

# Athletic Field Program

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Athletic Field Program facilitates the development, maintenance, and replacement of athletic fields throughout the County. This program also includes Synthetic Turf fields, field lighting replacement and other sports programs.

### LINK TO THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan has established a number of objectives and policies in order to:

- ✓ Develop and maintain athletic fields at both Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and Fairfax County Park Authority sites throughout the County.

Source: 2017 Edition of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, Area IV (amended through 10-24-2017) and the Policy Plan Element, Parks and Recreation (amended through 3-4-2014), as amended.

## PROGRAM INITIATIVES

In recent years, the Board of Supervisors has identified the maintenance and development of athletic fields at Fairfax County Schools and Park Authority properties as a critical requirement. In FY 2006, the Board approved the implementation of an Athletic Services Fee, dedicated primarily for the enhancement of maintenance of school athletic fields, the implementation of synthetic turf fields and custodial support for indoor sports organizations. A significant General Fund contribution to athletic field maintenance is approved annually as well.

The maintenance of athletic fields includes: field lighting, fencing, irrigation, dugout covers, infield dirt, aeration and seeding. Maintenance efforts also include a consistent mowing frequency schedule, and a maintenance schedule for recently completed irrigation and lighting projects. Athletic field maintenance is funded by the General Fund and is supplemented by an Athletic Services Fee. Revenue from this fee is dedicated primarily for enhanced maintenance of school athletic fields, the implementation of synthetic turf fields and custodial support for indoor sports organizations. These maintenance efforts improve safety standards, enhance playing conditions and increase user satisfaction. Maintenance of athletic fields generally includes: mowing approximately 29 times per year, trash removal, fertilization, pest management, infield maintenance and grooming, field lighting, fencing, irrigation, aeration, seeding and the provision of amenities and repairs. Funding in the amount of \$7,610,338 has been included for the athletic field maintenance and sports program in FY 2019. This level of funding is supported by a General Fund transfer of \$6,135,338 and revenue generated from the Athletic Services Fee in the amount of \$1,475,000. Of the Athletic Services Fee total, \$800,000 will be dedicated to the turf field replacement program, \$275,000 will be dedicated to custodial support for indoor sports organizations, \$250,000 will be dedicated to maintenance of school athletic fields, \$75,000 will be dedicated to synthetic turf field development, and \$75,000 will partially fund the Youth Sports Scholarship Program. The Athletic Service Fee revenue is based a rate of \$5.50 per participant per season and \$15 for tournament team fees for diamond field users and indoor gym users and a rate of \$8.00 per participant per season and \$50 tournament team fees for rectangular fields users. The increase for rectangular field users is specifically to pay for the turf field replacement fund.





In recent years, the County has been involved in implementation of synthetic turf fields. Synthetic turf fields allow for year-round use in most weather increasing playable hours, provide playing surfaces and conditions that are similar to grass fields, and eliminate the need for watering, mowing, and fertilizing. There are a total of 91 synthetic turf fields throughout the County, of which 24 are FCPS stadium fields and 67 are County park/FCPS non-stadium fields. There are over 130,000 youth and adult participants (duplicated number) annually on rectangular fields that benefit from turf fields. Increased annual funding has been provide to begin to address the growing need for field replacement and

to establish a 10-year replacement schedule. The first turf field replacement efforts began in 2013 for the first two fields developed. Most manufacturers provide an eight-year warranty for a properly maintained synthetic turf field; however, it is a generally accepted practice to assume a life expectancy of the synthetic turf field of no more than 10 years. The current projected replacement cost per field is approximately \$450,000.

## CURRENT PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

- 1. Athletic Fields - FCPS Lighting (Countywide):** This project provides for the continuous upgrades associated with athletic field lighting at Fairfax County Public Schools middle and high schools. Funding supports the replacement and repair schedule for existing lighting systems. The school system's Office of Design and Construction Services ensures lighting standards are maintained. Funding supports ongoing installation, replacement and repair projects, and is coordinated by the DNCS. Funding of \$250,000 for this project has been included in FY 2019. This project is supported entirely by the General Fund.
- 2. Athletic Field Maintenance (Parks) (Countywide):** This is a continuing project to provide maintenance to athletic fields managed by FCPA. Funding is included for continued personnel and operating costs associated with the program including: electricity for lighted facilities, maintenance of lighting systems, water for irrigated facilities, irrigation system maintenance, minor ball field repairs and capital equipment. This program is designed to improve playing conditions and to achieve safety standards. Funding of \$2,700,000 for this project has been included in FY 2019. This project is supported entirely by the General Fund.
- 3. Athletic Field - Park Maintenance at FCPS (Countywide):** This is a continuing project to provide for the mowing of athletic fields at County public elementary and middle schools. This project is designed to improve the quality of the school fields playing condition, improve safety standards and increase user satisfaction. The program provides for mowing of the fields, as well as the aeration and over-seeding of the fields. These services are provided by the FCPA, through established service contracts. Funding of \$860,338 for this project has been included in FY 2019. This project is supported entirely by the General Fund.
- 4. Athletic Services Fee - Diamond Field Maintenance (Countywide):** This is a continuing project to supplement the level of maintenance by FCPA on athletic fields at FCPS public school sites, by providing a consistent mowing frequency schedule for high school diamond fields, as well as diamond field infield preparation twice a week for elementary, middle and high school fields. This project also provides funding for post-season field treatment standards and a maintenance schedule for recently completed irrigation and lighting projects on FCPS fields. Funding of \$1,000,000 for this project has been included in FY 2019. This project is supported by \$250,000 in the Athletic Services Fee revenue and \$750,000 from the General Fund.
- 5. Athletic Services Fee - Turf Field Development (Countywide):** This is a continuing project to facilitate the development of synthetic turf fields at Park and school sites. Funding of \$75,000 for this project has been included in FY 2019. This project, supported entirely by the Athletic Services Fee, was previously funded in the amount of \$200,000; however, funding of \$125,000 was redirected to the Turf Field Replacement Program beginning FY 2017.

