

## Capital Improvement - Conversion of the Turf field at NPCC to grass

I strongly encourage that the turf field at NPCC remain as a turf field. The primary reason being that the turf field provides year-round playability. The turf provides a playable surface regardless of weather conditions. Unlike natural grass, which becomes muddy, uneven, or completely unusable after heavy rain, artificial fields remain accessible. The consistent playing surface also reduces the risk of injuries caused by divots, holes, or play on wet grass.

A grass field requires recovery time between uses and often needs to be rested entirely during certain seasons. A turf field can accommodate multiple teams and extended playing hours without deterioration. The turf field will serve more users and more opportunities for play.

The turf field eliminates ongoing expenses for mowing, fertilizing, aerating, irrigation, and reseeding. The largest investment required for a turf field is at initial installation. Water savings alone can be substantial, particularly in regions facing drought or water restrictions. Over a 10-15 year lifespan, the total cost of ownership is often lower than maintaining natural grass to the same playing standard.

Turf also eliminates the need for harmful pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers that can run off into local waterways. The dramatic reduction in water usage—estimated at hundreds of thousands of gallons annually per field—represents responsible resource stewardship. If an investment in watering the natural grass field is not made, in our region it will become dry and eventually bare.

Concerns about safety with turf impact absorption are most likely similar to a natural grass field. The field at NPCC is not used for American football as far as I know. People are not falling to the ground on a regular basis. The recreational soccer games played there do not allow slide tackles so people are generally on their feet the whole time.

I currently use the field year round, in rain, freezing weather, nice days, and hot days. The loss of availability with a grass field will severely limit my opportunities that I currently enjoy with the turf field.