

BALLPARK PROJECT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Ballpark Questions	Answer
Where will the ballpark be located?	The ballpark will be located on the northern portion of the former Wyman-Gordon site (WG North). The triangular parcel is surrounded by Madison St. to the south, the CSX railroad to the north and west, Washington St. and Summit St. to the east and a northern terminus at the city-owned Pickett Municipal parking lot on Green St.
Who will design the ballpark?	The City and the ballclub have agreed that the planning, design, development, and construction process shall be a cooperative, mutual endeavor in which the City and the ballclub will work together and participate cooperatively in joint partnership in all phases of the process.
What role will the Club have in designing the ballpark?	The ballclub, as the party with experience in planning, designing, developing, and constructing baseball parks in urban environments, will take the lead in directing the development of the Ballpark Design Plan. Larry Lucchino and Janet Marie Smith are the foremost leaders in ballpark design in the country. They are responsible for the return of ballparks to urban environments after years of suburban relocation in the 60s, 70s, and 80s. Their resumes include overseeing the construction of Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore, Petco Park in San Diego and the renovations to Fenway Park in Boston. They will bring their significant experience to the oversight of the Worcester ballpark construction.
Who is building the ballpark?	The City, as the Owner of the Ballpark Parcel, will procure and retain the Designer (the architect of the Ballpark), as well as the owner's project manager ("OPM") and the construction manager at risk ("CM") collectively known as the "Ballpark Delivery Team." The City will oversee, manage and execute the contracts with the Ballpark Delivery Team who will perform and implement the planning, design and construction of the Ballpark.
How large is the ballpark?	The ballpark is still in the design stage but it is expected to sit on 6 acres of land and encompass the entirety of the WG North parcel with Madison St. to the south, the CSX railroad to the west, Washington St. and Summit St. to the east and a northern terminus at the city-owned Pickett Municipal parking lot on Green St.
What is the ballpark's capacity?	The ballpark capacity will be approximately 10,000 patrons.
How will the ballpark fit into the existing Canal District?	The architecture, siting, and overall design of the ballpark will pay considerable attention to the unique characteristics of the Canal District. The ballpark will be designed to seamlessly fit into the Canal District and complement the existing feel of the area.
Does the proposed site have environmental or geotechnical issues?	This redevelopment project of the former Wyman-Gordon industrial site will reactivate a property that has stood empty for years into an active mixed use development. The site has been extensively studied and significant remediation has previously taken place. The conditions at the Wyman Gordon site are manageable utilizing cost effective DEP approved practices.
How many events will be held at the ballpark in a typical year?	The ballpark will host at least 125 events annually including ballgames, road races, large scale concerts, collegiate/high school sporting events, fireworks and other community events. The goal is to program the ballpark as often as possible. The City will have 8 revenue-generating events annually, along with up to 10 community-oriented days.

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What types of entertainment will the ballpark attract?	The ballpark will be able to accommodate large-scale, nationally touring acts including concerts and other entertainment offerings with a capacity of approximately 10,000 people.
Who will operate the ballpark?	The City will lease the ballpark to the Club for a 30-year term. The Club will be responsible for all operating expenses, including all security and utilities costs, as well as routine maintenance and repairs. Certain larger repairs and improvements will be shared by the ballclub and the City following the development of a capital plan prepared by a joint capital improvement committee.
Who will pay for capital repairs?	Capital repairs to the ballpark will be covered through Capital Facilities Funds with oversight by the City and the Club. Revenue for the Capital Facilities Funds will come from a facility fee as well as any cost savings in the construction of the ballpark.
What is a facility fee?	The capital funds will be primarily funded through a facility fee included in the price of a ticket to an event at the ballpark. The amount of the facility fee will be dependent on the type of event.
What other amenities will be at the ballpark?	Amenities at the ballpark will be determined through the design process by the City and the Club with a vision to create the most state-of-the art, technologically sophisticated, and entertaining ballpark in the country.
