



Wrigley Field

Chicago, Illinois

Built in 1913, the baseball park is home to the Chicago Cubs. Keller delivered a multi-technique solution to support recent upgrades while preserving this iconic, historic structure.



The project

The park has completed several upgrades throughout its history, the most recent being the 1060 Project, referencing the ballpark's address of 1060 W. Addison Street. The project included:

- a left and right field bleacher expansion added additional seats and outfield signage
- a new plaza with a 30,000 SF redevelopment of underground clubhouse space, including training centers, locker rooms, and office spaces, and above ground concession areas
- new amenities in the third-base side concourse, with a new underground players' tunnel connecting the plaza to the ballpark

Ground conditions included a high-water table with dense sands overlying medium stiff to hard clay. Limestone was present approximately 100 ft below grade.

The challenge

Many construction activities were limited to phases during off-seasons, meaning a tight schedule for completion. Most work was done within the existing facilities or bounded by streets and existing utilities, creating tight site constraints.

The solution

To facilitate the construction and support the increased loads, deep foundation and support of excavation solutions were required. Keller worked with the geotechnical engineer for each aspect of the project to provide the optimum solution.

To support the new bleachers, Keller constructed 69 total belled drilled shafts, 30 in the right field and 39 in the left field. Bells ranged from 6 ft to 12 ft and were founded on hard clay.

The plaza was constructed with a secant pile wall on the north end, consisting of 240 piles, used as both temporary earth retention and the permanent foundation wall. An additional 63 belled drilled shafts up to 85 ft deep were used as deep foundations. On the south end, 1200 LF of sheet piles were installed with one level of tiebacks on the east side and internal bracing on all sides.

For the upgrades to the ballpark and concourse areas, micropiles were used to underpin the existing footings and support new ones. Keller installed 184 micropiles of various capacities up to 500 kips, socketed into the limestone bedrock below.

A players' tunnel was constructed between the plaza and the concourse. Because the tunnel was built in low-headroom and with a high-water table, micropiles and jet grouting were chosen as the best solution. Seventy micropiles were used as the structural support of excavation (SOE) component and supplemented by 72 jet grout columns to create a low permeable SOE barrier for constructing the permanent tunnel.

Finally, Keller company, GEO-Instruments, installed and monitored real-time instrumentation to assure that the work did not adversely affect the existing historic structure.

Project facts

Owner(s)

Chicago Cubs

Keller business unit(s)

Keller

Main contractor(s)

Pepper Construction Company

Engineer(s)

Keller

GEI Consultants

Solutions

Deep foundations

Support of excavation

Markets

Institutional

Sports and entertainment

Techniques

Drilled shafts

Secant or tangent (contiguous) piles

Micropiles

Sheet piles

Jet grouting

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