

Tenafly athletic fields will need significant upgrades, report says

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TENAFLY — Before the high school baseball team can use its field this spring, someone will have to walk across it to find holes and unevenness and make repairs.

It may sound like simple groundskeeping, but it hints at larger issues with the athletic fields behind the school that will require major upgrading in the future.

The fields have "poor subsurface conditions" such as sinkholes, a significant drop in elevation in the varsity baseball outfield and rainwater not draining properly, according to a Board of Education committee report.

The report, done last month by the facilities committee, notes that most of the athletic fields are in a flood hazard zone, and its recommendations in the long term include raising the baseball outfield 2 inches and adding natural turf or artificial turf.

Short-term solutions for spring field maintenance include adding topsoil and infield clay, applying organic fertilizer and doing overall field maintenance.

The report comes after soil testing done by the firm EI Associates found that fill material in the soil is a factor in the field's substandard conditions.