Will any other ballclubs use the ballpark as their home field?	The City and Club are entertaining third party agreements for use of the ballpark by college baseball teams.
How do I get to the ballpark?	The ballpark is readily accessible by driving, walking, biking, or public transit. The ballpark is proximate to Union Station, the WRTA bus hub, and downtown Worcester, and within a short walk of more than 6,000 public parking spaces. The current street network to and within the Canal District will be improved, and a new roadway will link the ballpark site to Rt. 146 via Quinsigamond Ave.
Financial Questions	Answer
What is the budget for the ballpark?	The budget for the ballpark is \$86-\$90M and includes design, construction and outfitting the ballpark.
Why does the budget to build the ballpark have a range?	The exact cost of the ballpark will be dependent on the costs attributable to the presence of the Mill Brook Drainage Conduit, which is not being relocated due to time and expense.
How much borrowing will the city authorize for the project?	The City will seek authorization to borrow \$100.8M in general obligations bonds over a 30-year term; \$70.6M for construction costs supported by new revenues from the DIF district and other sources; and \$30.2 M supported by revenue from the Club.
Why is there a difference in the budget for the ballpark vs. the amount of the borrowing?	The difference between the budget for the ballpark (\$86-\$90M) and the cost of the borrowing (\$100.8M) is land acquisition, culvert work, capitalized interest and borrowing costs. Over the term of the 30-year borrowing cycle, the \$100.8M loan authorization is fully self-supported by new revenues from the DIF district and revenue from the Club.
How much will the Club contribute to the cost of the ballpark?	Depending on conduit costs, the Club will contribute up to approximately \$33.8M consisting of \$6M in an equity contribution and the balance in Ballpark rent.

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How do you know the City will be able to pay back the bonds?	The City is using a conservative pro forma that shows enough revenue to support the debt service on the bonds.
How much is the Commonwealth contributing?	The Commonwealth of Massachusetts will provide \$35M in new funding including \$32.5M for infrastructure improvements including a new 350-500 space parking garage and \$2.5M through the Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP) in support of new market rate housing. Separate and apart from the ballpark project, the Commonwealth has also agreed to move forward with its long-planned redesign and reconstruction of Kelly Square and other needed infrastructure improvements in the area.
Is taxpayer money going to the building of this ballpark? If so, how much?	No existing city tax revenue will be used to fund the ballpark project. The City will create a District Improvement Financing (DIF) District that encompasses the ballpark parcel, the south portion of the Wyman Gordon site and other nearby land. New taxes generated within the DIF District will be used to pay for the ballpark.
Who will pay for cost overruns?	The club is responsible for cost overruns should the cost of the ballpark go above \$86M (no conduit costs) or up to \$90M (with conduit costs).
What types of revenue will be used to pay off the city's bonds?	Revenues from the ballclub (equity investment and ballpark rent), garage rent, hotel tax, meals tax and property tax from the DIF District, advertising revenue and parking fees are projected to exceed the cost of the City's bonds.
Is the ballclub able to meet its financial obligations in this proposal	The ballclub has agreed to allow the City Auditor to review and confirm the ballclub's financial capacity to meet the requirements of the negotiated agreement. The City Auditor is an employee of the City Council.
Community Impact Questions	Answer
How will the city afford the ballpark and the new high schools at the same time?	The ballpark project proposal is self-funded and will not impact the two new currently planned high schools, or any other City funding commitments. The City will ensure that its bond rating will not be negatively impacted by the increased borrowing by receiving private approval before issuing the bonds. The ballpark debt will be paid for by the new revenues generated in the DIF District. Essentially, the ballpark will pay for itself and not interfere with funding for the new high schools.
Will local workers be used for the construction projects?	Yes. The City's TIF Policy requires the use of best efforts to hire Worcester residents.
