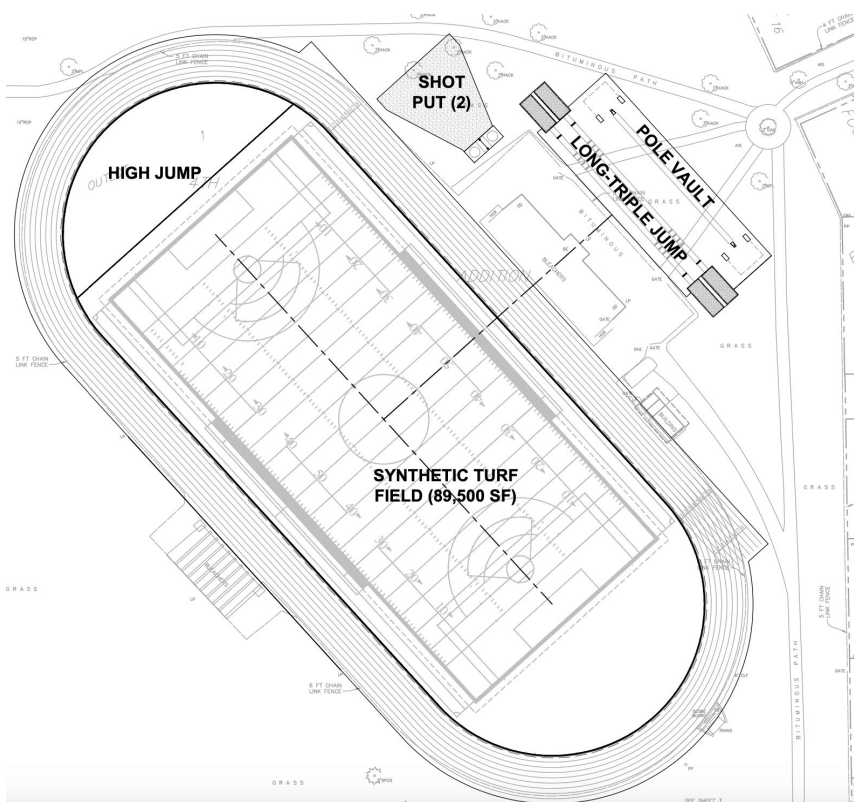


May 14, 2020

St. Anthony-New Brighton families,

Cultivating strong community relationships is one of the strategic directions for the St. Anthony-New Brighton School District (SANB). Our district strives to partner with our residents to meet both our students' educational needs and our community's needs. Over the past year, the school district has conducted a comprehensive feasibility study for synthetic turf and an asphalt track at Central Park's stadium field complex. We want to provide families with information regarding the district's feasibility study on synthetic turf and asphalt track on the stadium field, as well as updates to the stadium complex to be completed at Central Park.

The feasibility study allows us to examine how synthetic turf and an asphalt track would provide SANB physical education classes and co-curricular programs with a reliable space for varied outdoor use during and after the school day. In addition, synthetic turf would allow for earlier access on the field in the spring and later use in the fall.



As a fully developed community, our educational and recreational spaces are heavily utilized. The high school and middle school site is over 50 acres short for new construction by today's standards. For example, it's been determined that more than 2,000 youth utilize Central Park each year. This number does not include the additional spectators, walkers, runners, and adult recreational users.

What are the benefits?

Our co-curricular programs and sports booster youth teams would have vastly expanded access with synthetic turf, doubling the amount of time that is currently available. Also, with the addition of an asphalt track, our middle school and high school track-and-field teams would no longer need to travel off-site for practices and competitions. This would allow capacity for

new and emerging activities to use this space.

In addition, preliminary soil testing has shown the stadium field can support a synthetic turf and asphalt track surface. After evaluating the information from the field condition analysis, field safety experts, and research studies, SANB has determined a synthetic turf surface will allow our school and community groups to maximize use of the stadium field and, therefore, is a better option for Central Park.

Overview of updates for the stadium field complex:

- **Limited field space:**

Youth athletics and community demands for field space have continued to increase over the years. The limited field space in St. Anthony has forced closure of various fields, ultimately impacting physical education classes, co-curricular and community programming, and recreational use.

- **Unusable track surface:**

In addition to field space, the current pea-gravel track surface surrounding the stadium field has been deemed unusable for school district and community use. Through this assessment and analysis of current facilities, accessibility and code concerns also became exceedingly evident.

- **Meeting updated code and ADA compliance standards:**

A number of other aspects of feasibility have been reviewed, including health and safety codes and compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards. In order to meet current standards of code and ADA compliance, additional areas of the stadium complex will need to be updated and/or replaced, such as the bleachers, concessions area, and press box.

What is the proposed cost and current funding sources?

Installation of synthetic turf and a new track surface at the stadium field is expected to cost approximately \$2.6 million dollars. So far, SANB has received a \$280,000 grant from Hennepin County, and an additional \$25,000 in matching funds from 12 different community sports booster groups toward this project.

In our partnership with the City of St. Anthony, SANB and the City have collaborated with a goal to limit taxpayer impact for this project. A combination of lease levy and capital dollars would be used to fund construction of this project. It is anticipated the annual tax impact for a \$250,000 home would be under \$3.50 per month. It is important to note that these funds are not available for general education or community services expenditures. Nor would these funds be available for any COVID-19 related school district expenses. State statute is very clear with how educational funds are to be utilized. The funds used in this project would come from capital and lease levy sources and have no impact on classroom spending or school district staffing.

Next steps:

To finalize the study, additional soil testing, drawing of proposed plans, and soliciting bids will allow the school district to determine the financial feasibility of this proposed project. Financial and project consultants have been secured to assist SANB as it considers these important next steps. Construction would begin in fall of 2020, finalizing in the summer of 2021.

Community input:

SANB's feasibility study has included conversations with approximately 20 community groups, such as the St. Anthony Athletics and Activities Advisory Committee, St. Anthony Sports Boosters, the Parks and Environmental Commission, the St. Anthony City Council, and the SANB School Board.

Please [complete this Google Form](#) to share your questions regarding the comprehensive feasibility study for synthetic turf and an asphalt track, and updates to Central Park's stadium field complex. We will review the questions and provide answers in a FAQ document with our community in June.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Dr. Renee Corneille