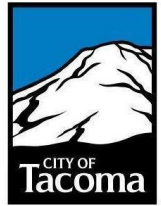


# CITY OF TACOMA

## 2023 JOINT CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

### \$24 MILLION TO IMPROVE WA BASEBALL STADIUMS

---



**Project Request:** Eleven communities, including the City of Tacoma, ask the legislature to allocate \$24 million to improve baseball stadiums that spur economic growth and community engagement across Washington state.

**Background:** Stadiums and their events are significant in raising local spending and availability of jobs. In 2022, over 1.2 million people attended events held at stadiums with 16,000 hotel rooms booked in conjuncture. This revenue, paired with more than 100 full-time jobs (40+ in Tacoma) and 1,100 part-time jobs (300+ in Tacoma) supported by stadiums, has an estimated annual economic impact upwards of \$65 million. Cheney Stadium, specifically, also hosts hundreds of events per year, partnering with local non-profits, youth sports organizations, and business to utilize the venue when the team is not hosting 75+ professional baseball games per year.

**Why is this needed:** With capacity constraints and athletic fields in need of re-turfing, many Washington state cities lack the funding to address these critical infrastructure needs. Through the “Minor League Baseball Publicly Owned Stadium Improvement Fund,” stadiums can undergo renovations to better serve their communities and retain teams. Cheney Stadium, for example, hopes to bring its current venue in alignment with updated Major League Baseball (MLB) requirements – requirements that must be met for the team to retain their status as the Triple-A Affiliate of the Seattle Mariners, a key pillar of the lease between the City of Tacoma and the club. Part of this effort will be used to repair and reseal the current 63-year-old concrete seating area to prevent ongoing water leak damage, which impacts fan safety and structural integrity, and will protect the MLB mandated renovations from damage. The funding will enable the necessary repairs, including those specifically required to be made under the lease. None of these improvements are revenue generating for the club but are mandatory in nature to be compliant with MLB and the Cheney Stadium lease.

**Finances:** \$24 million, combined with local and team funds to complete improvements would be disbursed among the 11 communities based on need. If this joint request were funded, Cheney Stadium would receive \$3 million.



Cheney Stadium