

# **Greater Des Moines Softball Complex**

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**Park and Recreation Board...Did You Know?**

**October 24, 2017**

# History

- Starting in 1860 existed as prairie land
- Primarily used for farming



# History

- Owned in the 1990's by Edward Ochylski
- Owned Iowa Packing Company
- Sold the land to the city for \$2 in 1995

Page 1 of 2. 21<sup>00</sup> 250574

Date SEP 19 1994 RD  
 Agenda Item 61  
 Roll Call # 94-3631

**CITY OF DES MOINES**

**WARRANTY DEED**

INST # 019110  
 RECORDING FEE 1600  
 AUDITOR FEE 500

**Know All Men by These Presents:**

That Edward Ochylski and Eleanor Ochylski, husband and wife, in consideration of the sum of \$1.00 and other valuable consideration, paid does hereby CONVEY unto the City of Des Moines, 400 East First Street, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309, the following described real estate situated in Polk County, Iowa, to-wit:

The South 48 acres of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 16 and the North 32 acres of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 16, all in Township 79 North, Range 23 West of the 5th P.M., Polk County, Iowa, otherwise described as:

Beginning at the East 1/4 corner of said Section 16; thence South 0° (degrees) 19' (minutes) 22" (seconds) West along the East line of said Southeast 1/4, a distance of 522.97 feet; thence North 89°43'06" West, 2,665.63 feet to a point on the West line of said Southeast 1/4; thence North 0°21'49" East, 522.97 feet to the center of said section; thence North 0°21'11" East along the West line of the Northeast 1/4 of said Section 16, a distance of 785.21 feet; thence South 89°43'06" East, 2,660.42 feet to a point on the East line of the Northeast 1/4 of said Section 16; thence South 0°00'00" West, 785.22 feet to the point of beginning, containing 80.00 acres, more or less.

(No transfer stamps required - consideration less than \$500.00)  
 (Exempt from Filing Declaration of Value under Paragraph 14)

And the grantors do Hereby Covenant with the said grantees, and successors in interest, that said grantors hold said real estate by title in fee simple; that they have good and lawful authority to sell and convey the same; that said premises are Free and Clear of all Liens and Encumbrances Whatsoever except as may be above stated; and said grantors Covenant to Warrant and Defend the said premises against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever, except as may be above stated.

Each of the undersigned hereby relinquishes all rights of cover, homestead and distributive share in and to the described premises.

Wish and grantee bonds, including acknowledgment hereof, shall be construed as in the singular or plural number, according to the context.

Signed this 15th day of August 1994

*Edward Ochylski*  
 EDWARD OCHYLSKI  
*Eleanor Ochylski*  
 ELEANOR OCHYLSKI  
 3610 Reef Road  
 Eustis, Florida 32726  
 (Grantor's Address)

STATE OF IOWA } 88  
 COUNTY OF POLK } 88

On this 15 day of August A.D. 1994, before me, a Notary Public in and for said County, personally appeared Edward Ochylski and Eleanor Ochylski, husband and wife, to me known to be the persons named in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that the said person(s) executed the same as the said person(s) voluntarily act and deed.

Return to the  
 RIGHT OF WAY DIVISION  
 City Hall  
 Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Notary Public in and for said State of Iowa

