

Case History: Camp Edwards, MA

Rusted bleachers repaired and refinished -- transformed into Evergreen Bleachers™

Situation: Camp Edwards is a United States military training installation located in the upper western portion of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. It is part of the 22,000 acre Massachusetts Military Reservation, and home to two training centers for National Guard troops.

The original Safway telescopic bleachers in the base gym had a sturdy “four-horse” (four vertical support columns) understructure. However, the decades-old bleachers showed their age.

The base gym was scheduled to be gutted and redone, with bleacher refurbishment included in the project. The Bleacherman dismantled and removed the bleachers as a first step. During gym renovations (which included a new floor), The understructure was wire brushed to

remove rust, then treated with a phosphate solution to prevent future rust. Finally it was primed and coated with a protective rust-resistant finish. The wood was refinished to “as new” condition and re-installed on the reconditioned understructure.

Refurbishing the understructure and refinishing the wood transformed the bleachers into new Evergreen Bleachers™, with all the features required to make the bleachers code-compliant, such as self-storing end safety rails, aisles with P-rails, intermediate steps with non-skid surfaces, ADA cut-outs with safety rails.

Also, motorized drives were installed on these previously manually operated (!) bleachers, along with the patented Century Design® “no-sag” system.



Camp Edwards is located in western Cape Cod



Camp Edwards was officially dedicated as a military training facility in 1938. Many of the buildings were constructed during World War II, when the facility was significantly expanded.



The base gym before renovations.



The finish on the original Safway bleachers was completely worn away in spots. These bleachers have an open deck system, with large gaps on each side of floorboards.



Even though the cosmetic appearance was bad, these bleachers had some good points: one-inch solid Fir wood and a four horse understructure. Note condition of original floor.



View from the back. Floorboards are extensively worn. Most of the understructure was sound, with minor rust, mainly on the lower portions.



Surveying the gym before renovations begin.



In this picture, the understructure has been reconditioned and painted.



Bleacherman crew members are beginning to re-attach refined lumber. Floorboards and heelboards have been primed.



Crew members installing risers.



Work in progress: the bleacher section in front has new seats and risers installed.



All of the bleachers were unanchored from the wall and moved, so that floor renovations could proceed. Note new riser boards on floorboards, “staged” for installation.



Reconditioned bleachers are ready to be re-anchored in the next step of renovation.



Bleacherman crew member prepping understructure for new nosebeam assembly.



Preparing mount for new motorized drives to be installed.



Bleacherman’s heavy duty motorized drive, as seen from the back. Note ballast blocks on either side to add weight and increase traction.



Bleacher section in the foreground is ready for stain application, to match bleachers in background.



Applying the final seal coat. Owner was very particular about appearance of the refinished bleachers.



Refinished Fir lumber shows the natural color variations that are typical for this material.



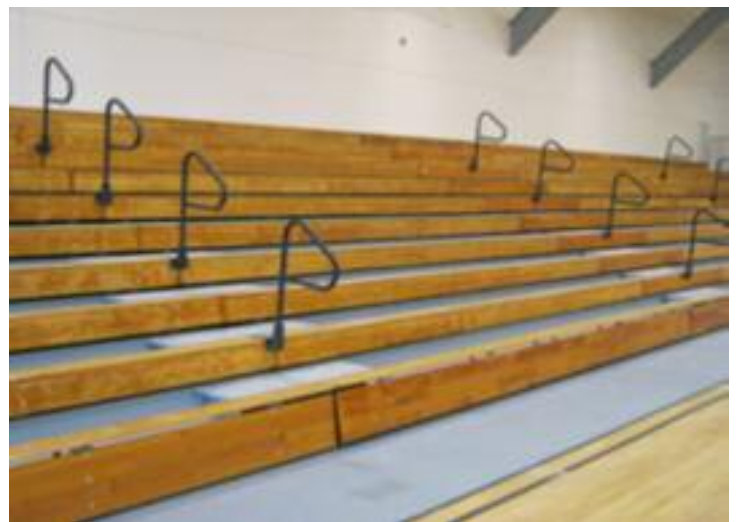
Bleachers are nearing completion, with P-rails, intermediate steps and ADA cutouts installed.



Patented Century Design® "no-sag" system installed. Wheel rests on seat level runner for continuous support.



The Bleacherman "mark of excellence" shows these transformed bleachers are genuine Evergreen Bleachers™.



Refurbished bleachers in the renovated gym.



What difference -- the entire gym has been renovated and updated.