

Turf Field Replacement

UPDATE FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE

AUGUST 16, 2022

Process/Timeline

- June 2022: School Committee confirmed intent to proceed w/turf replacement (i.e., not pursuing grass conversion)
- July 2022: Design development completed to 75% level to begin permitting, with exception of infill decision
- August 2022: School Committee vote to accept recommendation of facilities subcommittee re: infill/padding materials
- September/October 2022: Permitting in Manchester-by-the-Sea (MBTS)
- October/November 2022: Final specifications/construction drawings, including permitting input
- November/December 2022: Release bid
- December 2022/January 2023: Award bid
- January 2023: Construction firm begins ordering for summer 2023 installation (lead time required for “getting in line”)

Infill Review

Subcommittee reviewed pros/cons with Gale of multiple options, including crumb rubber, cork, cork/coconut, walnut, engineered wood, thermoplastic and coated sand.

Proceeding with crumb rubber offers the following benefits:

- Continuity: replaces infill with the same type of material we already have
- Safety: good for impact/GMAX and detailed review of research data shows no evidence for health concerns
- Playability: good for play, although it does get hot
- Affordability: least expensive solution. Alternative infills adds \$50-200K per field
- Common: Gale informed subcommittee that only 5 of the last 15 fields they have designed used alternative infill

Additional Considerations

Subcommittee favored installation of shock pads under the surface, which:

- Provide 16 years of GMAX (i.e., impact safety) warranty – will last for 2 turf replacements
- Cost is roughly \$100K per installation or \$50K per turf replacement cycle
- Are required with alternative infills only, but are increasingly added to crumb rubber turfs to achieve maximum safety related to impact

Gale Associates also shared available research on PFAs, in light of questions raised in many communities, including MBTS – current available data does not suggest need to move away from artificial turf.