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**CLEVELAND
STRONG**

YOUTH • OPPORTUNITY • COMMUNITY

*"More
Than a Game...
A Brighter
Tomorrow"*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

B-BUZZ BASEBALL LEAGUE YOUTH BASEBALL & COMMUNITY RESOURCE COMPLEX

KERRUISH PARK | CLEVELAND, OHIO



*Building Better Players.
Building Stronger Families.
Building Cleveland's Future.*

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B-Buzz Baseball League Youth Baseball & Community Resource Complex Kerruish Park | Cleveland, Ohio

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A Cleveland Tradition - A Vision for the Future

B-Buzz Baseball League respectfully presents to the **City of Cleveland** a vision for the development of a state-of-the-art **Youth Baseball & Community Resource Complex at Kerruish Park**. This proposed public-private partnership would transform an existing recreational asset into a modern, safe and sustainable destination for youth baseball, education, mentoring, health and wellness, family resources and community engagement.

B-Buzz is a Cleveland-based **501(c)(3) nonprofit organization** whose mission extends far beyond athletic achievement. The League uses baseball to teach teamwork, leadership, self-discipline, integrity and sportsmanship while promoting academic achievement, improved health and positive character development. Our philosophy is simple: **we strive to produce superior citizens rather than simply superior athletes.**

B-Buzz has deep roots in Cleveland. Founded in the late 1950s, the League became an important part of the Lee-Harvard community and at one time served nearly **400 young people each summer**. After being inactive for more than 30 years, former players and community leaders re-established B-Buzz in 2013 as a nonprofit organization committed to bringing baseball and its life lessons back to children throughout the Lee-Harvard/Miles and surrounding communities.

The League has demonstrated significant and sustained growth. From just **16 players in 2013**, **B-Buzz grew to 205 players in 2025** and now operates multiple age divisions, including a sponsored travel team. By 2028, B-Buzz projects serving **350 or more players annually** and plans to pursue affiliation with Little League International.

The next challenge is ensuring that the facilities available to these young people grow with them.

The Proposed Complex:

B-Buzz currently calls Kerruish Park home. Although field conditions have improved, the League continues to experience challenges involving drainage, playing conditions and Northeast Ohio weather, resulting in games being cancelled, rescheduled or lost entirely.

B-Buzz proposes transforming Kerruish Park into a comprehensive **Youth Baseball & Community Resource Complex** featuring **four age-appropriate AstroTurf baseball fields**. The improved playing surfaces would provide safer and more dependable conditions while potentially extending the baseball season.

The vision also includes a two-story modular training and community facility featuring **indoor batting cages, conditioning and training areas, restrooms, concessions, equipment storage and classroom/activity space** for educational and community-resource partners. Outdoor fitness amenities and enhanced security would further establish the Complex as a safe, year-round destination for children and families.

This project, however, is about much more than baseball.

The Complex is envisioned as a place where athletics becomes the gateway to **education, mentoring, leadership development, health and wellness, academic support, family resources and positive community engagement**.

B-Buzz already incorporates education and personal development into its programming. Players are encouraged to participate in the Cleveland Public Library Summer Reading Program, while community partners provide social and self-improvement services to players and families.

The proposed facility would allow these efforts to expand into year-round programming while providing Cleveland's southeast-side families with a safe gathering place and community resource.



Community Impact:

The B-Buzz Youth Baseball & Community Resource Complex has the potential to become a significant neighborhood asset providing:

- Youth Baseball & Softball
- Indoor Training & Fitness
- Academic Support
- Mentoring • Health & Wellness
- Youth Leadership
- Family Resources
- Camps & Clinics
- Community Programming
- Regional and National Tournaments



The Complex could also generate broader economic and neighborhood benefits. Youth tournaments can attract teams and families from throughout Northeast Ohio and beyond, creating additional activity for Cleveland restaurants, hotels and businesses while introducing visitors to the community. Most importantly, B-Buzz remains committed to making youth baseball accessible. Through community and corporate sponsorships, the League has maintained affordable registration fees while providing uniforms and a full season of baseball.

Our goal is to ensure that a family's financial circumstances do not prevent a Cleveland child from participating and benefiting from the opportunities the Complex will provide.

A Public-Private Partnership for Cleveland:

B-Buzz recognizes that a project of this magnitude cannot and should not rely exclusively upon City funding.

The League proposes developing the Complex through a **public-private-philanthropic partnership** involving the City of Cleveland, corporations, foundations, professional baseball organizations, community partners, individual donors and other public and private funding sources.



B-Buzz's existing operations are supported through player registration fees, business sponsorships, financial donations and PlayBall CLE/MLB-RBI. The League intends to pursue additional funding for the Complex through **government recreation funding, corporate sponsorships and naming rights, foundation grants, baseball-related philanthropy, individual contributions, fundraising campaigns and in-kind construction and professional services.**

B-Buzz has already established relationships with organizations and initiatives including the **Cleveland Guardians, PlayBall CLE, MLB/RBI, Positive Coaching Alliance, Cleveland Police Foundation and Trust for Public Land.** The objective is to use City participation as a catalyst to leverage substantially greater private, philanthropic and outside governmental investment. Equally important will be the development of a long-term operating plan addressing maintenance, staffing, utilities, insurance, security, programming and capital reserves.

Our objective is not simply to build the Complex, but to make certain it remains a viable community asset for generations.

Partnership Requested from the City of Cleveland:

At this stage, B-Buzz is seeking the City's partnership in moving the project from vision to a formal feasibility, financing and development process.

We respectfully request collaboration with the **Mayor's Administration, Cleveland City Council and appropriate City departments** to:



1. Evaluate Kerruish Park as the permanent location for the Complex, including drainage, environmental, infrastructure, utilities, parking, accessibility and land-use considerations.
 2. Develop and validate a professional master site plan, construction phasing strategy and updated project budget.
 3. Identify City, county, state and federal funding opportunities and potential matching funds.
 4. Establish a public-private partnership defining the responsibilities of the City, B-Buzz and participating partners.
 5. Engage neighborhood residents and community stakeholders throughout the planning process.
 6. Develop measurable community benefits involving affordable participation, scholarships, youth employment, educational programming and community access.
 7. Establish a realistic timeline for design, fundraising, approvals, construction and opening.
- B-Buzz's current vision targets development of the Complex during the **2027–2029 period**, subject to feasibility, funding, engineering and City approvals.

A Legacy Investment in Cleveland's Children:

B-Buzz Baseball League has demonstrated what can happen when former players return to invest in the community that helped shape them. What restarted with **16 young people in 2013 grew to 205 players by 2025**. The League is now preparing for its next generation of growth.

The proposed **B-Buzz Youth Baseball & Community Resource Complex at Kerruish Park** provides Cleveland with an opportunity to create something transformational: a facility that improves recreation, strengthens families, provides a safe environment, expands educational and social resources, promotes neighborhood pride and gives Cleveland's children access to the quality facilities they deserve.

This is more than an investment in baseball. It is an investment in Cleveland's children and the future of our community. B-Buzz has the history. We have demonstrated growth. We have community partnerships. We have a committed leadership team. And most importantly, we have young people who deserve an environment designed to help them succeed.

We respectfully invite the City of Cleveland to become a foundational partner in bringing this vision to life.

Wendell H. Fields, Executive Director / League Commissioner
www.bb Buzz Baseball.org | bb Buzz Baseball@gmail.com | 216-712-2721

