



## **Stadium Project Question/Answer**

### **1. Why is the School District of Lodi looking to upgrade the field in the Lodi High School Stadium?**

Due to poor drainage, impermeable subsurface soil conditions, heavy yearly rainfall, and excessive use, the Lodi Stadium Field has deteriorated to the extent of becoming one of the worst athletic fields in the area. Keeping the field in a safe and playable condition has become more and more difficult each year. To help protect the stadium field from excessive use, the high school administration has had to restrict the access of the Lodi High School Physical Education and Band programs, postpone athletic games, and move some home games to other fields in Lodi. Scheduled home events have also turned into away events due to the condition of the field, which culminated with Lodi's 2018 Homecoming football game being played at Waunakee High School.

### **2. What is the overall goal of this project?**

That every Lodi High School soccer player, football player, band member, and cheerleader gets to safely play or perform in the stadium for all scheduled games in front of his or her family and friends.

### **3. What can be done to fix the issues with the stadium and what does each solution cost?**

The district has identified three potential solutions to fix these issues with the stadium:

- Band-aid approach: Continue with current site conditions and hope for good weather (adding soil to low spots, aerating, adding sand, pulling water wheels in summer, reseeding, etc.)
  - Approximate Cost: \$15,000-\$20,000 a year
- Field Renovation: Reconstruct current natural turf field with proper drainage and irrigation
  - Approximate Cost: \$800,000
- Synthetic Turf Field (Phase I): Synthetic turf multi-purpose playing surface, stadium lighting realignment, concrete visitor pad, pedestrian walkway, stadium field and perimeter fencing, and donor wall.
  - Approximate Cost: \$1.3 million

**4. What solution is the district planning on endorsing?**

The district feels that the synthetic turf option is the best option, as it meets our goal and allows for more use from students than our current field.

**5. What are the positives and negatives of each potential solution?**

Band aid approach

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the cheapest alternative in the short term</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This solution does not fix the underlying problems and does not meet the overall goal of the project</li> <li>• Soccer field is legal size, but not full width</li> </ul>

Field Renovation

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would provide a safe playing surface by fixing the underlying issues causing the current problems</li> <li>• Would provide drainage and irrigation to the field</li> <li>• Full sized soccer field</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The field could not be used for 1-2 years as the grass grows</li> <li>• The field will still be subject to weather related issues</li> <li>• The field would still be heavily used by high school athletic teams with little recovery time</li> <li>• Cost</li> </ul>

Synthetic Turf Field (Phase I)

Positives	Negatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would provide a safe, consistent playing surface and fix the underlying issues causing current problems</li> <li>• Could be utilized by physical education classes, band, baseball and softball teams, and youth sports in addition to current use</li> <li>• Could be used for practice when other field conditions are too wet, helping to preserve other district green space</li> <li>• Depending on bid timelines, teams would not lose any games as it could be constructed in summer</li> <li>• Full sized soccer field</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is the most costly of the options</li> <li>• Turf would need to be replaced in 12-15 years</li> </ul>

**6. I have heard conflicting information on the safety of synthetic turf versus natural grass turf. Which one is safer?**

We reached out to Sauk Prairie Healthcare to research these questions. They shared research articles that indicated that there is negligible differences in injuries between synthetic turf and a well maintained grass field. The most unsafe surface is a poorly maintained grass surface.

**7. Could you put sod down for the field renovation project so the field would not be unusable for 1-2 years?**

A seeded field is better than sod in the long run for maintenance/longevity. Sod does not typically establish a deep root system so work is needed 3-4 years later in spots that get ripped up from use. Sod costs about \$20,000 more upfront, but the field would probably not lose a year of competition.

**8. Has the district ever thought about getting a tarp to roll over the field to protect it?**

Tarps cost approximately \$10,000 and are cumbersome to use. The majority of facilities do not use them because of this. We would also need to maintain crews to place the tarps on the field and take them off at a moment's notice. Lastly, they can be heavy and difficult to move around.

