



Frequently Asked Questions

What will we get for our investment?

Phase 1: \$1.774 million will renovate the Stadium Field.

Synthetic Turf	\$798,823
Pave track D-areas	\$107,892
Scoreboard & Equipment	\$ 89,000
General repairs	\$ 65,722
Utilities & Lighting	\$ 40,000
Bonds, insurance, overhead	\$310,086
Contingency	\$268,501
Erosion control, site prep, demo	\$ 93,483

During this phase we will also resurface the track area. The \$285,00 for this work has already been approved and appropriated in the Town of Shrewsbury's Municipal budget. The work will be completed once the artificial turf is in place to minimize any disruption to the new track surface.

Why can't we just improve the grass?

It is not possible to adequately improve or maintain natural grass fields to meet the demand Shrewsbury has for field space. Natural grass needs continual repair and replacement to keep the surface playable as well as "down time" to allow repairs to take hold. Bad weather, be it rain, snow or excessive heat, damages the surface requiring extra maintenance. High impact play, particularly on a field that is subject to bad weather, causes even more damage.

Our high school sports teams have severely limited access to our existing natural grass fields and youth teams are denied any access at all in order to protect the fields. Additionally, both during and after rain or snow, these fields are often closed. Many teams are bused to neighboring schools, at a cost to the Athletic Department, to hold games or practices on artificial turf. Improving the current natural grass field will not change this situation. Artificial turf is the only solution that provides adequate access for the number of teams and athletes we have both at the high school and in the community.

What is the Town of Shrewsbury contributing to this project?

The Town of Shrewsbury has approved and appropriated \$285,000 to fund the resurfacing of the track.

Who will benefit from this project?

The entire community will benefit from having artificial turf fields. Shrewsbury High School athletic teams and student groups will have more practice time, more home games and be able to use the fields for physical education classes. Youth sports teams such as football, lacrosse and soccer, will have access for home games and be able to host jamborees and conferences, financially benefiting from gate fees and concession stand profits.



Frequently Asked Questions (cont.)

By adding lighting to the Lower Field, play can extend into the evening on both fields. Youth teams and community groups will have access after high school sports in the evening.

What impact do high school athletic fees have on this project?

None. Athletic fees help defray operating costs for the high school athletic program. The Municipal Town budget pays for maintenance of the athletic fields through the Parks and Recreation budget.

What type of work does it take to maintain an artificial turf field?

Turf field maintenance is estimated to be approximately \$5,000 per year. This maintenance includes:

- Sweeping every 2 weeks *
- Raking every 4-6 weeks *
- Aerating 3 times per year *
- Infill top dressing as needed
- Painting of additional lines as needed

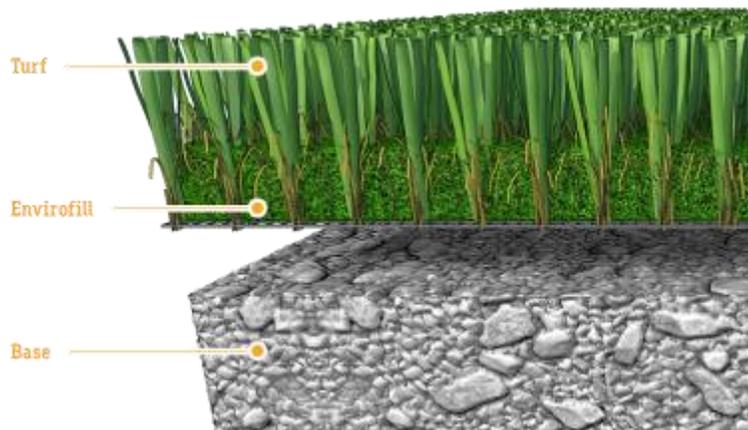
*These steps require an attachment to the current mower that will be purchased as part of this project.

What does the term “infill” mean when we are talking about artificial turf?

