



# **Lima Stadium Park**

**August 3, 2015**

**A project in cooperation with the  
AR-Hale Family Foundation, Lima City School Board,  
State of Ohio and the City of Lima.**

## **Description of the Scope of the Lima Stadium Park Project**

The Stadium Park project includes enhancements to the south side of Spartan Stadium to greatly improve the aesthetics of the Bellefontaine Avenue Corridor as a gateway to the City and the game day experience for sporting events at the stadium. It will complement the planned east side grade separation/roundabout project and Lima City Schools' Stadium Restoration Project.

Improvements include:

- Lower grade of land south of stadium, so it is visible from Bellefontaine Ave.
- Walkways from Bellefontaine Ave. and proposed roundabout to the stadium
- Sloped grass berm for seating along the south end of the stadium
- Masonry and decorative metal perimeter fence for park and stadium access control
- Splash pad with a variety of water jets for the children and their families
- Open green space in previously developed residential land
- Restroom facility to serve both stadium events and splash pad
- Energy efficient decorative lighting
- Low maintenance tree and shrubs
- Stormwater best management practices (BMP)
- Parking lot paving and pavement markings servicing both stadium and park events
- Park signage
- Access road to Lima Stadium from proposed roundabout
- Relocation scoreboard from south end of field to north end

## **Lima Stadium Park History & Origin**

In the mid 1990s, the City of Lima began to develop a strategy to upgrade the Bellefontaine/Market Street corridor as the prime entrance into the community and then commissioned a set of architectural renderings to study opportunities for increasing the visibility of the Spartan Stadium along its Bellefontaine Avenue approach if the intervening residences were removed and the landscape profile flattened.

In 2001, the Lima City Schools, with the support of the City of Lima and its citizens, decided to move Lima Senior High School from Pierce Street to Bellefontaine Avenue so that it could create a unified campus of school and athletic facilities, and in 2006, upgraded the field at Spartan Stadium with a state of the art durable athletic turf.

When approached about a multi-year strategy for acquiring the properties along Bellefontaine Avenue, Mr. Leo Hawk generously agreed to undertake that strategy, with the intention of donating the properties to the City of Lima once all parcels were secured so that the City could proceed to develop a park to front and enhance the Spartan Stadium. Mr. Hawk through the AR-HALE Family Foundation began acquiring the Bellefontaine Avenue properties in January, 2004 and was successful in purchasing all the properties by late November, 2007 (doing so many years ahead of the originally hoped for schedule), and proceeded to demolish all structures.

Beginning in 1956 the Lima City Schools and the Lima Central Catholic High School had a cooperative year-by-year agreement permitting the latter to use the Spartan Stadium as its home field. In 2007, the Lima City Schools and Lima Central Catholic High School formalized that relationship, in (1) the development of a year-round calendar that optimizes usage of the stadium for both schools, their

many user-groups, and community groups increasing the number of events at the stadium from 15 to more than 175 per year, with Lima Central Catholic's use increasing from 5 to more than 60 per year, and (2) the establishment of a formal 25-year agreement with the opportunity for a 25-year renewal between the two schools.

In the first half of 2014, State Representative Matt Huffman championed a funding proposal through the Ohio capital budget process and was able to secure \$1.5 million for the development of the Lima Stadium Park.

The Lima City Schools has agreed to sell certain parcels of real estate to the city for the development of the Lima Stadium Park.

Lima Central Catholic High School and Lima City Schools will, in conjunction with their use of the Spartan Stadium, also have the opportunity to use the Lima Stadium Park in the same fashion.

The Boards of the Lima City Schools and Lima Central Catholic High School enthusiastically support and applaud the development of the Lima Stadium Park as a visible and enduring recognition of the five schools—Lima South, Lima Central, St. Rose, Lima Central Catholic and Lima Senior—which have historically played at the stadium and called it Home and express sincere gratitude to Mr. Leo Hawk, his family and the AR-HALE Family Foundation for their vision, initiative and generosity in undertaking the development of the Lima Stadium Park.

## **Acknowledgements**

AR Hale Family Foundation

Leo Hawk

Matt Huffman, Former State Representative

Keith Faber, State Senator

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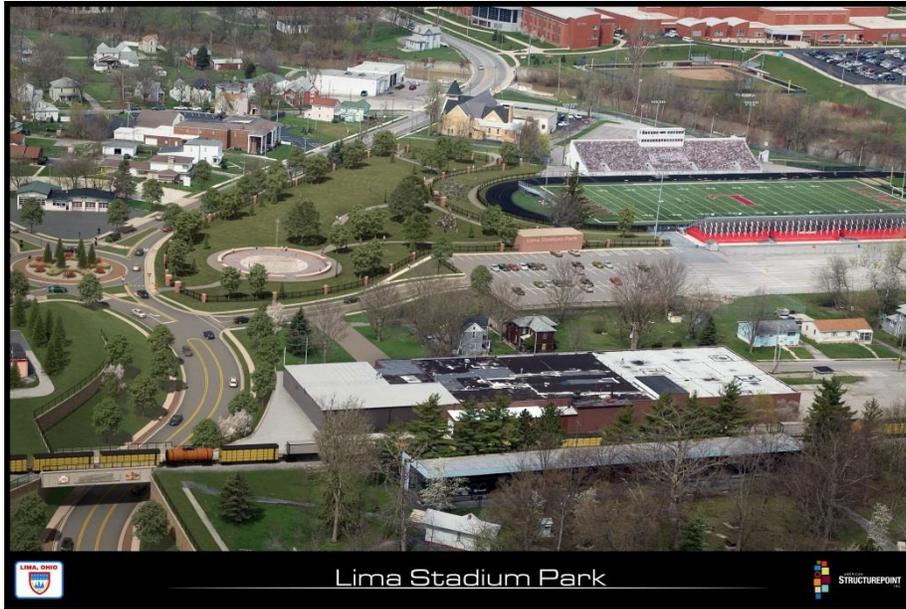
Lima Central Catholic High School

Lima Senior High School

City of Lima Engineering Division

City of Lima Parks & Recreation Division

Lima City Council



öSports ideally teach discipline and commitment. They challenge you and build character for everything you do in life.ö

~ Howie Long

Former NFL Football Defensive End for the Oakland Raiders

öThere is immense power when a group of people with similar interest get together to work towards the same goal.ö

~Idowu Koyenikan

Author of öWealth For All Africansö