How many new jobs will the project create?	Overall, the project will create more than 500 full-time and 2,000 part-time jobs both in construction and non-construction positions related to the ballpark, the hotels, apartments, retail locations and infrastructure improvements.

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<p>How does this redevelopment fit into the Downtown Urban Revitalization Plan?</p>	<p>The Worcester Redevelopment Authority will amend the existing Urban Revitalization Plan (URP) to include all parcels needed for the ballpark and ancillary development. The URP focuses on revitalizing the downtown area by publicizing arts and tourism destinations, improving the visitor experience, attracting new or expanding existing commercial and industrial users, enhancing residential quality of life, and remediating brownfields to increase developable land area. The Worcester ballpark project and ancillary development meet the goals of the URP.</p>
<p>How will local public schools benefit from the ballpark?</p>	<p>Worcester K-12 school students will receive one free general admission ticket to a baseball game per season. In addition, the ballclub will offer free ballpark tours to all Worcester schools and youth organizations, host "Worcester School Days" at the ballpark and permit public access to areas in the ballpark. City high school teams will have the opportunity to play games at the ballpark. The ballclub will also provide summer jobs for Worcester youth and help fund the Recreation Worcester program.</p>
<p>Can I use the ballpark to exercise or sit outdoors during non-event days?</p>	<p>Subject to final design, public access to the ballpark will include the opportunity to jog or walk around the concourse, run the ballpark stairs, eat lunch overlooking the field, or use exercise stations in designated fitness areas as well as public park amenities adjacent to the ballpark.</p>
<p>Will I be charged for public access?</p>	<p>No. Non-event public access will be free of charge.</p>
<p>What other public benefits are part of the proposal?</p>	<p>It will be the core value of the Club to be a strong community member. The ballclub will collaborate with local arts organizations, such as Pow! Wow! Worcester, to display local art at the Ballpark and on the Ballpark Parcel, host City-approved bike share programs, provide the City with access to digital signage at the Ballpark for municipal announcements, community recognitions, and other community-oriented messaging at no cost.</p>
<p>Will the Canal District and Green Island neighborhood be given special benefits?</p>	<p>The ballclub will allow a luxury suite to be used for community events and meetings, such as the Canal District Alliance and Green Island Neighborhood Association meetings. The ballclub will also become members of the Canal District Alliance and actively participate and collaborate in activities sponsored by the Canal District Alliance and the Green Island neighborhood.</p>
<p>How much will other sports ballclubs (high schools, college, little league) have to pay to use the ballpark?</p>	<p>The agreement between the City and the Ballclub will allow the use of the ballpark free of charge for special amateur, non-collegiate baseball events such as high school baseball tournaments and state championships. Third party, collegiate games are subject to negotiation between the ballclub and the college/university, and in some cases the approval of the City.</p>
<p>Who will handle ballpark security?</p>	<p>The ballclub is responsible for security within the ballpark.</p>

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<p>How will traffic in the neighborhood be mitigated?</p>	<p>The City and Commonwealth will spend significant resources to improve accessibility to the ballpark and surrounding neighborhoods. In addition to area-wide street, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, Kelley Square will be reconstructed to improve traffic safety and accommodate anticipated traffic and pedestrians alike. Improvements are also being made to Lamartine St. to establish a new direct route between Rt. 146 and the ballpark via Quinsigamond Avenue.</p>
<p>State of Massachusetts Questions</p>	<p>Answers</p>
<p>How is the Commonwealth of Massachusetts involved in this proposal?</p>	<p>The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been an integral partner in the negotiation for the relocation of the Boston Red Sox Triple-A affiliate. The Commonwealth will commit \$35M over the next 2-3 years, which will support new market rate housing through the Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP) and leverage MassWorks for the construction of a new 350-500 space parking garage that supports all of the investment happening in the Canal District. In addition, MassDOT is working with the City to improve the transportation infrastructure in the area such as redesigning and reconstructing Kelley Square for the benefit of all Worcester residents. No state funding will be used toward the design or construction of the ballpark.</p>
