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Seneca applying for grant to build baseball fields

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SENECA — Seneca is seeking grant funds to help build baseball fields near the new Blue Ridge Elementary School.

"We're looking to build three high school-sized baseball fields," said Recreation Director Rick Lacey. "It'd be 320 feet down the line, 375 to center — big fields."

The state capital improvement grant being sought would come from a land and conservation fund overseen by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Seneca's application requests $500,000 and would require a 50 percent match from the city.

The money would be used for a press box, fencing, irrigation and grass on the fields. Lighting systems alone for such a project would cost nearly $500,000. Lacey doesn't anticipate receiving the full amount being sought.

"All we can do is apply," Lacey said. "Will we get $500,000? I doubt it. We don't expect to get it all, but we'd love to."

The fields would be located adjacent to Blue Ridge Elementary on South Oak Street. The newly-constructed school opened in September of this year.