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Town hammers away at \$7.9 million athletic complex renovations

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Local officials involved with the renovation project take a ceremonial whack with sledge hammers at the Nov. 11 groundbreaking at the Bowditch Athletic Complex. (Matt Rocheleau for The Boston Globe)

By Matt Rocheleau, Globe Correspondent

Framingham officials broke ground Wednesday afternoon on a \$7.9 million project to renovate the town-owned Bowditch Athletic Complex.

The 86-year-old complex is the site of a baseball field, football and soccer field, track, basketball court and tennis courts located between Union Avenue and Walnut Street.

Proposed renovations, debated over two Town Meeting and scheduled to be completed by summer 2010, include replacing 74-year-old stadium stands, energy efficient lighting, building a new entry plaza and ticket booths, new restroom and locker facilities, walking path, concession stands, press box, parking, and more efficient storm water drainage.

All renovations to the complex, which is run by the parks and recreation department, will be handicapped accessible.

In Oct. 2004, a company said the complex's grandstands were in a rapidly deteriorating state, beyond repair, and would need to be replaced.

In June 2005, Town Meeting voted to have a \$450,000 master plan drawn up for proposed renovations.

Two years later, the master plan was completed, but narrowly missed receiving the two-thirds vote needed to pass Town Meeting.

An advisory committee was then created to review the master plan in Oct. 2008, and the committee's findings and final recommendations were presented at the May 2008 Town Meeting, which voted to pass the measure which also

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At the May 2009 town meeting, voters voted to pass the measure which also includes the construction of a new maintenance facility at Long's Athletic Complex on Dudley Road.

To see the renovation's master plan, [click here](#).

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