



**New Buffalo
Area Schools**
EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

DUNE COAST BASEBALL

Community FAQ

October 2026

A JOINT FAQ

Dune Coast Baseball and New Buffalo Area Schools, working together

The Dune Coast QuillBacks will call Bison Field on the New Buffalo Area Schools campus home. Because the team and the district share this facility, Dune Coast Baseball and New Buffalo Area Schools have collaborated on this FAQ so families, neighbors and fans can find answers from both partners in one place. Bison Field remains a school and community facility and the improvements made for the ballpark stay New Buffalo Area Schools assets.

IN THIS FAQ

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 01 The Basics | 08 Safety & Security | 15 Environmental & Sustainability |
| 02 Team, League, Stadium & Facility | 09 Restrooms, Concessions & Amenities | 16 Construction & Timeline |
| 03 Schedule & Game Times | 10 Jobs & Hiring | 17 Communication & Staying Informed |
| 04 Traffic, Parking & Transportation | 11 Youth & Community Programs | 18 Patronicity & Community Fundraising |
| 05 Noise & Neighborhood Impact | 12 Economic Impact | 19 Miscellaneous |
| 06 Tickets & Pricing | 13 Team Name & Branding | |
| 07 Food, Beverage & Alcohol | 14 Sponsorship & Local Business | |

01 THE BASICS

What is Dune Coast Baseball?

Dune Coast Baseball is the Dune Coast region's new summer collegiate baseball franchise, created to provide affordable, family-friendly summer entertainment. The "Dune Coast" stretches from Indiana Dunes National Park to Warren Dunes State Park and surrounding towns. The team will compete in the Northwoods League beginning in 2027 and is intended to support local jobs, youth programs and school facility improvements. Visit www.quillbacks.com for more information and news surrounding the team.

What league are we joining and what level of baseball is it?

The team will compete in the Northwoods League, a summer collegiate wood-bat league featuring top NCAA players. The league is a well-established developmental circuit.

Who are the owners and what are their community ties?

Dune Coast Baseball was founded by three New Buffalo parents of children in the New Buffalo area school system with personal and professional ties to the region and a shared interest in supporting local schools, youth programs and community activities.

- **Brian Williams** - longtime resident, baseball scout, youth coach
- **Tom Rowland** - former collegiate baseball player, community volunteer
- **Stephen Donnelly** - local attorney, civic volunteer



02 TEAM, LEAGUE, STADIUM & FACILITY

What does “Dune Coast” refer to?

“Dune Coast Baseball” is the franchise name. Anchored in New Buffalo, Michigan, the franchise will serve a two-state region stretching from Valparaiso and Chesterton in Northwest Indiana to St. Joseph and Benton Harbor in Southwest Michigan, including LaPorte, Michigan City and the villages of Harbor Country. Long recognized as one of the Midwest’s most desirable summer destinations, the “Dune Coast” stretches from Indiana Dunes National Park to Warren Dunes State Park and surrounding towns and is defined by its expansive beaches, iconic dunes, vineyards and vibrant walkable towns. Dune Coast Baseball intends to strengthen regional cohesion and provide a shared home team that reflects the spirit of this dynamic landscape. The team name “QuillBacks” was announced in late July 2026 after a community naming initiative which received widespread submissions across the region.

When is the inaugural season?

Summer 2027, with games running from late May to mid-August.

How does this compare to other Northwoods teams?

Dune Coast follows the community-integrated model used by other Northwoods League teams that operate on school campuses and in neighborhood settings.

Where will the stadium be located?

At Bison Field on the New Buffalo Area Schools campus.

Is it a new build, renovation, or shared facility?

It is a shared facility. Phase 1 field improvements are complete; Phase 2 adds seating, accessibility upgrades and lighting (complete) while keeping the field a school asset.

What will the seating capacity be?

Maximum seating capacity in the proposed development surrounding home plate is expected to be ~600 spectators.

What does the stadium footprint look like?

The ballpark sits within the existing school campus footprint with adjacent green space and multiple parking lots.

Will there be lights for night games?

Yes, modern LED lighting has been installed designed to minimize light spill.

How will light spill be managed?

Fixtures will be downcast and shielded to keep illumination on the field. Please visit [Dune Coast Baseball | New Buffalo Area Schools](#) for more information on lighting.