**9. What is the lifespan of synthetic turf? What does it cost to replace it? How would the district pay for the replacement?**

The typical warranty for synthetic turf is 10 years, with the life of turf expected to be 12-15 years. The replacement cost of turf is estimated to be \$300,000-\$400,000. The district has a capital project fund that is maintained for projects such as this. The district plans to contribute annually to this fund so that when replacement time comes, the district will have the funds available to do this.

**10. What is the cost to replace the infill product and how often does it need to be replaced for a synthetic turf field?**

SBR rubber w/ silica sand base is planned for the turf infill system. To clarify, infill does not get replaced during the life cycle of the turf. However, the field is top-dressed with additional SBR rubber during the life of the turf as it does break down over time. Extra bagged SBR rubber is typically supplied by the turf vendor as part of the initial pricing to the owner.

After the turf reaches the end of its life cycle, the remaining usable infill is vacuumed/recycled to be utilized in the next infill system to be placed in the new turf system.

**11. I see that the synthetic turf option is listed as Phase I. Can you explain Phase I and Phase II?**

Phase I includes a synthetic multi-purpose playing surface, stadium lighting realignment, concrete visitor bleacher pad, pedestrian walkway, stadium field and perimeter fencing, and donor wall.

Phase II includes a wrought iron fence in front of the stadium, ticket booths at the entrance ramps to the bleachers, and a plaza.

**12. What is the estimated cost of Phase II and when will it happen?**

The estimated cost of Phase II is approximately \$275,000. There is no set timeline for Phase II to occur as the focus is on improving the playing surface for our students.

**13. Why is Phase II included in the renderings/drawings if it is something that may be done later?**

The committee felt it was important for the community to see the entire vision for this project, not just Phase I.

**14. Does the district have other outdoor facility needs in addition to the stadium field.**

The district is engaging in a large study of all the outdoor facilities. The track is coming to the end of its lifespan, the practice field inside the track has issues with drainage, and the Highway 60 field complex continues to be a challenging site, which maintains poor drainage conditions. The Lodi Elementary School also has uneven surface conditions with poor drainage. This study will also include the best use of the green space around the new primary school, including potential soccer practice fields and a baseball field.

**15. Why doesn't the district wait until this study is done before trying to improve the stadium field?**

The goal of this project is to ensure that all of our students play or perform during scheduled home games in the stadium. The district did not feel it could wait until this study was complete before addressing the stadium field issues.

**16. Did the district consider adding a track to the stadium project to further upgrade this site?**

The district did look at the potential for adding a track around the playing surface. To accomplish this, the district would have to redo the existing footprint of the stadium. Therefore it was decided that the additional cost of adding a track is cost prohibitive.

**17. What is the annual cost difference between the maintenance of a grass field versus a synthetic turf field?**

Both playing surfaces have annual maintenance and upkeep costs. Based on the information the district has received, the synthetic turf field typically costs slightly less

than natural grass fields, once labor, water, seed, fertilizer and other costs are added together.

**18. Do you need to purchase a lot of equipment to maintain synthetic turf fields?**

Additional machinery is needed to maintain a synthetic turf field, but these are included in the cost of the turf.

**19. What other activities could use the stadium field if it was a synthetic turf field?**

The band would be able to use it as a dedicated practice facility for their field shows in the fall (during the entire 2018 football/soccer season, the band did not get to practice in the stadium once). Cheerleading could practice in the stadium. We would allow our soccer teams and football teams to practice in the stadium when their respective practice fields are unplayable. Softball and baseball would be able to use the turf surface in the spring to throw, take ground balls, and hit fly balls. In addition, our youth programs could potentially play one game per season on the turf.

**20. Can the district still hold high school graduation on the stadium field if it is turf?**

The district could still hold graduation on the stadium field. However, to do so we would need to buy turf specific chairs or purchase adaptors to place on the legs of our current chairs.

**21. How is the district planning on paying for the stadium turf project?**

A capital campaign has been started to fundraise for the installation of synthetic turf in the stadium. The Board of Education has decided that they would borrow up to \$500,000 toward the cost of this project, leaving the fundraising goal at \$800,000.

