



## Finance and Programs & Services Committees Agenda

### City of Newton In City Council

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

The Finance and Programs & Services Committees will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://newtonma.gov.zoom.us/j/87395338505> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the Meeting ID: 873 9533 8505.

#### Items Scheduled for Discussion:

#### Referred to Programs and Services and Finance Committees

#359-23

**Appropriate \$2,400,000 for Synthetic Turf Carpet at Newton North High School's Dickinson Field**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of two-million four-hundred thousand dollars (\$2,400,000) from June 30, 2023 Certified Free Cash (001-3240) for synthetic turf carpet and infill materials, installation, and construction oversight to replace the synthetic turf field at Newton North High School's Dickinson Field and to resurface the perimeter track.

#### Referred to Programs & Services and Finance Committees

#155-23(2)

**Appropriate \$50,000 to a Parks, Recreation & Culture Account**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from acct # 5503R602-590001 B.A.A. Marathon to a Parks, Recreation & Culture Account to fund a "Heartbreak Hill" banner.

**Programs & Services Held 6-1-1 (Councilor Ryan Opposed) (Councilor Noel Abstained) on 06/21/23**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rebecca Walker Grossman, Chair  
Josh Krintzman, Chair

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The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the City of Newton's ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: [jfairley@newtonma.gov](mailto:jfairley@newtonma.gov) or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.



# City of Newton, Massachusetts

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Office of the Mayor

2023 OCT 30 PM 4:10

CITY CLERK  
NEWTON, MA. 02459

**#359-23**

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RUTHANNE FULLER  
MAYOR

October 27, 2023

Honorable City Council  
Newton City Hall  
1000 Commonwealth Avenue  
Newton Centre, MA 02459

## Councillors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of two-million four-hundred thousand dollars (\$2,400,000) in June 30, 2023 Certified Free Cash (0001-3240) for synthetic turf carpet and infill materials, installation, and construction oversight to replace the synthetic turf field at Newton North High School's Dickinson Field and to resurface the perimeter track.

The age and condition of these critical playing surfaces at Newton North requires replacement as they have exceeded their expected life of ten years (currently 13 years old). The field is requiring more frequent maintenance and repair and is delivering a diminished quality for our athletes. With timely City Council funding approval, we will be able to order the products by the end 2023 under favorable contract pricing. This timeline will also allow for removal of the existing turf and infill and installation of new products this coming summer of 2024. A summer installation will minimize scheduling impacts to our Newton North athletics programs and youth sport leagues. Summer construction operations also will not interfere with school traffic and activities.

Last year the City Council approved funds for the early engineering services so that we could plan for this replacement and resurfacing work during the summer of 2024. A team from Parks, Recreation & Culture (PRC) and Newton Public Schools met with product manufacturers to evaluate synthetic turf replacement options, visited neighboring communities to evaluate products in person, held community meetings to explain the project process and answer questions, and performed site evaluation work. (The Newton North field will have the same turf and infill materials as at the two Newton South fields.)

As part of PRC's community outreach, the project team presented at multiple City Council Programs and Services Committee meetings. During these meetings, the team discussed the need to retain synthetic turf playing fields at the current high school locations in order to meet the needs of our school and youth sport athletic programs. We have completed the replacement of both fields at NSHS. With the newly installed light system at the NNHS field, the value of a synthetic turf playing surface at this location has grown greater given the additional playing time that is possible without concern for field degradation.

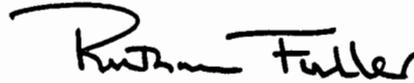
**#359-23**

Please see the attached memo from Commissioner of Parks, Recreation & Culture Nicole Banks on the request for funding. The memo discusses in detail the process for evaluating turf and infill options, minimizing environmental impacts, and maximizing player safety.

You can find more about the synthetic turf replacement project and other PRC projects on the department's project website at [www.newtonma.gov/parkprojects](http://www.newtonma.gov/parkprojects).

