

- = Available Seat
- = Unavailable Seat
- = Aisle
- = Field Entrance



Seating Information Total Capacity with Social Distancing: 272

Disability Seating
 Total of 12 Seats that can be rearranged

Home Plate Grandstand (41 Seats Available)
 4 Two-Seat Pods, 4 Three-Seat Pods, 4 Four-Seat Pod, 1 Five-Seat Pod

1st Base Upper Grandstand (63 Seats Available)
 9 Two-Seat Pods, 9 Three-Seat Pods, 2 Four-Seat Pods, 2 Five-Seat Pods

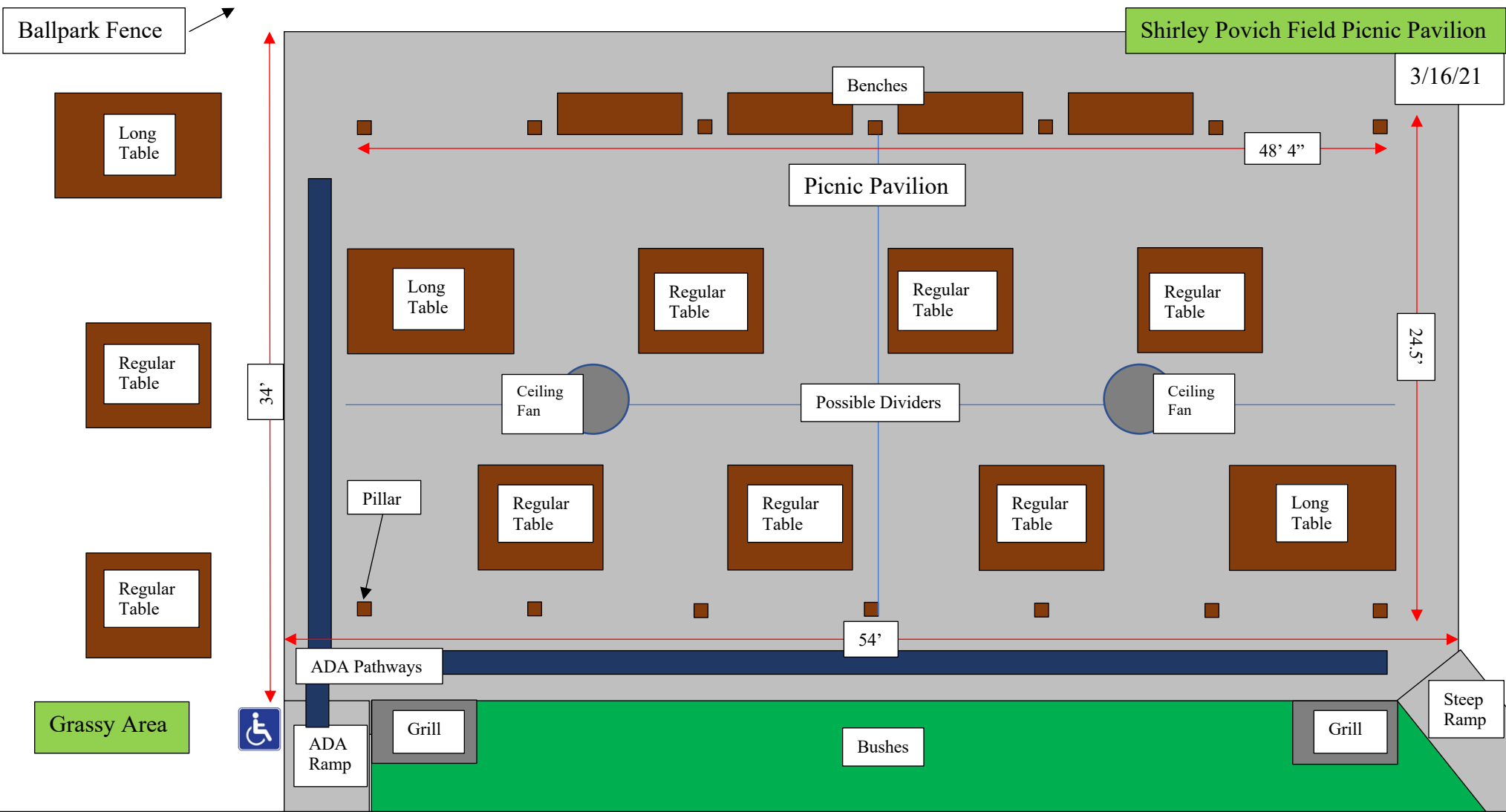
1st Base Lower Grandstand (45 Seats Available)
 3 Two-Seat Pods, 5 Three-Seat Pods, 6 Four-Seat Pods

3rd Base Upper Grandstand (47 Seats Available)
 5 Two-Seat Pods, 5 Three-Seat Pods, 3 Four Seat Pods, 2 Five Seat Pods

3rd Base Lower Grandstand (25 Seats Available)
 6 Two-Seat Pods, 3 Three-Seat Pods, 1 Four-Seat Pods

Right Field Bleachers (39 Seats Available)
 3 Two-Seat Pods, 3 Three-Seat Pods, 6 Four-Seat Pods

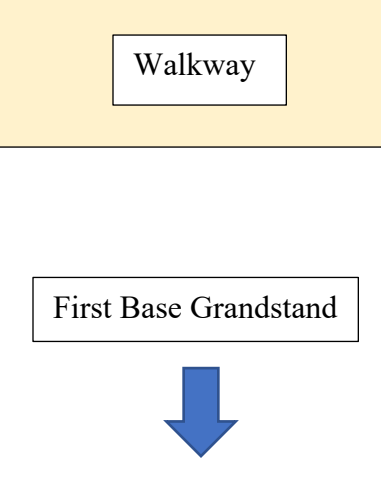
Total Seat Pod Breakdown
 30 Two-Seat Pods, 29 Three-Seat Pods, 22 Four-Seat Pods, 5 Five-Seat Pods



Pavilion Capacity under Normal Circumstances: 114
 Pavilion Capacity with Social Distancing: 52
 Grassy Area Capacity with Social Distancing: 18

To accommodate different sized picnic groups, dividers can be put in place:
 Capacity with Divider Splitting Pavilion in Half: ~26
 Capacity with Divider Splitting Pavilion in Quarters: ~13

Seven of the additional regular tables from the picnic pavilion will be moved to behind the third base grandstand to accommodate up to 42 people.



Benches (1-2 People)
 - 6' long and 2' back

Regular Tables (4-6 People)
 - 6' long and 5' wide (including seats)
 - 6 tables under cover, 2 are not

Long Tables (6-8 People)
 - 8' long and 5' wide (including seats)
 - 2 tables under cover, 1 is not
 - Can accommodate 2 individuals in wheelchairs per table

Ceiling Fans will be on at all times, even if dividers are present