The infill is the material that is set in between the green blades of plastic grass to help the blades stand up. It also acts as a cushioning agent.

What infill will be used in the turf field?

Shrewsbury decided to take an environmentally friendly approach towards selecting the infill and chose an infill called [Envirofill](#), **without microban**, an antimicrobial protection used for indoor fields.





Frequently Asked Questions (cont.)

What is Envirofill?

Envirofill is an acrylic-coated round sand. We've selected this as the infill for our athletic fields because it meets a variety of our needs. Specifically, Envirofill:

- will not compact over time, thereby giving our athletes firm support and shock absorption for the lifespan of the field
- has 75% less fly-out than traditional crumb rubber, meaning it will not stick to athletes' skin or clothing
- maintains a cooler surface, up to 25% cooler than traditional crumb rubber
- is environmentally-friendly, with no leaching of the coating and it can be reused for two field lifecycles
- offers us a 16 year warranty, double the warranty of most infill products on the market today.

Envirofill has been installed at 125 athletic fields across the country, including [Newburyport High School](#) in Massachusetts; [Swampscott](#), Massachusetts is installing an Envirofill field later this year.

How long do artificial turf fields last?

The warranty on the Envirofill product we have chosen for our artificial turf fields has a 16 year warranty. This is double the industry standard warranty of 8 years for most turf fields. In addition, the shock pad that sits under the field has a 25-year warranty, long enough to last through two lifecycles of the turf field.

How will we pay to maintain and ultimately replace the fields once they are installed?

Turf field maintenance is estimated to be approximately \$5,000 per year. Some money collected from field rental fees and other fundraising efforts will help defray the cost of maintenance.

Today, the cost to replace a turf field is approximately \$400,000 - \$500,000. As part of this capital campaign, an endowment fund will be established to accept gifts for future field improvements. We also expect to use rental fees and any future sponsorship dollars to help fund the eventual replacement of the fields.

Do artificial turf fields pose a health risk?

Some people have raised concerns about the possible association between playing on artificial turf and developing certain types of cancer. However, studies to date do not show an elevated cancer risk from playing on artificial turf fields.

We believe Envirofill is a safe product for our athletes to play on. As this project progresses, we will continue to evaluate new artificial turf products as they become available and any health reports that are released to ensure we are making decisions that minimize public concern and the possibility of risk to our athletes.



Frequently Asked Questions (cont.)

Is there a significant cost difference between a natural grass field and an artificial turf field?

There are numerous studies available that estimate the cost difference between installing and maintaining a natural grass field vs a synthetic turf field. The results vary widely depending on the source. A report presented in March 2016 by the Loudon County (VA) Public Schools Division of Construction Services compared the cost of fields using six different infills to the cost of natural grass. The report shows that, over 24 years, the cost of a turf field that uses Envirofill is only 13% more than the cost of natural grass. We believe the value of the increased playing time that we will have with an artificial turf field far outweighs this cost difference.

Does artificial turf contain lead?

Lead is not used in the manufacture of the turf products we are considering for this project.

Can the turf carpet be recycled or repurposed at the end of its life cycle?

Yes, turf carpet can be recycled and/or repurposed. Today, the carpet can be ground and used in the production of the shock pad that sits under the carpet. The carpet can also be cut up and reused at indoor facilities, like batting cages, or used outdoors in landscaping. Over the next 10-12 years, until we need to replace the carpet at SHS, we expect the turf industry to develop more opportunities for recycling the carpet.

Do you have to use any chemicals to keep artificial turf sanitized?

No chemicals are required to maintain or sanitize the turf products we are considering.

Will the water coming off the field be a health concern to our drinking water?

No concerns with water runoff have ever been raised on turf fields that don't contain crumb rubber. Runoff from parking lots and natural grass with their weed killer and fertilizer are more of a concern; no chemicals will be used on our turf fields. There is no reason to believe the turf fields will be a risk to our water supply.