Book 7089 Page 722

REC'D FOR RECORDING  
 SEP 21 11 32 AM '94  
 GREEN

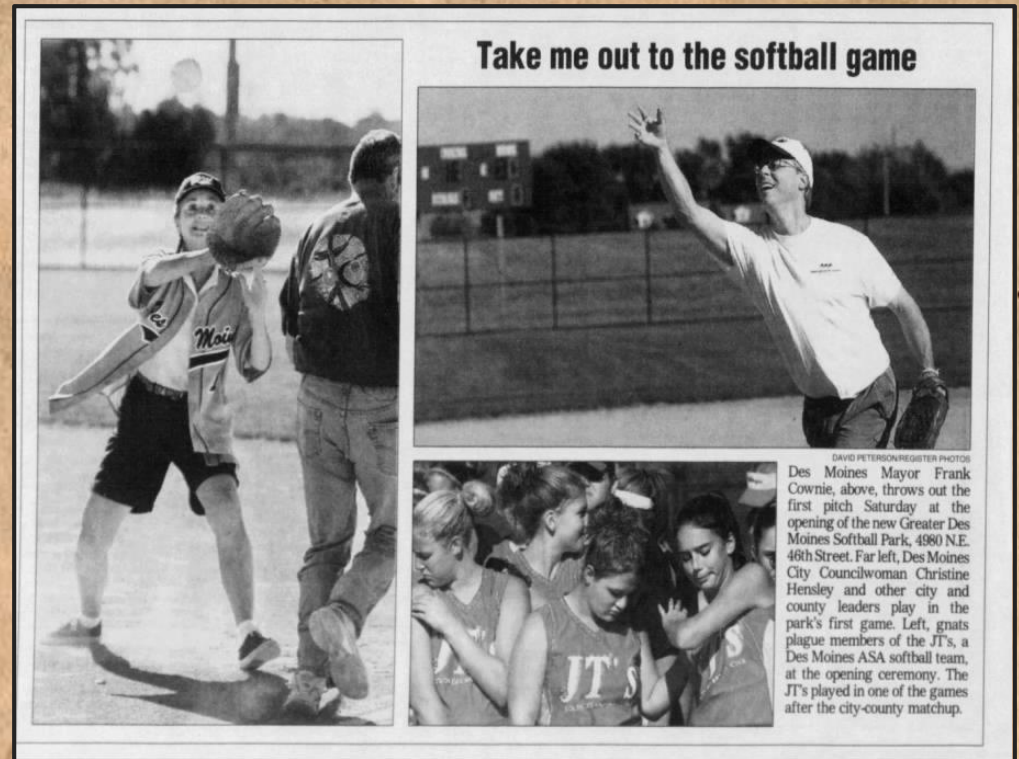
16-19-23  
 9-22-94  
 9-21-94

1/2  
 of  
 TOTAL  
 Property  
 of

Book: 7089 Page: 722 Seq: 1

# History

- Land rework began in 1997
- Construction began in 2002
- Field lighting added in 2004
- Opening Ceremony was September 25, 2004
- First pitch by Mayor Cownie



# Field Lights

- First proposed in 1995
- Strong reaction by the neighborhood
- Sued Polk County over rezoning

## Controversial softball complex to get lighting

By CHRISTINA SMITH  
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

City officials plan to add lights this spring to a new softball complex in the northeast part of the city.

In a memo to the city, Don Tripp, director of the Parks and Recreation Department, said there is \$151,000 available to pay for the lighting project at the softball complex near Northeast 46th Avenue and Northeast 46th Street. The complex is scheduled to be complete by July 1.

**"We need to build up the east side. I would prefer something nicer, but every bit helps. I think it will bring people over and show them that we don't all live in shacks and drive tractors."**

*Pat Pilmaier, east Des Moines resident talking about the softball complex*

Construction on the project began last summer, years after the park was first proposed. Initial plans called for an eight-diamond complex, but only four have been built. The

fencing and field turf also is in place, and the city expects to pave the parking lot sometime in spring.

Even before construction began on the long-suffering

fields, the city faced problems. Neighbors sued Polk County over rezoning of the area — annexed by Des Moines — and a judge ruled in favor of the county. In 1998, the Iowa

Supreme Court upheld the decision.

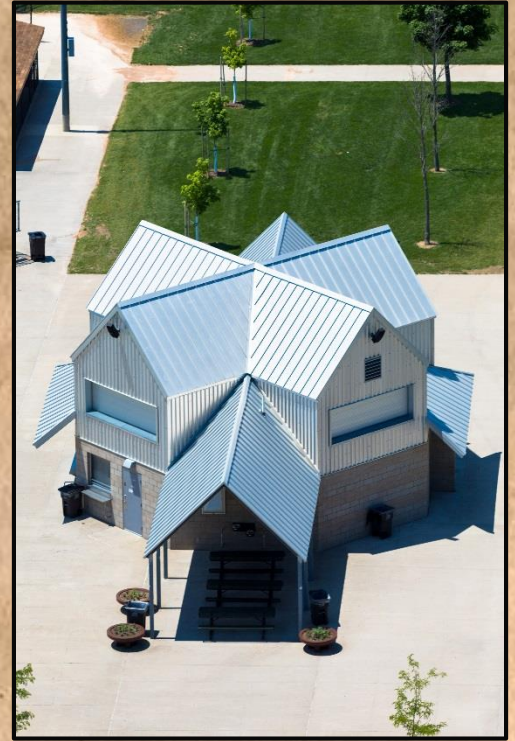
Although the project is taking years to complete, George Davis, chief umpire for Greater Des Moines Softball, said the wait will be worth it.

Players and interested parties had hoped for the project to be completed quickly, he said, "but as soon as we got over one hurdle, we would come to another one. But I feel it is going to be one of the most beautiful

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 5

# Amenities

- Irrigated fields
- Concrete pathways around all fields
- All weather capabilities
- Vinyl fence material
- Separate maintenance building
- PA system
- Playground facilities
- Concessions stand



# Recreation Leagues

- Before construction of the complex Des Moines utilized 15+ locations across the city to play games
- Hosted numerous tournaments over the years
- Leagues have had 1000's of teams

# Benefits of the Park

- Perfect combination of recreation and park land
- Red oak trees
- Blue bird boxes
- Natural environment







CITY OF **DES MOINES**  
PARKS AND RECREATION