

2019 ACEC of Maine Engineering Excellence Awards

CHA Consulting was awarded an Honor Award for Integrating Historical Preservation in Engineering Design at the ACEC of Maine Fall Forum on October 25, 2019 for its work on the Whittier Field Athletic Complex Renovation.

Bowdoin College's Whittier Field in Brunswick, Maine is one of the most storied collegiate football fields in America. Opened in 1896, with the later addition of Hubbard Grandstand and Magee Samuelson Track, Whittier Field Athletic Complex was renovated in a two-phase project that revitalized this revered piece of college sports history with modern amenities meeting the current and future athletic and recreational needs of the College while preserving its much-loved history.



L-R: John Hickok, CHA; Carolyn Bird, ACEC-MAE President

The initial phase replaced the grass field with artificial turf and added lights, seating, and a new two-level press box, along with expanding the six-lane track to the eight lanes necessary to host

Whittier Field
Athletic Complex Renovation

- The 8,780 square-foot support facility houses locker, training, and equipment rooms and spectator restrooms.
- Bleachers had been built around Hubbard Grandstand over the years. They were removed to showcase the historical architecture of the Hubbard Grandstand. Additional aluminum grandstands were constructed on the opposite side of the field to preserve the spectator seating capacity.
- The six-lane track was expanded to the eight lanes necessary to host NCAA Championship track meets.
- The transformation from natural grass to artificial turf allows Bowdoin's football and men's lacrosse teams to practice regularly on the field while allowing for additional student recreational opportunities.
- Bowdoin's Farley and Pickard fields and facilities can now be used for field hockey and women's lacrosse practice.
- Nighttime competitions, late afternoon practices and student recreational opportunities in the evening are illuminated by state-of-the-art 80-foot LED sports lighting fixtures.

Bowdoin College's Whittier Field is one of the most storied collegiate football fields in America. Adding modern amenities to meet the current and future needs of the College while preserving this revered piece of college sports history was essential.

In two phases, the team replaced the grass field with artificial turf, expanded the track, and added lights, seating, and a new press box. Hubbard Grandstand, listed on the National Historic Register of Places was rehabilitated, a public roadway was relocated, a support facility was constructed, and spectator seating was completed.

The transformation retains Whittier Field's much-loved history while securing it as the 21st Century home of Bowdoin College's athletic program.

ACEC
American Council of Engineering and Computer Engineers

Project: Whittier Field Athletic Complex Renovation
Client: Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME
Firm: CHA Consulting, Inc., Albany, NY

NCAA championship track meets. The exterior of Hubbard Grandstand, which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2017, was also rehabilitated. Bleachers that had been built around Hubbard Grandstand were removed to showcase its historical architecture. Additional aluminum grandstands were constructed on the opposite side of the field to preserve the spectator seating capacity.

The second phase relocated a public roadway, constructed a one-story team/ spectator support facility, and completed the east end of the additional spectator seating

constructed in Phase I. The support facility houses locker, training, and equipment rooms and modern spectator restrooms.
