



Why Turf?

Careful consideration has been given to the design of the fields renovation project and the products that will be used. This includes synthetic turf on the Stadium and Lower Fields.

Use of synthetic turf at Shrewsbury High School is the only solution that offers the kind of durability, multi-sport playability, high-impact safety and all-season, all-weather access we need to meet the demand for playing time for both our high school athletes and community youth groups. A natural grass surface, no matter how well maintained, will not meet these requirements.

Synthetic turf offers numerous benefits, including:

- **Increased playability.** Synthetic turf fields are much more durable than grass and, because playability is much higher, they provide much-needed capacity that our existing inventory of fields cannot meet. New England weather, especially years with an excessive amount of snow or rain, make natural grass fields unusable for many months. Access to a synthetic playing field in the early spring and late fall can be the difference between playing or not playing.
- **Lower maintenance costs.** Synthetic turf fields need minimal maintenance. There is no need to mow synthetic turf, which in the growing season, can be as often as 2 to 3 times a week. This saves on fuel and labor costs and it will free Shrewsbury Parks and Recreation personnel to attend to other town fields. Natural grass needs continual repair and replacement to keep the surface playable. Our budget does not allow for such actions. Bad weather, be it rainy, hot or overly dry, damages the surface requiring extra maintenance. High impact play, particularly on a field that is subject to bad weather, causes even more damage. A synthetic turf field, under the same conditions, will last two-thirds as long.
- **Pesticide and Fertilizer free.** Unlike natural grass, artificial turf doesn't require treatment with pesticides and fertilizers. Organic fertilizers are not without issues, such as unpleasant odors and a much greater amount of time needed for them to be effective.
- **Fewer injuries.** A durable and even playing surface means fewer injuries. Grass gets torn up by rough play and bad weather. Synthetic turf remains consistent, making play more predictable and safer. Synthetic turf also has better shock attenuation than natural grass. This means the surface will better absorb impact, protecting our athletes from greater harm. This is especially important for impact sports like football, lacrosse and soccer, all of which currently play or seek to play on our Stadium and Lower fields.
- **Discourages wild animal congregation.** In Shrewsbury, we have a serious problem with geese congregating on our natural grass fields. Geese will not eat synthetic grass therefore, turf fields will be free from the nuisance and pollutants from geese and other wild animals.
- **Saves water.** An average grass playing field uses approximately 100,000 gallons of water per week. That's over 2 million gallons during the growing season and millions more over the life of the field. Synthetic turf fields need watering in the hot summer months to cool down the playing surface.