



Why are we Talking Artificial Turf?

The bond referendum approved by the Board of Education is for the first option in the survey, yet the turf field was in the second option. Why are we considering adding turf?

The survey indicated a dollar amount for option 1. After reviewing all the items and staying within the cost parameters, we added restroom updates to the elementary, updates to the auditorium, and turf to the football field. The football stadium and surrounding areas have serious drainage issues especially during the fall and spring seasons after rainfall. After consultation from drainage experts, it was determined the tile under the football field is too deep and not effective. We have been advised to remove the dirt from the football field, remove the ineffective tiling and install a new drainage system to more efficiently disperse the water. As a committee, we established it would be a financially wise choice to spend the extra money to install a turf field instead of using funds to replace dirt, reseed and maintain the field. With an artificial turf field, we will have a cost savings in maintenance and other athletic/extra curricular programs will be able to use the field.

Isn't turf an expense of which only the football players benefit?



When people hear "turf," thoughts go to the football team. However, turf would benefit students in other extra curricular programs. Presently our high school band students practice daily on our parking lot, which is hot in the summer and fall, unsafe and not ideal. The band students could practice on the turf each school day and host band invitationals. The P.E. students could use the field for daily P.E. activities. The baseball, softball, and track students could practice on the turf each spring. The middle school Junior Pirate football team could transition to Wednesday evening games, which is when most middle school teams now compete. They are unable to play on the practice field in the evenings, as we do not have stadium lights on that field, and the grass stadium field has to be in the best condition for the JV and Varsity games. It is getting increasingly more difficult to find teams to play on Saturdays within a reasonable distance.



I spend most of my time coaching our students out at the track or the athletic field surrounding it. Most days...especially in the wet spring season...we are practicing or competing in "standing water." The drainage issues with our athletic fields are getting progressively worse each year. For track meets, we often use portable pumps to clear out water before meets so that we can host them. I believe we can improve this.

-P-W Cross Country/Track Coach Scott Werner

"Turf would allow us to use the field during the school day to prepare for games and performances. Our field becomes incredibly slippery after rainfall, which is dangerous for our students. Michigan's competing marching band organization allows only schools with artificial turf to host competitions; it really is much better to march on."

- Randy Voisinet, P-W Band Teacher

Did you Know?
Approximately 25%
of public high
schools have turf
fields (134 public
schools)

Why are we Talking Artificial Turf?

Is the drainage on the football field really an issue?
Here is a photo of our football field after a rainfall.



What are P-W's annual football field maintenance costs?
More than \$35,000 is spent on seed, fertilizer, paint, contractual services, plus manpower each year.



In 2022, our football field was used only 52 hours throughout the whole year. Two hours of football practice each Thursday, and one home game for varsity or JV football for three hours each week. With an artificial turf field, our P.E. classes, our band, and track, softball and baseball teams would use it. We anticipate the annual usage to be at a minimum of 1,000 hours.



How many years will an artificial turf last before replacement?

Artificial turf has made many advancements in recent years. The life expectancy of the turf is 12-15 years. Many high schools are able to either update with a partial replacement of the worn areas or replace after 20 years. Keeping a line item in our budget in the amount of the current maintenance costs, and setting those funds aside each year, will allow us to save funds to purchase future turf replacements.

"We have had artificial turf now for 11 years. It's the only way to go. Less cost to maintain, is available all year long to use, our P.E. classes are on it all day, our community rec programs use it, as does our band."

- Brian Zdanowski, Greenville High School Athletic Director

"Benefits are optimal field conditions during games played with inclement weather, and the ability for multiple teams to use the field without damage from over usage."

-Will McCoy, MHSAA Assistant Director