

To Springfield School Board;

I am writing in support of replacing the grass field at Silke with a turf field. As a graduate of Springfield High School as well as a parent of five SHS graduates, I can see the benefits for replacing the field. I personally was involved in marching band as were my kids. Practices were and are very limited because of field conditions which ultimately affects the quality of performances. Over the years I have seen many a student slip on the muddy field and fall with instrument in hand both at practices and during half time performances. The potential for student injury and instrument damage would decrease significantly if the field conditions were not a factor.

I am also an SHS employee having worked both at SHS and currently as the administrative Secretary at TRDR. TRDR requests the use of Silke field several times each school year. Our ability to use the field is contingent on field conditions. It is understandable that SHS wants to limit its use during football and track and field seasons to minimize damage to the field. That obstacle would be erased with a turf field.

As a community member I can also see the increased opportunity for outside/rental use of the field which would provide some revenue to the district.

It has been exciting to see the recent improvements to other facilities in our district! It makes me proud to be a member of the Springfield School District community. A turf field at Silke Field would give that increased sense of pride for our district, students and community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely;

Susan Wright Woodraska

cswright6@hotmail.com

541-554-2466

From: Frank Geske <frank.geske@springfield.k12.or.us>

Date: February 12, 2024 at 11:22:04 AM PST

To: Audrea Shelley <audrea.shelley@springfield.k12.or.us>

Subject: turf

members of the board;

My name is Frank Geske and I am the football coach at Springfield High School. I have been a part of three programs, putting in field turf at Tigard, Portland State, and Marist so I understand the commitment to your community that you have and truly respect it.

The around the clock usage that you will get from athletic teams, PE, band, and community events will definitely be worth the impact alone. It would definitely finish off a beautiful complex with what you guys have put into the track and field complex.

I know from the past that the impact testing that is demanded on these fields is consistent in grading compared to a grass field. Those grass surfaces can be wet, soft or dried out and give different readings. It is easier to maintain and keep much cleaner. Yes, cleaner; the geese will testify to that. We played our home playoff game in a field covered in geese droppings.

We were only on Silke field six times this year and it became unsafe play on. We go to Hamlin during the OSAA open period to be on their turf to teach our athletes how to change direction properly. I know it sounds strange but drainage is another huge benefit of a turf field as water definitely tends to pool and get surface grass less than consistent in areas throughout our field.

In addition to all the extra games it can handle the quality of practice will definitely be a benefit. Being new to practicing on our practice field that is improperly marked with no numbers, hash marks or yard lines I can testify to the fact that it's a shock to the guys when I talk about landmarks for proper positioning. They don't see a properly dressed field until their games. Our JV and freshman teams played the whole year on a field that wasn't legal as the pole vault and long jump area ran right up next to the field. The fact that the hash marks on the north side of the field were 1 yard outside the upright while on the south side were 8 1/2 yards away seemed of little importance as referees were always looking for a place with grass to set the ball for play.

That quality of practice conditions definitely leads to safer game nights. I understand injuries still happen, and there is evidence to be found on either side stating the safety of grass or turf. Just keep in mind that those grass fields are usually meticulously maintained and all those studies were done in division 1 and NFL stadiums. Not quite the same findings they would get at Silke.

Lastly, the Silke complex will be a light for the community for years to come and level the playing field Springfield. Our best years are ahead of us!

Thank you

Frank Geske

Sent from my iPhone

From: Jon Bridges <jonathan.bridges@springfield.k12.or.us>
Date: Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 7:43 PM
To: Audrea Shelley <audrea.shelley@springfield.k12.or.us>
Subject: Comment for School Board Meeting

To the Springfield School Board,

Thank you for your time in considering this comment in support of replacing the current natural grass field at Silke Field with artificial turf. As the director of bands at Springfield High School for the last 6.5 years, I am well acquainted with how the current field impacts our ability to provide students with the safest, cleanest, and most accessible options to pursue what they love in their educational supports. Currently, I have to plan rehearsal time on the field around mowing schedules, line painting schedules, weather, and field conditions. Over the course of a season, this generally means I am able to rehearse in the stadium about 2 days prior to our first half time performance (or roughly 2 hours of total time on the field). A turf field removes at least 3 of those obstacles and will allow me to offer a wider range of marching experiences for my students without having to worry about ruining shoes, ankles, or instruments in the mud pit that becomes midfield or the sideline. It will also offer us other options to serve the community at events like graduation or even the possibility of hosting marching band competitions where our central location will be an asset to schools who otherwise would have to travel to Grants Pass, Hillsboro, or Washington. In summary, the construction of an artificial turf field is not just a win for our sport teams, but also my co-curricular program.

