



# NORTH EAST INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Date: January 13, 2025

Presenter: Deborah Caldwell  
Chief Operations Officer

Subject: Hidden Forest Turf Field Project

Related Page(s): Interlocal Funding  
Agreement

## ACTION ITEM

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In November 2022, City Council District 9 began soliciting community input for its participatory budgeting process. Residents were asked to submit project ideas for possible funding in the City of San Antonio's budget. A community member submitted a project to install artificial turf at the Hidden Forest Elementary playground area/SPARK (community space project between North East ISD, City of San Antonio and San Antonio Sports) in the area inside the walking track, commonly referred to as the soccer field.

The project made it to a City Council District 9 ballot for community voting in Spring 2023 and received enough votes to earn funding. Soil testing was conducted in Fall 2023 and paid by the City of San Antonio to determine the site preparation that would be needed to appropriately install the turf product. The results of the soil test indicated that more site preparation will be needed than was originally budgeted; therefore, City of San Antonio staff began researching additional budgeted funds that could be used toward the project.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION**

NEISD is home to 14 SPARK locations, which were developed in collaboration with the City of San Antonio and San Antonio Sports to extend existing public school playgrounds into public parks. Enhancements were made to the SPARK sites through a combination of outside funding and district funding. Additional funds were not allocated for ongoing maintenance associated with community use.

An Interlocal Funding Agreement between the City of San Antonio and North East ISD will need to be agreed upon and signed for the Hidden Forest Turf Field Project to move forward. There are currently no proposals for turf field projects at the other 13 SPARK locations or any other elementary school. Maintenance of a turf field and replacement of it at the end of its lifespan (approximately 10 years) will be the responsibility of NEISD.

### **BUDGETARY CONSIDERATION**

The City of San Antonio has identified \$210,000 in the FY 2023 and FY 2024 City of San Antonio Annual Budgets to cover the costs of excavation, site preparation and turf installation. Additional funding will be needed to purchase appropriate maintenance equipment to maintain the turf field at Hidden Forest Elementary. The potential cost of equipment is estimated to be \$4,000. Additionally, there are annual cleaning and testing costs estimated to be \$7,425.

### **BOARD ACTION REQUIRED**

Approval/Disapproval