6. **Joint County and School Turf Fields Program** (Countywide): This program supports a Joint County School initiative to develop new synthetic turf fields throughout the County. Fields are chosen through a review process based on the need in the community, projected community use and the field location and amenities. This 3-Year program was based on the findings of the Synthetic Turf Field Task Force in its July 2013 report at which time it was estimated that \$12.0 million would be required to fund fifteen synthetic turf fields at the eight remaining high schools in the County that did not currently have turf fields. The most recent project estimate is \$14.1 million based on actual costs incurred and the bids that have been received for the seven schools. An amount of \$9.0 million was required to supplement community funding and proffer funding. The County and Schools each contributed \$1.5 million at the FY 2013, FY 2014 and FY 2015 Carryover Reviews, completing the 3-year program.
7. **Athletic Services Fee - Turf Field Replacement** (Countywide): This project provides for the establishment of a turf field replacement program. There are a total of 91 synthetic turf fields throughout the County, of which 24 are FCPS fields and 67 are County fields. Increased funding is needed to begin to address the growing need for field replacement and to establish a replacement schedule over the next 10 years. The current projected replacement cost per field is approximately \$450,000. Current funding levels will not support the replacement needs and additional funding is required to continue to plan for the gradual replacement of turf fields as they reach the end of their useful life. Staff has developed a 10-year replacement plan for the current inventory which requires revenue from the proposed increase to the Athletic Fee and additional General Fund support. An amount of \$2,250,000 is included for the turf field replacement program in FY 2019, including \$800,000 from the Athletic Services Fee revenue and \$1,450,000 from the General Fund.
8. **Athletic Services Fee - Custodial Support** (Countywide): This is a continuing project to provide custodial support for indoor gyms used by community-based indoor athletic organizations during their assigned primary scheduling season. Funding of \$275,000 for this project has been included in FY 2019. This project is supported entirely by the Athletic Services Fee.
9. **Athletic Services Fee - Sports Scholarships** (Countywide): The Youth Sports Scholarship program provides support to youth from low-income families who want to participate in community-based sports programs. Funding of \$150,000 for this project is included in FY 2019, including \$75,000 based on revenue generated from the Athletic Services Fee, and \$75,000 supported by the General Fund.
10. **Athletic Fields - APRT Amenity Maintenance** (Countywide): This project provides \$50,000 annually to support routine maintenance of girls' softball field amenities on select Fairfax County Public School sites. These amenities, such as dugouts, fencing and irrigation systems, were added or constructed by the County based on recommendations by the citizen-led Action Plan Review Team (APRT) in order to reduce disparities in the quality of fields assigned to boys' baseball and girls' softball organizations. Routine maintenance is necessary both to maintain equity and to ensure safety. This project is supported by the General Fund.

**PROJECT COST SUMMARIES  
ATHLETIC FIELD PROGRAM  
(\$000's)**

Project Title Project Number	Source of Funds	Budgeted or Expended Through FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	Total FY2019- FY2023	Total FY2024- FY2028	Total Project Estimate
1 Athletic Fields - FCPS Lighting PR-000082	G	<b>C</b>	<b>\$250</b>	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$2,500
2 Athletic Field Maintenance (Parks) 2G51-002-000	G	<b>C</b>	<b>\$2,700</b>	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$13,500	\$13,500	\$27,000
3 Athletic Field - Park Maintenance at FCPS 2G51-001-000	G	<b>C</b>	<b>\$860</b>	\$860	\$860	\$860	\$860	\$4,300	\$4,300	\$8,600
4 Athletic Services Fee - Diamond Field Maint. 2G51-003-000	G, X	<b>C</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$10,000
5 Athletic Services Fee - Turf Field Develop. PR-000080	X	<b>C</b>	<b>\$75</b>	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$375	\$375	\$750
6 Joint County and School Turf Field Pgm PR-000096	G	<b>9,000</b>						\$0		\$9,000
7 Athletic Services Fee - Turf Field Replace. PR-000097	G, X	<b>C</b>	<b>\$2,250</b>	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$11,250	\$11,250	\$22,500
8 Athletic Services Fee - Custodial Support 2G79-219-000	X	<b>C</b>	<b>\$275</b>	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$275	\$1,375	\$1,375	\$2,750
9 Athletic Services Fee - Sports Scholarships 2G79-221-000	G, X	<b>C</b>	<b>\$150</b>	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$750	\$750	\$1,500
10 Athletic Fields - APRT Amenity Maintenance 2G79-220-000	G	<b>C</b>	<b>\$50</b>	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$250	\$250	\$500
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$9,000</b>	\$7,610	\$7,610	\$7,610	\$7,610	\$38,050	\$38,050	\$85,100

Notes: Numbers in **bold italics** represent funded amounts. A "C" in the 'Budgeted or Expended' column denotes a continuing project.

Key: Source of Funds  
 B Bonds  
 G General Fund  
 S State  
 F Federal  
 X Other  
 U Undetermined



1742