What hours will the facility be open on game days?

Gates open about one hour before first pitch; lights turn off roughly 30 minutes after the final out.

Will the stadium be available for other events?

Yes. The field remains a school and community facility. High school and youth sports will be played at Bison Field as well.

Is the facility ADA accessible?

Yes. Phase 2 includes accessibility upgrades. For more information on the design and universal accessibility of new Bison Field please visit [Projects | Take Your Seat at Bison Field! | Patronicity](#)



What does the PA/sound system look like?

The PA system will be installed after completion of the Phase 2 facility improvements and will be scaled to family-friendly events with controlled volume. We are currently exploring sound system options while being cognizant of noise concerns expressed by community members.

What level of noise should nearby homes expect from the PA system?

Current planning anticipates a moderate, family-oriented PA system similar to other school-based athletic events. Directional speakers and controlled volume are part of the design. Final sound levels will depend on equipment specifications and site conditions while being cognizant of noise concerns expressed by community members.

03 SCHEDULE & GAME TIMES

How many home games per season?

Approximately 36.

When does the season run?

Late May through mid-August.

What time do games start?

We expect most night games will begin around 6:35 PM.

How long does a typical game last?

About 2.5 to 3 hours.

Will there be doubleheaders?

Possible but not common.

What about holiday games?

Schedules are announced annually, typically in November or December.

How are weather cancellations handled?

Decisions on delays or postponements due to weather will be made by the team in conjunction with Northwoods League policies. In the event of bad weather, the best place to find out if the game has been cancelled or postponed is our website at www.quillbacks.com or on the team's social media sites. If we need to cancel a game, we'll immediately put a story on the website describing any details of when the game will be rescheduled and how to redeem your tickets.

What is the policy for rain delays, extra innings and make-up games?

Weather-related decisions follow league guidelines. Most games are expected to conclude by approximately 9:30 PM. If delays occur, the intention is to operate within applicable city regulations.

04 TRAFFIC, PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

Where will fans park?

Existing school and city lots, with Dune Coast staff directing traffic.

How many parking spaces are available?

606 spaces, including 20 accessible spaces.

What is the overflow plan?

Use of the Transportation Lot and nearby city lots.

Will there be a traffic management plan?

Yes, coordinated with the City and Township.



Are shuttles or rideshare zones planned?

Being explored.

What about bike racks and pedestrian access?

Additional racks and pathways are being evaluated.

How will postgame traffic be managed?

Dune Coast staff-directed flow with assistance from security/police.

Will parking be paid or free?

To be determined.

What about handicap and senior parking?

Accessible parking is available near the entrance.

What impact could attendees have on nearby streets?

Attendance varies across teams. Traffic planning is being coordinated with the City and Township, with Dune Coast staff-directed parking, signage and designated lots expected to help manage flow. Adjustments may be made as real-world patterns become clearer.

How will you prevent fans from avoiding paid parking by using Oselka Park or nearby streets?

Parking plans may include signage, staffing and designated areas. Recreational users of Oselka Park will continue to access the park as normal.

Who will oversee tailgaters who arrive early with alcohol?

No tailgating will be allowed at the games. Tailgating policies will follow school and City rules. Alcohol outside designated areas is not permitted. Dune Coast staff and security are expected to monitor parking areas.

05 NOISE & NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACT

How loud will games be at the property line?

We anticipate it to be comparable to current school sporting events.

What level of noise should nearby homes expect from the PA system?

A moderate, family-oriented PA system with directional speakers and controlled volume. Final levels depend on equipment and site conditions.

What hours will amplified sound be allowed?

Game times only.

Is there a neighbor liaison or hotline?

Please reach out to playball@dunecoastbaseball.com with any questions or concerns.

How will trash and cleanup be handled?

Postgame cleanup will be conducted by Dune Coast staff. Please reach out to playball@dunecoastbaseball.com with any complaints.

Will home values be affected?

Comparable communities typically see neutral or positive effects when facilities are well-managed.

06 TICKETS & PRICING

What will ticket prices be?

Final pricing will be announced in the winter, but are expected to be less than \$15 per ticket.



Will there be season tickets and group rates?

Yes, season ticket prices and group rates are TBD.

Are there family packs or kids-free nights?

Promotions will be announced closer to the season.