Thank you for your time, and please feel free to reach out with any questions,

Jon Bridges

Director of Bands and Mariachi del Sol

Springfield High School

541-744-4395

Scott Gray

Thurston

Grayscott444@yahoo.com (808)557-4208

Turf Field

Vote "Yes" for Artificial Turf for Springfield High/Thurston High

Reasoning:

1. Revenue growth- Both venues will or should be able to rent out facilities to outside organizations (creating revenue)
2. Due to lighting constraints with our current situations at both high schools (in winter and fall), teams from various sports/affiliations (kid sports, club teams, etc.) will benefit from more practice time, resulting in more advanced preparation and possibly aligning with parental work schedules, (night practices). The current fields (under lights) cannot be utilized at all times of day due to being wet, slippery, and muddy.
3. Over the past ten years, statistically, there has been mixed data supporting both natural and synthetic turf installation long-term pricing and maintenance fees, along with which projects are less expensive in the 10-20year average. It's debatable.
4. But in Oregon, Lane County is in the Top 11 in the wettest counties, justifying the decision to proceed with a turf product.

Thank you again

Scott

Martie Steigleder

From: James March
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 5:18 PM
To: public comment
Subject: Multi-use Turf Field

Board Members,

I would like express my wholehearted support for the installation of a multi-use turf field at Springfield high school. As the track and field coach for the past 16 years, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of providing our students with top-notch training facilities and equipment. I have made it my mission to ensure that our athletes have access to the best resources available. From obtaining world class training and timing equipment to various improvements to Silke Field, we have spared no effort in fostering an environment where excellence is not just encouraged but expected.

The addition of a multi-use turf field would not only elevate our athletic programs but also instill a sense of pride and ownership among our students. A turf field represents more than just a playing surface; it symbolizes our commitment to providing our athletes with the tools they need to succeed both on and off the field.

A multi-use turf field would serve as a beacon of pride for our entire school community. It would not only be a source of pride for our athletes but also a welcoming space for visitors and athletes from other schools. It is an investment in our collective identity and a testament to our dedication to excellence in all endeavors.

I firmly believe that the installation of a multi-use turf field aligns perfectly with our values as a school and as a community. It is a tangible expression of our commitment to fostering a culture of excellence, inclusivity, and pride in ownership.

Board members, thank you for considering this important initiative.

James March
Springfield High School
Head Track/XC coach, Social Science Teacher

Please consider this email as confidential.

Hi, my name is Fredrick Kruse. As a PE teacher at Springfield High School. A turf field would be invaluable towards the health and lifetime wellness of the students. Currently, the PE program at Springfield can have up to three PE classes running at one time (about 125 students) with no access to a safe and sanitary outdoor surface.

The Springfield high school football field is often waterlogged and covered in geese feces. This makes the field unusable and unsanitary. Because of the large number of geese who use the football field every night, the track surrounding the football field is also left covered in geese feces as well. The mounds and volume of geese fecal matter left on the track can also make the track unusable and unsanitary for PE classes. While it is nice to be a haven for the local wildlife, the sanitation issue is a liability waiting to happen. According to the CDC, many germs such as E. coli, Salmonella, Campylobacter, and Cryptosporidium can be found in geese feces. The PE department does have access to one other field behind the Springfield High School gym, but this field is often muddy and covered in geese feces as well.

This reality has severely limited what the Springfield high school PE department can actively do with students. Sports and activities that encourage a lifetime of fitness such as football, soccer, and ultimate frisbee are often relegated to indoor units because the fields are unusable and unsafe.

Turfing the football field at Springfield High School would eliminate the geese problem and help provide a safe, all-weather, and sanitary environment for high school PE students to participate and fall in love with physical activities.

As a track and field coach at Springfield High School, and someone who has been around the Springfield High School track and field program for the past twenty years, turfing the football field would be a game changer. It would not only help the track team, but potentially other Springfield High School teams gain a competitive edge in this current age of high school athletics.

Shin splints are painful often the number one injury during track season. Because of our current facilities, an athlete suffering from shin splints can be limited to no more than stretching if the pain is too much. Having a soft and consistent field would give Springfield athletes a safe and sanitary surface to continue to work out on, without inflaming their injuries more. I believe the ability to increase repetitions while decreasing the chance of injury is critical in giving our students the ability to succeed at the high school level and beyond.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter. I hope you find it helpful and insightful.

Sincerely,
Fredrick Kruse