

LITTLETON SYNTHETIC TURF FIELDS

Community - Productivity - Conservation



Prepared for Littleton Town Meeting

November 12, 2014

Presenter: Kevin Hunt

The Current Challenges

- Our grass fields are unable support the amount of use that is currently demanded
- Fields are in constant state of degradation
- Limited amount of field space with very high demand for fields
- Development of new active recreation areas is costly and may take away open space

Current Conditions are Poor and Unsafe

- High risk of injury
 - Uneven surfaces, ice, mud, dust and hard pack
- Significant annual maintenance costs
 - Fields need to be mowed, irrigated, reseeded, chemically treated and painted



Current Condition: ALUMNI FIELD



Current Condition: LITTLETON HIGH SCHOOL



Proposal

- **Renovate 2 Multipurpose Recreation Assets**
 - Alumni Field – 55 Russell Street
 - Littleton High School Soccer / Lacrosse Field – 56 King Street
- **Approximately 600% Annual Increase of Community Recreational Space at these Locations**
- **Benefits Both Youth and Scholastic Sports Programs for 1800 students**
- **Ability to play/practice on high quality fields**
 - Improved Safety of Existing Playing Fields
- **Total Estimated Cost – \$1.8 million**

Some of the Key Benefits to Turf

- **Field Quality & Availability**

- Ability to have quality fields in all seasons, while increasing the ability to utilize existing fields by 600%
- High Quality Playing Surface with Maximum Usage

- **Conservation**

- Conserves approx 1 million gallons of water per year.
- Eliminates the use of Fertilizer
- Will eliminate the maintenance cost of these two fields (mowing and striping)

- **Rental Availability**

- Potential Rentals to Camps and Summer Leagues to offset a portion of the cost and future maintenance

Takes Advantage of Current Resources

- This proposal is a solution to increase field availability and takes advantage of existing locations/resources
 - Centrally located in the community
 - Lights (Alumni)
 - Bleachers (Alumni)
 - Concessions (Alumni)
 - Proximity to school

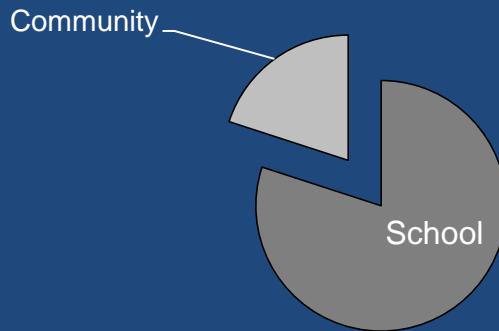
A Safer Surface

- Increased Safety
 - Michael C. Meyers,*† PhD, FACSM, and Bill S. Barnhill,‡ MD
 - From the †Human Performance Research Center, West Texas A&M University, Canyon, Texas, and ‡Panhandle Sports Medicine Associates, Amarillo, Texas
- The new fields will be level, offering a consistent surface and therefore limit the potential for injury compared to current fields

Year-round Availability

- Available 300 days - Increasing available town play by 60%

**Currently
180 Usable Days – Limited Use**



**Proposed
300 Useable Days
Unlimited Use**



Key School District Benefits

- Improved quality and safety of play
- Minimize cancellations
- Maximize scheduling
- 8 School teams in the fall
 - Boys/Girls Soccer – JV/Varsity
 - Field Hockey – JV/Varsity
 - Football – JV/Varsity
- 4 School teams in the spring
 - Boys/Girls Lax – JV/V
- Physical Education Classes

Key Community Benefits

- Youth Organizations – 1800 Littleton Children would benefit
 - Youth Football, Cheer & Flag: 250 Participants
 - Youth Soccer: Fall 500 Spring 500 = 1000 Participants
 - Youth Lacrosse: 250 Participants
- Outside Rentals
 - State/Regional Tournaments
 - Adult Leagues
 - Soccer, Lacrosse, Field Hockey and Football

Initial Approval – The Design

- Use the current 15 Great Road mitigation funds, or the CPC funds to cover the costs of design, estimated to be \$100K
- No additional cost to taxpayers for the initial design

The Design

- Civil Engineering Firm – Littleton’s Agent
 - Provide Professional Plans and Specifications for the Project.
 - Open Forum for Public Input- opportunity for the community to comment on the Design & Materials to be used
 - Specify & Certify prior to delivery that all Materials are tested for no lead or low lead, no chromates or other hazardous materials.