Will there be discounts for seniors, military, first responders, teachers, or students?

Yes.

How and when can people buy tickets?

Ticket sales will open when the 2027 Northwoods League schedule is announced, likely in early 2027.

Can nonprofits get group tickets or fundraising nights?

Yes.

07 FOOD, BEVERAGE & ALCOHOL

Will the team serve alcohol?

Yes, in designated areas.

Will alcohol service comply with Michigan liquor laws?

Yes. Any alcohol service would be subject to Michigan Liquor Control Commission requirements and occur only in designated areas approved by the school district.

When does alcohol service stop?

End of the 7th inning or 8:30 PM for 6:30 PM starts.

How will alcohol be monitored near Oselka Park?

Alcohol will not be permitted outside designated stadium areas. Dune Coast staff and security will monitor exits to prevent carry-out into City parks, with security personnel and Dune Coast staff available to enforce these rules.

How will overserving be prevented?

Servers will be certified, IDs checked and limits enforced. Intoxicated people will be asked to leave to support a friendly family environment.

Will local restaurants or food trucks be involved?

To be determined, we are evaluating concession options and expect to communicate our options for game attendees prior to the season.

What about dietary restrictions?

Menus will include options for common dietary needs.

Can fans bring outside food?

No outside food or beverage is permitted.

08 SAFETY & SECURITY

How will security be staffed?

A combination of trained Dune Coast staff and coordination with local authorities.

What is the bag policy?

To be announced.

How are foul balls and netting handled?

Protective netting is already in place.



What is the emergency evacuation plan?

A full plan will be shared before Opening Day and live on the website.

Is the stadium smoke-free?

Yes.

Who will monitor early arrivals or tailgaters with alcohol?

Dune Coast Staff and security personnel are expected to monitor parking areas and follow school and City rules. There is no tailgating allowed for these events.

09 RESTROOMS, CONCESSIONS & AMENITIES

How many restrooms will there be?

We are still in the planning phase for restrooms, but we expect to use a combination of portable and fixed restrooms.

Will there be a kids zone?

Yes, we plan to have a kids zone. Details to be announced.

Nursing/lactation room?

To be determined.

Team store / merchandise?

Available online and onsite. [Home | Dune Coast QuillBacks Official Merchandise](#)

Will the stadium be pet-friendly?

No. School policy is no dogs/pets on district facilities.

10 JOBS & HIRING

How many full-time jobs will the team create?

A small number of year-round roles.

How many part-time jobs?

Up to 50 seasonal jobs.

Are internships available?

Yes.

Where do players live?

With local host families.

How can someone become a host family?

The interest list is open now. [Be a Host Family - Dune Coast QuillBacks](#)

Are coaches and front office local hires?

The team aims to hire locally whenever possible. Please contact playball@dunecoastbaseball.com if interested in employment opportunities.

11 YOUTH & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Will there be youth clinics?

Yes, we plan to host youth camps and clinics during the season across the Dune Coast region. More details to come before the season, will be posted at www.quillbacks.com.



Will players visit schools and libraries?

We hope to have players visit local community centers.

Little League nights?

We hope to host little league nights at the ballpark.

How can schools or nonprofits partner?

Partnership opportunities will be available year-round. Please reach out to playball@dunecoastbaseball.com if interested.

Will there be a charitable foundation?

The team is committed to reinvesting profits into local schools and charities through the Dune Coast Cares Foundation, the 501(c)3 charitable arm of Dune Coast Baseball. [Dune Coast Cares Foundation | Berrien Community Foundation](#)

How are local youth coaches involved?

Through clinics, mentorship and collaborative programming.

12 ECONOMIC IMPACT

What is the projected economic impact?

Northwoods League teams typically generate local spending through tourism, dining, lodging and retail.

What does this mean for local businesses?

More customers and increased summer activity.

Will visiting teams stay overnight?

Yes.

How will the team partner with the chamber and tourism board?

Through promotions and visitor outreach.

Is New Buffalo giving the team any tax incentives?

No public incentives have been announced.

What is the estimated revenue for NBAS from the lease?

The lease provides annual rental payments and includes significant capital improvements that remain school assets.

13 TEAM NAME & BRANDING

Why “Dune Coast QuillBacks”?

