

Proposed Charleston County School District Stadium in Carolina Park Frequently Asked questions

1. Why can't you simply build a stadium at each high school rather than a regional stadium?

The Sales Tax Referendum passed in 2014 identified shared stadiums to be built East of the Cooper and in North Charleston. The purpose of the regional stadium concept is to allow precious sales tax resources to be expended to construct a quality competitive field at two locations instead of six locations while allowing the existing playing fields on the school campus to be used for practices and other competitive sports.

2. Why don't you build the East of the Cooper stadium on the current Wando campus?

Building on the current Wando campus is an option. Drawbacks would include less practice field capability for Wando High School teams and less parking than building at the Carolina Park site.

3. Why don't you continue to use the Old Wando stadium?

There are several reasons. The current home bleachers at Old Wando stadium are not up to safety standards for a long-term facility including seismic capability, and would reduce parking on campus if left in-place. Additionally, by constructing the track around the existing field we will be able to add an additional practice field on the campus.

4. Why didn't you build the stadium on the Old Laing site?

The Old Laing site at 9.9 acres was much too small as 25 acres are needed for the stadium and parking. The District also looked at exchanging the Old Laing property for the adjacent parcel on Six Mile Road. This site was also too small and would have had limitations due to a Civil War fortification and man-made ponds.

5. Why does the stadium need to have a 6,000 seat capacity?

6,000 seats has been the district standard for our large high schools. We would like to ensure that we continue to provide the same seating as Old Wando Stadium, West Ashley High and James Island Charter High.

6. Have you seen the "Point Loma Stadium" video which shows the negative impact of a stadium on the community?

Yes, and the conditions of the Point Loma stadiums (Clairemont and Point Loma) are very different from Carolina Park. The Point Loma stadiums are within 300 feet of residences, while the nearest residence in Carolina Park is 1,454 feet. In fact, one of the entrances to the Point Loma field is between two houses. Additionally, the Clairemont Stadium only has a total of 400 parking places around the field while we have 2,350 parking places.

7. What about the crime and fan trouble that will come with a stadium?

We confirmed with the Mt Pleasant Police that there is no increase in crime around Old Wando Stadium before and after football games. Additionally, the stadium and parking will be on district property and there a policy against smoking and alcohol consumption.

8. What about other uses of the field?

With the no smoking and alcohol consumption policy, we do not anticipate outside school district use requests and have not received any requests for use of our other 6,000 seat stadiums.

9. What about late night impact on our community?

Most games are over between 8:00-9:00 pm. Varsity football games are typically over by 9:30 pm.

10. With the number of teams in Mt Pleasant, there will be game traffic all the time.

That will not be the case. Varsity football is the only sport that is expected to routinely generate any noticeable traffic.

Fall: Varsity B and JV football games are typically held on a Thursday night with an average attendance of 750 patrons. Varsity football games are typically held on Friday night with an average attendance of 3,500 patrons.

Spring: Average attendance for soccer and lacrosse is 250 patrons.

As most games will result in less than 1,000 patrons, parking on the stadium side of Carolina Park will be more than adequate.

11. What have you done to address traffic?

There's no question the stadium will draw traffic, but it's always been the plan for the commercial areas in Carolina Park to accommodate larger traffic volumes. Carolina Park's Development Agreement allows for up to 950,000 square feet of retail space. The road system in the commercial area, including the 4 lanes on Park Avenue Boulevard and Carolina Park Boulevard were designed with this future development in mind. In addition, Carolina Park benefits from multiple access points to its commercial areas.

A traffic analysis was completed that counted vehicles for three 24 hour periods and projected traffic counts for games. For a projected game attendance of 4,000 patrons, traffic would be significantly less than a routine school day at Wando High School. Even when projecting a full build-out of Carolina Park homes (1,500 units), traffic is projected to be less than a routine school day at Wando High School. The analysis recommended "a detailed traffic management plan with appropriate signage and designated traffic officer locations for traffic and pedestrians will assist in managing game-time traffic." This plan would be completed before usage of the facility.

A more detailed Traffic Impact Assessment that would include other planned developments is not required by the State Department of Transportation, State Office of School Facilities or the Town of Mount Pleasant.

12. Why are you using four passengers per vehicle for your traffic analysis?

Four passengers per vehicle was recommended by our designers and used for stadiums around the state. Additionally, the Town of Mount Pleasant recommends 3-5 passengers per vehicle.

13. What are you going to do about pedestrian safety?

Pedestrian safety is our top concern! We have developed an initial traffic management plan to divert game traffic from the designated crossing area between the stadium and Wando High School. Foot traffic from Wando High School will be funneled to the crosswalk across Carolina Park Blvd. Our traffic analysis showed only 41 local vehicles passing this area between the stadium peak arrival hour. As mentioned in an earlier answer, the traffic analysis recommended “a detailed traffic management plan with appropriate signage and designated traffic officer locations for traffic and pedestrians will assist in managing game-time traffic.” This plan would be completed before usage of the facility.

14. What are you going to do about the drop in our home values?

The predictability of the market is not certain. Charleston County School District opened a Center for Advanced Studies on the Wando campus in August 2014 and will open an the Carolina Park Elementary School in August 2017 which have most certainly strengthened the community, and we expect that stadium and town center to do the same.