<p>Is the Commonwealth offering any tax incentives?</p>	<p>Included in the \$35M commitment, the Commonwealth will provide Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC a tax incentive of \$2.5M through the Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP) for the residential portion of the project.</p>
<p>What benefit will the Commonwealth receive from this project</p>	<p>The Commonwealth will receive additional income tax and sales tax revenues resulting from the relocation of the ballclub to Massachusetts, the development associated with the project, other ancillary development resulting from the project and both construction-related and permanent jobs. New state tax revenues generated by the ballpark alone are estimated at \$2M per year.</p>
<p>Infrastructure Questions</p>	<p>Answers</p>
<p>Will the reconstructed roads be more walkable/bikeable?</p>	<p>Yes. The improved road infrastructure will be designed for all modes of transportation and will follow the City's Complete Streets policy. Special attention will be given to pedestrian and bike safety.</p>
<p>Will any new roads be constructed?</p>	<p>Yes. A new road bisecting WG South will be constructed to allow for convenient access to the new development and access to the ballpark from RT 146 via Quinsigamond Avenue and Lamartine Street. Lamartine Street will be improved between Quinsigamond Avenue and Herman Street in conjunction with the construction of this new roadway.</p>
<p>Will any new pedestrian plazas be constructed?</p>	<p>Yes. The Pickett Lot located on Green St. near Temple St. will be redesigned as a pedestrian-friendly plaza and a main entrance to the ballpark.</p>

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Will any new parks be constructed?	Yes. The ballpark masterplan and infrastructure master plan identifies areas in the new development for public parks and other public amenities. The locations and specifics of these amenities are still in design. The ballclub, City and Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC recognize the importance of additional public and green space in the area.
What about the Green St. underpass and Madison St. underpass?	Improvements will be made to the Green St. underpass and Madison St. underpass to create more vibrant entry points into the Canal District and the ballpark. Public art, lighting features, unique signage and other amenities are being considered.
What about streetscape improvements?	The ballclub, City and Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC funded the creation of an infrastructure masterplan that will serve as a guiding document for streetscape improvements. All parties recognize the importance of creating a vibrant, safe and inviting district that accounts for the historical significance of the Canal District and its unique characteristics. This includes appropriate landscaping, street furniture, public art, building materials and wayfinding tools.
Will construction create parking, traffic and other inconveniences in the area?	Yes. Like any construction project, temporary inconveniences will surely be present. However, the long-lasting positive impact of the construction and infrastructure improvements will outweigh the short-term disruptions. Access to neighboring businesses and residents will be maintained throughout the construction period.
How will the city mitigate impacts of construction?	The City and Commonwealth will utilize best practices to mitigate construction impacts on the community. Considerable efforts will be made to appropriately communicate timelines, scope of work, and negative impacts that may arise from a particular piece of the construction.
Parking Questions	Answers
Is there enough parking to accommodate a ballpark and ancillary development?	The City, the Club and Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC have funded an infrastructure master plan to identify parking needs in the area. With Commonwealth funding, the City is constructing a parking garage on WG South, and additional parking areas will be located on the ballpark parcel and development sites. There are more than 6,000 parking spaces available for public use within a ½-mile radius of the ballpark.
Will there be metered street parking?	Yes, where space is available, on-street metered parking will be available within the District.
How do we know there will be enough parking?	A third party study was conducted to ensure that parking needs are met for both game day and non-game conditions.
Where are people going to park?	Attendees will have a variety of parking options available. In addition to parking provided on-site, there are more than 6,000 parking spaces available for the public within a 10-minute walk of the ballpark site. For more information on parking in the City, please visit our website: www.worcesterma.gov/parking .
Miscellaneous Questions	Answers

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What happens if the club moves?	The City has a 15 year no relocation covenant with the Club. In year 16, the Club has the right to buy out the last 15 years of their lease should they choose. If that happens, the Club will be required to pay the City an amount equal to the principal and interest remaining on the (Series A and Series B) bonds issued by the City.