We chose Quillbacks for many reasons but we feel the uniqueness of the brand and logo stood out as we further developed each concept. Quillbacks represent the porcupine which historically thrived along the dune-crested coast of Lake Michigan. At the turn of the 20th century porcupines were a natural inhabitant of these shores. They thrived in the forest and wooded ravines that flow from the dunes. Native Americans revered the porcupine for their resourceful survival in the wilderness and their unique ability to defend themselves without initiating conflict. To them the animal symbolized humility, playfulness, inner resilience and trust. Furthermore, porcupine quills were a vital natural resource for indigenous craft and artistry. Population growth along the southern coast of Lake Michigan led this solitary animal to move north along the lake. Today the mammal still exists in the Northern Lower Peninsula and the UP. But in 2027 we hope to bring the “porcupine” back to its native habitat.



Who designed the logo?

The team worked with an experienced professional to design a mascot, logo and branding guide. We are happy to provide referrals upon request, please reach out to playball@dunecoastbaseball.com.

14 SPONSORSHIP & LOCAL BUSINESS

How can a business become a sponsor?

Email playball@dunecoastbaseball.com.

Are there small-business tiers?

Yes.

Will there be a Founders Circle/Fan Club?

Yes.

15 ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY

Is the stadium being built sustainably?

Yes - LED lighting and efficient systems are part of Phase 2.

How will stormwater be managed?

Through standard school-district infrastructure. Please review the school stormwater plan online if interested in further detail.

Tree preservation?

The project works within the existing footprint.

Will there be recycling or composting?

Recycling is planned; composting is being explored.

16 CONSTRUCTION & TIMELINE

When does construction start and finish?

Phase 2 begins after the Patronicity campaign and continues through spring 2027.

What construction impacts should neighbors expect?

Typical daytime construction hours.

Will local trades be hired?

The team aims to hire local contractors whenever possible.

How will the community be kept informed?

Through the website, email updates and public meetings.

What is the policy for rain delays, extra innings and make-up games?

Weather-related decisions follow league guidelines. Most games conclude by approximately 9:30 PM. Delays will be handled within applicable regulations.

17 COMMUNICATION & STAYING INFORMED

Where can residents get updates?

At www.quillbacks.com, via email (playball@dunecoastbaseball.com) and on social media ([Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)).



Who do I contact with concerns?

Please contact playball@dunecoastbaseball.com.

18 PATRONICITY & COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

What is the Patronicity campaign?

A 60-day, dollar-for-dollar matched fundraising effort supporting Phase 2 improvements. In summer of 2026 we completed a \$75,000 crowd fundraising campaign to release a \$75,000 grant from the MEDC. [Projects | Take Your Seat at Bison Field! | Patronicity](#)

Where does the money go?

Permanent seating, accessibility upgrades and community-focused enhancements.

What do donors receive?

Recognition opportunities such as chairback plaques and donor glass.

19 MISCELLANEOUS

I love baseball, but I don't want lights and traffic in my neighborhood.

The project includes downcast LED lighting, controlled sound and a coordinated traffic plan.

Why couldn't this go somewhere with more space?

Bison Field is an existing community athletic hub with infrastructure and parking.

What if it fails after two years and we're left with an empty stadium?

All improvements remain school-district assets.

Are local kids actually going to get to play here?

Yes. The field remains a school facility.

Did someone try to do this before?

Other sports initiatives have been explored, but this model is proven in many towns.

Why place a collegiate team near an R-1 neighborhood instead of a more remote location?

The school campus already includes athletic infrastructure, parking, utilities and a long history of hosting community sports. Other locations were considered, but the school site offered the most practical and cost-effective path to improving facilities that remain public assets. The school is not zoned R-1.

Will there be a mascot?

Yes. "Warren" the Quillback will be emerging at games and around the Dune Coast in 2027.

Will there be giveaways?

We plan to have a variety of promotional items and events at our games in 2027.

Anthem singer auditions / first pitch program?

Yes, please reach out to playball@dunecoastbaseball.com if interested in participating.

Can my band, dance team, or choir perform at games?

Possibly, with approval from the team and the school. Please reach out to playball@dunecoastbaseball.com if interested.

Will games be broadcast or streamed?

Yes, every game will be live streamed on FloSports TV, the official streaming partner of the Northwoods League.