

River Valley Stadium Project

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

August 8, 2021



1. Why is the School District of River Valley considering an upgrade to the field in the River Valley High School Stadium?

The base cost for necessary repairs on, above, and below the track and current field playing surface is \$900,000. A synthetic turf field would allow for expanded use and would include all levels of soccer. This upgrade could allow the field to be used five times more (approximately 250 times compared to the current 50) than it is currently being used at an estimated cost of \$1,500,000. Based upon this information, the District feels that the return on investment (usage compared to cost) will result in a more inclusive stadium benefiting many more students, activities and athletic groups.

2. What is the overall goal of this project?

That every River Valley student in physical education at River Valley, along with River Valley soccer players, football players, band members, cheer/dance team members get to consistently 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 two potential solutions to fix these issues with the stadium.

Solution 1: Field Renovation (Repair & Restore Current Grass Field Surface): Address drainage issues under the asphalt base of the track, address track resurfacing, and reconstruct current natural grass field with proper drainage (connected to Village of Spring Green storm sewer) and irrigation.

a. Solution 1 Total Project Estimated Cost: \$900,000

Solution 2: Installation of Synthetic Turf Field: Address drainage issues under the asphalt base of the track, address track resurfacing, and install a synthetic turf, multi-purpose playing surface.

b. Solution 2 Total Project Estimated Cost: \$1.50 million

4. What solution is the district planning on endorsing?

The Budget/ERC committee on 6/28/2021 has recommended that the District cover \$750,000 of the total cost for Solution 2, while the other half (\$750,000) come from generous community donations.

5. How many current teams use the grass field and how many additional students will be impacted by the upgrade to a synthetic turf field?

Below is a table with the number of uses our current (grass) field has, in comparison to the potential number of uses a synthetic turf field could host.

	Grass/Current Field	Synthetic Turf
High School Football Games/Scrimmages	10	10 (could host Level 4 game)
Middle School Football Games	8	8
Youth Football Games	10	10
High School Boys Soccer Games	0	11
High School Girls Soccer Games	0	11
Youth Soccer Games	0	48
Marching Band Practices	12	30
Physical Education Lessons	Dependent Upon Field Condition	Unlimited
High School Football Practices	10	44
Middle School Football Practices	0	0
Youth Football Practices	0	0
High School Boys Soccer Practices	0	35
High School Girls Soccer Practices	0	35
Youth Soccer Practices	0	Dependent Upon Schedule
High School Football 7 on 7	0	5
	<u>50</u>	<u>247</u>

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

1. Field Renovation: Address track drainage under the asphalt base, address track resurfacing, and reconstruct current natural grass field with proper drainage (connected to Village of Spring Green storm sewer) and irrigation.
 - a. Approximate Cost: \$900,000
 - i. Advantages
 1. Would provide a consistent playing surface and a resurfaced track by fixing all underlying issues currently causing drainage problems.
 2. Cost is less than a synthetic turf field.
 - ii. Disadvantages
 1. Field will still be subject to weather related issues and use.

2. Field is primarily for football use, with some use by marching band and physical education classes – dependent upon weather/use.
2. Synthetic Turf Field: Same project as #1, but instead of natural grass the District would install a synthetic turf, multi-purpose playing surface.
 - a. Approximate Cost: \$1.50 million
 - i. Advantages
 1. Would provide a dependable, consistent playing surface and fix all underlying issues causing current problems.
 2. Usage could increase dramatically.
 - a. Soccer teams could practice and play games in this stadium. Current soccer field does not have permanent bleachers or bathrooms.
 3. Can be used for practice and games when other field spaces are too wet, helping to preserve other district green space.
 - ii. Disadvantages
 1. Cost is more than option 1.
 2. Soccer field on this surface would be 205 feet wide.
 - a. This is more than minimum necessary (195 feet), but less than current field (225 feet).
 3. Synthetic Turf would need to be replaced in 12-15 years.

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

Recently, the Lodi School District completed a similar project. They reached out to Sauk Prairie Healthcare to research these questions. Their research 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 or inconsistent grass surface.

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, which the District does not have. 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 long term maintenance/capital improvements plan. This expense, would be similar to a roof being replaced and would be added to the maintenance/capital improvements plan. In addition, the District would seek corporate sponsorships to help offset these costs.

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. 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. Currently, the District spends about \$2,250 on field paint for the football and soccer fields. In addition, it takes a member of the custodial team about 5-7 hours to line/paint the football field each time and about 4 hours each time the soccer field needs to be lined/painted. Last, the annual mowing costs of the football field are about \$3,750. The estimated maintenance costs of a synthetic field would be equal to our current maintenance costs on the grass field.

12. 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.

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

Please refer to question/answer #5 for a projected use of a synthetic turf field. The field's use could increase by 5 times the current usage.

14. How will donors be recognized?

There is a plan for a donor wall to be established in the entry by the existing ticket booth for donors who contribute at the following levels:

Donation Level Recognition

- \$150,000
 - Stadium Naming Rights for the life of the turf, approximately 12-15 years. Name located at Entrance to Stadium and Name located on Press Box. ONE available.
- \$75,000
 - Field Naming Rights for the life of the turf, approximately 12-15 years. Field Name located on home sideline. THREE available: Football Field, Soccer Pitch, Track
- \$50,000
 - Includes business logo placed on a sideline for the life of the turf, approximately 12-15 years. FOUR available.
- \$30,000-\$49,999 – “MVP”
- \$20,000-\$29,999 – “All American”
- \$10,000-\$19,999 – “All State”
- \$5,000-\$9,999 – “All Area”

- \$1,000-\$4,999 – “All Conference”
- \$500-\$999 – “Varsity”
- \$250 - \$499 – “Letter Winner”
- Donations below \$250 are greatly appreciated but will not be recognized on permanent display.

15. What does “Naming Rights” mean?

Naming rights would give someone the opportunity to rename the stadium and fields after their business or family for a 12-15 year period. The expected life of the synthetic turf field is 12-15 years.

16. What will happen to donated money if the district does not meet its fundraising goal?

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.

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.

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

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