What other approvals are needed to finalize this transaction?	The Club and City have come to terms on a Letter of Intent. Both the Club and the City need approvals from their governing bodies, Major and Minor League Baseball, the International League and the Worcester City Council respectively.
What process is going to be followed to make sure that I have a voice in the project?	The City Council approval process includes opportunities for the public to weigh in on the agreement. The proposal will have at least two public hearings before a final vote of the Council to approve the terms and conditions of the agreement between the City and the Club.
Are my taxes going to go up as a result of building this new ballpark?	No. The residential and commercial tax rate is determined each year by the City Council. The negotiated agreement results in a ballpark project that pays for itself and will not impact the City's tax rates.
How much will the new ballpark cost me as an individual taxpayer?	The ballpark will be fully paid for by revenues generated by the ballpark and surrounding development; taxes will not be increased as a result of the ballpark project.
What if the ballclub goes bankrupt?	The ballclub is technically owned by the International League (IL). The IL has to approve the ballclub's lease and is legally bound to enforce it.
Will the ballclub receive any tax breaks?	No
Wyman Gordon South (Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC)	Answer
Who is developing the South Side of the former Wyman Gordon (WG South) parcel?	Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC; Denis Dowdle, Principle. Mr. Dowdle's projects include the construction of the Worcester Walmart on the old US Steel site as well as redeveloping other former industrial properties such as the WR Grace site in Woburn.
The ballpark will be located on the north side of Wyman Gordon (WG North), what happens on the south side?	Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC has agreed to construct 225 market rate apartments, a 150-room hotel, and 50,000 SF of retail/restaurants by January 1, 2021 as part of a Phase 1 of development. Phase 2 is projected to include 200,000 SF of residential, office and/or mixed use development.
Is the developer building on WG North as well?	Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC has agreed to construct a second 100 to 110-room hotel behind left field of the ballpark as well as 15,000 SF of retail.
Where will parking be located on WG South?	The City, with funding from the Commonwealth, will construct a 350-500 space garage. Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC will lease the garage from the City.

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Does the City own the proposed ballpark parcel?	The City has negotiated an agreement with Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC to transfer ownership of the ballpark parcel to the City. The acquisition of portions of the site remains under negotiation by Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC.
Is the City going to take property by eminent domain to construct the ballpark?	The City and Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC are working with property owners to assemble the necessary land to build the ballpark. The goal is to negotiate with the property owners the purchase of the necessary parcels.
Is any other development expected around the ballpark?	Yes. In addition to the Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC development to occur concurrently with the construction of the ballpark, additional development is anticipated in the Green Island neighborhood, the Canal District and other areas of the City as a result of the new ballpark.
How will I access the WG South parcel?	A new road bisecting WG South will be constructed to allow for convenient access to the new development and access to the ballpark from RT 146 via Quinsigamond Avenue and Lamartine Street. The site may also be accessed from Madison Street.
Is the developer being incentivized in any way?	Yes. As part of the negotiations with Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC, the City and Commonwealth have offered tax incentives in order to expand the size of the development and expedite the timing of the development. The City incentives include a Tax Increment Exemption (TIE) for the WG South apartments and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for the WG South hotel. The Commonwealth has agreed to provide Housing Development Incentive Program (HDIP) tax credits for the WG South apartments. The City has also agreed to waive certain development fees.
Are tax incentives part of a public process?	Yes. The City's "Tax Increment Financing" Policy requires Council approval as well approval by the Worcester Jobs Fund and the City Council Economic Development Committee.
Is the City receiving benefits from the tax incentives provided?	Beyond the significant new tax revenue that the City and State will receive as part of the new development, Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC will transfer ownership of the necessary WG North properties to the City in order to build the ballpark and a portion of WG South property to build the parking structure.