Project Funding Sources

- Estimated Cost \$1.8 million
- Potential Offsets to Town funding
 - Corporate Donations – 15- 25%
 - Apply for Community Preservation Funding – 5%-10%
 - Private Fundraising – 5%
 - Apply for Government Grants – 5%-10%

** Estimates based on feedback from surrounding towns who have experienced raising capital for turf fields

Alumni Field Rental Possibilities

Littleton Turf Rental Revenue Projections (Per Year) *

	<u>Good</u> 30%	<u>Better</u> 40%	<u>Best</u> 50%
Revenue Generating Unit - Scenarios - (% time rented):			
Projected summer rental revenue:	\$50,400	\$67,200	\$84,000
Hourly rental rate:**	\$120		
Prime summer rental period (Wks):*** - 10 hours per day * 2 fields	10		

* Not including other school period rental opportunities

** Rate based on 2014 A/B rental average

*** Mid June through August

Renting turf fields just 40% of the available summer hours will allow the Town to recoup 1/3 of the estimated build cost over the next 10 years

Local Communities with Turf Fields

- Acton-Boxborough – 3 Fields
- Andover – 1 Field
- Bedford – 1 Field
- Concord-Carlisle – 2 Fields
- Haverhill – 2 Fields
- Lawrence – 1 Field
- Lincoln Sudbury – 4 Fields
- Lowell – 2 Fields
- Lunenburg – 1 Field
- Nashoba Regional – 1 Field
- Nashoba Tech. – 1 Field
- North Andover – 3 Fields
- Tyngsboro – 1 Field
- Westford – 3 Fields

Testimonials

"The benefit of having a synthetic turf field to our school district is immeasurable. As a result, we have been able to accommodate athletic programs within our high school, middle school and youth communities. To have a field that is not compromised due to heavy use and or weather, all but guarantees minimal scheduling issues throughout the course of the fall and spring seasons; but most importantly, a safe surface to play on."

- Eric Dawley, Oakmont AD

"The Turf field at Tyngsboro has greatly enhanced our overall athletic program and our town sponsored events. Our coaches and student-athletes love playing on the synthetic surface and it has provided us unique opportunities to host events that we could not otherwise."

- James Hook, Tyngsborough AD

Testimonials

"The addition of our 2 turf fields 6 years ago dramatically impacted in a very positive way, high school, youth, and adult recreational sport activities. The number of practices and games played on these fields is significant in its impact on quality of play and safety of the participants."

- Barry Haley, Concord-Carlisle AD

"The Turf field at Tyngsboro has greatly enhanced our overall athletic program and our town sponsored events. Our coaches and student-athletes love playing on the synthetic surface and it has provided us unique opportunities to host events that we could not otherwise."

- James Hook, Tyngsborough AD

Testimonials

“Since building our Turf fields in Acton, our biggest debate at almost every board meeting is, not whether it was a good decision to build the fields, its whether or not we should increase our field rental opportunities to pay down the debt sooner, as demand for our field rental is so high.”

-Pete Henry, Acton Soccer Board Member

Alternative solution

Develop Open Space

- Develop 2-3 New Fields on Town properties

Estimate only – Needs professional Review:

Cost per field - \$500 - 600K

Develop Road - \$550K @ \$350/per foot

Utilities, Parking, Seating - \$200K

Total \$2.55M (not including yearly field maintenance)

Summary

Quantitative Benefits

- Reduces future operating costs on non-essential development
- Eliminates need for costly development of additional fields
- Creates a future revenue stream for Littleton

Qualitative Benefits

- Ability to meet current and future demands of town play
- Creates multi-purpose fields that are safe for play
- Improves condition of current non-turf fields by allowing them adequate time to heal and grow

Article 7 is supported by:

- Littleton Board of Selectman
- Littleton School Committee
- Littleton Park & Recreation Commission
- Littleton Athletic Boosters Association
- Littleton Youth Soccer
- Littleton Youth Football & Cheer
- Littleton Youth Lacrosse

Thank you

Open for Questions...