

Burkburnett ISD

FACTS about the artificial turf field proposal

How long has the School Board/District been considering artificial turf fields?

The Board first discussed the installation of artificial turf at an Extra-curricular Budget Committee meeting in June of 2008. In August of 2008, that committee recommended that \$800,000 be included in the 2008-2009 budget for the project. On August 21, 2008, the Board approved a budget with \$800,000 for an un-designated capital improvement projects and directed the administration to seek proposals on the installation of artificial turf at Bulldog Stadium.

What research has the District done about artificial turf?

The Athletic Director and Board have looked at research around cost and use, and health and safety. In addition, the Board looked at data from surrounding districts (i.e. who currently has artificial turf – Graham, Mineral Wells, Wichita Falls, Argyle, Breckenridge, etc.)

What are the benefits of artificial turf?

The Board identified a number of benefits. Those include:

Lower Maintenance Costs: Artificial turf requires no mowing, watering, fertilizing, or re-seeding. The cost of man-hours is greatly reduced.

Environmental Aspects: Aside from the environmental advantages that come from lower water use, the removal of significant amounts of fertilizer and pesticides means less chance of contaminating groundwater, and safer field conditions for children, pets, and wildlife. In addition, synthetic turf is commonly made of recycled materials.

Availability: Synthetic turf is available to use 24 hours a day, seven days per week, 365 days per year. Artificial surfaces don't become muddy in wet weather. They don't need to lie fallow to allow recovery time from overuse.

Safety Issues: Some recent studies indicate that these new artificial surfaces are showing low injury rates that are a fraction of the injury rates from studies of earlier types of artificial surfaces. In fact, these new rates are actually lower than the injury rates experienced on natural grass surfaces.

Where is the turf field to be located?

Our multipurpose field is located at Bulldog Stadium.

I remember reading some articles about lead in artificial turf fields. Is there any risk to our GVSD students?

There is not lead in the product GVSD installed on its fields. In addition, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff released its evaluation of various synthetic athletic fields on July 30, 2008. The evaluation concludes that young children are not at risk from exposure to lead in these fields. Please see www.gvsd.org for a copy of the report.

How much does artificial turf cost?

A final project total will be available once the project is complete; however, it is estimated to cost an estimated \$800,000 to installation.

How is this project to be funded?

Funds for this project come from the District’s Capital Reserve Fund. The Board set aside \$1,000,000 for capital projects as a result of delinquent taxes and penalties collected from Delphi Corp. facility liquidation

Is the artificial turf under a warranty of any kind?

Yes. The turf fields are under contractor’s warranty. That warranty covers defects in workmanship that may cause problems with the fields. The warranty does not cover environmental factors that may affect the turf.

What kind of maintenance is required on artificial turf fields vs. natural fields?

Annual Maintenance Costs, Natural Turf vs. Artificial Turf, etc.

AD will present Cost Analysis data, etc.

How long does turf generally last?

The “carpet” (the turf itself) lasts approximately 8 -10years.

Is this a high priority facility need for the District?

The ability of BHS athletic teams to use Bulldog Stadium’s field for multi-sports activities is compromised by the fact that the field is natural grass. The needs of multiple athletic teams, band, community youth teams, place extreme wear and tear on the field. Keeping the field in prime condition is costly when considering the materials labor required to make the necessary transitions from sport to sport and team to team, etc.

A turf project was not listed as a pressing need in the successful tax referendum election held in November of 2007.