Is the agreement between Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC and the City a public document?	Yes. Specifics of the agreement between Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC and the City can be found in the Letter of Intent/Expression of Objectives Green Island Redevelopment Project document.
Is any other development expected around the ballpark?	Yes. Similarly situated ballpark projects experienced significant private development as a result of the new ballpark. In addition to Madison's Phase 1 and Phase 2 development, more development is anticipated in the Green Island neighborhood, the Canal District and other areas of the City. Other than Phase 1 revenues, all new revenues received from new development are above and beyond those included in the pro forma/self-supporting revenue funding the project.
What type of hotel will be on WG South?	The hotel on the WG South site will be a standard limited services hotel.

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What type of hotel will be on WG North?	The hotel on the WG North is planned to be a boutique hotel and be sited near the left field of the ballpark.
Are the Club and Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC working together on the overall project?	Yes. The Club, Madison Downtown Holdings, LLC, City and State are working collaboratively to ensure alignment with all projects and appropriate connectivity.
Kelley Square Questions	Answers
Why is Kelley Square redesign important?	According to MassDOT data, Kelley Square experiences more crashes than any other intersection in the state. MassDOT has agreed to redesign and reconstruct Kelley Square in order to address safety, better accommodate traffic movements, and improve bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.
Will the design of Kelley Square be a public process?	Yes. Design of Kelley Square will be a public process with initial review prior to the 10% design completion date.
How will the new design of Kelley Square affect the businesses surrounding it?	The design will make travel through Kelley Square safer and easier for all users, including drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists, which will improve access to neighboring businesses.
During construction, how will businesses operate?	The City and Commonwealth will use best practices to limit impacts and ensure access to businesses during construction.
How will traffic be managed during construction?	MassDOT will soon begin design for Kelley Square. How traffic is accommodated during construction is dependent on the final design, but maintaining access will be a critical component of the construction phase.
Will the new Kelley Square lower traffic incidents/accidents?	The project will considerably reduce crashes at Kelley Square by better defining and controlling vehicular movements so that conflicts between turning vehicles are reduced and navigating the intersection is less confusing. Accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists will be improved as well, better linking the Green Island and Canal District.
How will the Kelley Square improvements affect highway traffic?	A goal of the project will be to reduce the frequency and duration of queuing on the I-290 ramps.
What changes are proposed for Madison Street?	Madison Street will be transformed into an active urban street, with the ballpark and a mix of hotel, residential and retail uses fronting it. The street will be redesigned to discourage speeding, improve access to neighboring uses, and provide a comfortable and safe environment for walking. While Madison Street will still be an important vehicular corridor, it will also become a destination in its own right.
Ballclub Questions	Answers

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<p>What league will the Ballclub play in?</p>	<p>The team will play in the International League, at the Triple-A level of Minor League Baseball (MiLB). Triple-A is the closest MiLB level to Major League Baseball, with 30 Triple-A teams split between the International League and the Pacific Coast League, and each team having an affiliation with a Major League team. Each year, the champions of the International League and the Pacific Coast League square off in the Triple-A National Championship Game in mid-September, while the two leagues' best players also participate in a mid-July Triple-A All-Star Game each summer.</p>
<p>What is the official name of the Ballclub?</p>	<p>The team plans to carry the official business name of "The Worcester Red Sox," but will also solicit input from the community on potential nicknames and other means of identity in the coming weeks and months. The team knows that its Red Sox identity and connection are important to the ongoing success of the franchise, but also plans to work with the city in constructing a ballpark that looks, feels, and tastes like Worcester and Central Massachusetts, as a whole. Part and parcel with that ballpark-building mission will be an effort to craft a team identity and brand that is reflective of its new host community.</p>
