

PACAC Mission Statement:

The Port Angeles Capital Advisory Committee comprises community members, school board directors, and district staff. Our mission is to support the construction, modernization, and remodeling of school facilities while maximizing dollars from the State and minimizing the burden on local taxpayers.

PACAC Progress Update:

Phase 1 of the District's 30-year facilities plan is underway. Safety and security improvements are complete at all elementary schools, and next is the build of a multi-use athletic field on Monroe Road. In 2022, the design will begin for the expansion and renovations of Stevens Middle School to address the outdated and aging buildings and allow for improved learning opportunities. The Capital Advisory Committee is on track to have an athletic field design in place by the end of 2021. Groundbreaking for the new field will occur next spring, with an anticipated completion date of Fall 2022.

FAQ's:

Why are we building an athletic field when our schools are crumbling?

Schools in our District need attention. The levy that passed in 2020 is part of a 30-year plan to overhaul and replace failing school buildings across the District.

The 2020 Capital Levy has three goals:

- 1) Provide safety vestibules at the elementaries ✓
- 2) Develop playfields at the former site of Monroe (*in progress*)
- 3) Remodel/expand Stevens Middle School

The first project in the 2020 Capital Facilities plan is now complete. Safety vestibules are installed at every elementary school and control access to the buildings, keeping our students safe. Some of the funding for the athletic field will come from the capital levy, but most of the financing will come from real-estate transaction revenues and savings from the safety vestibule construction project. The District previously allocated funds for contractors to do the safety vestibule work but instead completed most of the project with internal District resources.

Construction cannot begin at Stevens Middle School until all taxes are collected from the capital levy. We can start the design phase for the middle school now, and once we receive all tax funds in 2025, the construction work can begin.

Why are we building an athletic field?

High-performing athletic fields are a part of the necessary infrastructure in a high-quality district like Port Angeles. There is a need for quality athletic fields in Port Angeles, and this field on the east side of town will provide geographic equity in our District.

In 2007, the residing Board had a vision for a field at this location in their Strategic Facilities Plan. The District will build the field on the former footprint of Monroe Elementary, which was decommissioned in 2004 and demolished in 2017. The District can now turn a vacant lot into a useful facility for our students that will provide value in our District and provide a quality experience to students.

Why synthetic turf?

The District recognizes that the upfront cost of a turf field is more of an investment than grass. A recent [cost assessment](#) conducted by Capital Advisory Committee Member, Sean Worthington, shows a turf vs. grass field cost savings for taxpayers over a 15 year period is more than \$160,000. This cost savings include a replacement field in 2035. Annually, after the initial investment of a turf field, the cost savings for taxpayers is \$139,000 every year not to have the upkeep and maintenance of a grass field, such as water, electric utilities, a part-time employee, fertilizer, etc. We are looking to maximize taxpayers' dollars and reduce operational costs over time.

The synthetic turf and a layer of soft padding underneath will ensure year-round playability for any number of sports and save a lot of money in terms of maintenance costs in the long term. Advantages of synthetic turf surface include minimal maintenance costs, an eight-year warranty, and allowing athletes to practice on the field 365 days a year, no matter the use or weather conditions. This field type also accustoms student-athletes to playing on a surface material that is quickly becoming the standard in school sports and gives them a competitive edge.

Who can use the field?

The District's vision is for all people to be able to use the field. The field's design provides sport uses for students and a park-like setting for the rest of the community who can come and walk around the trails and enjoy the scenery. We will have the same procedure for individuals or organizations to use the facilities and reserve the field.

My home's assessed went up; does that mean the District collects more money?

No. Voters approved a fixed collection amount that will not increase regardless of your assessed value. If property values go up, the school district does not collect more revenue as property values increase. The levy is for a fixed dollar amount. Think of it like a contract the School District has with the community. The voters approved a fixed amount of taxpayer money to make our schools a safe and modern place for our students.