**22. Why doesn't the Board of Education just fund the entire project?**

The Board of Education has the statutory authority to borrow up to \$1 million dollars without going to referendum. Therefore they are unable to fund this entire project without going to referendum. The district already borrowed money to put in the SMART Lab in the high school, so they only have \$750,000 of this borrowing authority left (depending on when you read this and when the Board made their most recent payment of this loan). The Board also does not want to borrow to the maximum as that would put the Board in a difficult position if an unforeseen maintenance issue would occur and have to be dealt with.

**23. Where is the money coming from that the Board of Education would be borrowing for this project?**

The Board would take out a loan most likely from the State of Wisconsin. Repayment of this kind of loan would be within the statutory revenue limit of the School District of Lodi and would not increase taxes past the limit which the Board of Education can already ask of Lodi taxpayers.

#### 24. How do I donate to this project?

You can write out a check payable to the School District of Lodi and drop it off at the district office, or Associated Bank, or mail it to Brent Richter, Business Manager, 115 School Street , Lodi, WI 53555.

If you wish to donate by credit card, you can go to the following site: <https://fundraising.pobinc.com/lo-di-blue-devils/>. Please note there is a processing fee for using a credit card.

The district encourages donations of \$500 or more be provided through cash or check in order to avoid processing fees.

#### 25. Are these donations tax deductible?

Yes. If you donate by cash or check, you will get a receipt from Brent Richter at the district office. If you donate online, a receipt will be generated.

#### 26. Does the fundraising site allow you to make payments or do you have to make a lump sum payment? Can I make a donation anonymously?

The fundraising site will allow you to put together a payment plan, but the payments need to be made by February 1, 2020. The fundraising site and the district both allow donations to be made anonymously.

#### 27. How will donors be recognized?

There is a plan for a donor wall to be established on the side of the existing press box for donors who contribute at the following levels:

Donation Level	Recognition
\$750,000	Stadium Naming Rights (10 yrs)
\$300,000	MVP (potential for advertising in stadium)
\$100,000-\$299,999	All American (potential for advertising in stadium)
\$50,000-\$99,999	All State
\$30,000-\$49,999	All District
\$20,000-\$29,999	All Area
\$10,000-19,999	All Conference
\$5,000-\$9,999	Varsity
\$1,000-\$4,999	Blue Devil
\$500-\$999	Lodi Pride

\$499 or below	Donations below \$499 are greatly appreciated but will not be recognized on the donor wall
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**28. What does “Naming Rights” mean?**

Naming rights would give someone the opportunity to rename Lodi Stadium after their business or family for a 10 year period.

**29. Can I donate in the name of someone other than myself or family?**

Yes, on the donation website there is a fillable field where you can identify who you would like the donation to be named after. You can also keep the donation anonymous.

**30. What will happen to donated money if the district does not meet its fundraising goal?** *(Due to the feedback that was received through the first couple weeks of the campaign and the public meeting, the answer to this question has changed to be more reflective of what potential donors shared that they wanted to see).*

The Board of Education will need to decide if they want to extend the fundraising effort into the next calendar year, if they want to stop this fundraising effort, or if they want to pursue other funding options. This decision will be made at the Board of Education meeting in February of 2020.

If the Board of Education decides to stop the fundraising effort, people who donated \$500 or more will be contacted and will have the option of either having the money returned or having the money placed in a segregated fund to be used only for a synthetic turf field. Fees assessed for donating online will not be refunded. Anonymous donations will not be returned.

**31. When did the district open this campaign up to the public and how long are they planning on fundraising for?**

The kickoff to this fundraising project was at the boys soccer game on September 5, 2019. The decision to continue the fundraising effort or to bring it to an end will be made at the Board of Education meeting in February of 2020.

**32. Who do I contact if I have questions about this project?**

Vince Breunig, HS Principal at [breunvi@lodischoolswi.org](mailto:breunvi@lodischoolswi.org) or at 592-3853 ext. 4402

Brent Richter, Business Manager at [richtbr@lodischoolswi.org](mailto:richtbr@lodischoolswi.org) or at 592-3851 ext. 5482