<p>What are the Ballclub's mascots?</p>	<p>There is no official mascot yet, and the team is open to mascot ideas and suggestions that tie in with the broader mission to build a brand reflective of its new home. A team's mascot(s) can be a powerful vehicle for connection with a fan base, and the organization will seek input for a mascot or mascots that would best represent Worcester and Central Massachusetts.</p>
<p>How much will a game ticket cost?</p>	<p>Ticket prices have not yet been determined, but ticket affordability has long been the bedrock of Minor League Baseball and the the PawSox franchise, and will continue with that commitment in its new home.</p>
<p>When can I buy season tickets and how much will they cost?</p>	<p>There is no specified date for when season tickets will become available, but the team is working to make them available here in the near future. Fans can stay up-to-date with all announcements, promotions, and opportunities related to the new ballpark by visiting the Club's website and joining their mailing list.</p>
<p>How accessible are the tickets?</p>	<p>As always, tickets will be fully accessible to all members of the public. Fans will be able to purchase tickets in-person, via telephone, online, and on their mobile devices.</p>
<p>What will be the average attendance for baseball games?</p>	<p>The average attendance in the Triple-A International League is 6,590. With a new ballpark and a strong fan base, Worcester is expected to be one of the top performing ballparks in per game attendance in the country.</p>
<p>How committed are the Boston Red Sox to its Triple-A franchise as a development ballclub and what is the length of that commitment?</p>	<p>The Boston Red Sox have been affiliated with this franchise since 1970 in double-A and a triple-A affiliate since 1973. The Ballclub hopes that the affiliation continues indefinitely, while following the required MiLB process.</p>

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<p>How does Worcester's market compare to Pawtucket?</p>	<p>Both Worcester and Pawtucket are in the Blackstone River Valley corridor, recognized by MiLB as part of the same territory. Worcester is the heart of the Commonwealth and the heart of New England and attracts fans from a broad region.</p>
<p>Will we ever get to meet the players at games?</p>	<p>Yes. Fans will absolutely have opportunities to meet players at the ballpark and beyond. Just as in Pawtucket, the team's players, coaches, Front Office personnel, and mascots will be ubiquitous in Worcester and Central Massachusetts, interacting with fans and residents of the area in all walks of life.</p>
<p>Are there naming rights for the ballpark?</p>	<p>Yes, there will likely be a naming rights agreement for the new ballpark, but plans have not yet been finalized and are still being discussed with potential partners in the community. Once plans are finalized, the team looks forward to sharing these plans with the public.</p>
<p>The PawSox have a ballpark; why do they need a new one?</p>	<p>McCoy Stadium in Pawtucket is in its 77th season and would need substantial renovations to bring it up to triple-A standards.</p>
<p>Why isn't the new ballpark being built in Rhode Island?</p>	<p>The Club considered numerous sites/plans in the region. Impressed by the unity of the City of Worcester, the State of MA, and the Community to bring baseball to Worcester, they chose the Canal District to build a new ballpark.</p>
<p>Why should the City make this sort of investment? Isn't baseball attendance dropping? Isn't that something we should be worried about?</p>	<p>While there are occasionally ebbs and flows in attendance at the Major League and Minor League levels, professional baseball remains the most attended professional sport in the United States with robust growth trends across many different fronts. In 2017, for instance, Minor League baseball topped 41 million fans, the thirteenth consecutive year above the 41 million mark. And at an even more telling and grassroots levels, independent studies show that children across the country continue to participate in youth baseball and softball at higher rates than any other sport, fostering the next generation of our game's fans.</p>
<p>Will the Ballclub get involved with schools and the community?</p>	<p>Yes, the Ballclub will be actively involved in the schools and community during all times of the year, including both the season and the offseason. The team will be fully involved in as many community causes as possible, particularly those related to children, through both the team's charitable foundation and its community relations department. As part of their ballpark agreement, the team and the City will offer free ballpark tours to all Worcester school children, and will also offer "Worcester School Days" on select dates, ensuring that every Worcester resident in grades K-12 will receive one ticket free of charge to a game every season during the first five years of the new ballpark.</p>