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ruthanne Fuller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Department  
246 Dudley Road, Newton, MA 02459  
Office: (617) 796-1500  
[parks@newtonma.gov](mailto:parks@newtonma.gov)  
*Nicole Banks, Commissioner*



October 30, 2023

Re: Request for Funding for NNHS Synthetic Turf Field Replacement and Track Resurfacing

Dear Mayor Fuller,

I write to respectfully request that you submit a docket item to our Honorable City Council for the sum of \$2,400,000. These funds will cover the cost of turf carpet and infill materials, installation, and construction oversight to replace the synthetic turf field at Newton North High School's Dickinson Field and to resurface its perimeter track. The age and condition of these amenities requires replacement promptly as they have exceeded their expected life and are requiring more frequent maintenance and repair. The condition, even with additional maintenance, is resulting in a diminished quality of play for our athletes. With timely City Council funding approval, we will be able to order products so that we may remove existing turf and infill and install new products during the summer to minimize scheduling impacts to our school athletics programs and youth sports leagues. Construction operations will also not interfere with school traffic and activities.

Last year the City Council approved funds for engineering services so that we could plan for this replacement and resurfacing work. We have met with product manufacturers to evaluate synthetic turf replacement options, visited neighboring communities to evaluate products in person, held community engagement meetings to explain the project process and answer questions, and performed site evaluation work. As we have installed these products recently on NSHS's fields, we have been able to evaluate the products against expectations and we, along with the field users, are beyond pleased with the outcome.

As part of our community outreach effort, the project team presented before the Council's Programs and Services Committee meeting multiple times over the past year and half to discuss the planning for the replacement of our 3 synthetic turf fields. During these meetings we discussed the need to retain synthetic turf playing fields at these locations in order to meet the ever-growing demands of our school and youth sport athletic programs. To maximize the availability of these fields and reduce overuse of our natural grass fields, the City has installed light systems at each of these 3 fields over the past 3 years.

We are aware of the importance of selecting products that minimize negative impacts to our environment. We have also explained how these fields do the work that would require multiple grass fields, which would require multiple acres of new land, potential clearing of trees, and the attendant grass maintenance work required including significant fertilizer product applications, irrigation, mowing, aeration, seeding, and field maintenance and weather closures. To be clear, we value and cherish our grass fields, we believe that meeting the needs of our youth and adult athletes requires a mix of synthetic turf and natural grass playing fields, particularly at sites where our playing fields double as open park space.

About the products:

The products were evaluated on longevity, maintenance, player safety, environmental impacts, and playability.

For the turf carpet, we have selected Shaw Sports Turf. We installed this product at our 2 fields at NSHS this past summer. The carpet material is a combination of slit film and monofilament fibers. This is the most appropriate turf carpet for multipurpose fields. The product is manufactured in GA. The company can recycle existing turf carpets at end of life to produce composite benches and tables for parks and planks for trails in open space areas. The existing infill material is being replaced with a better product that is free of contaminants that are in the existing infill. Our new infill material, as is installed at our NSHS fields, will be TPE (Thermoplastic Elastomer) pellets mixed with sand. This is a manufactured product that is not sourced from used tires, sneakers, or other products. It retains less heat than the existing crumb rubber infill material currently at our high schools. TPE is also more stable and less prone to migrate in a flooding event. This property also makes TPE ideal from a reduced maintenance perspective, as it requires less replenishing than many other alternative infill materials in the market. The material is reusable and can be transferred to a new field when a carpet is replaced in the future. The material properties of TPE negate the need for a shock pad and does not require irrigating. The infill material is viewed favorably by our athletic directors and representatives from our youth soccer league. It does not freeze like other alternative infills, thus resulting in near year round playability.

Respectfully,



Nicole Banks  
Commissioner of Parks, Recreation & Culture

Dear Councilors,

On Tuesday we will be presenting on the proposed cross-street banner for the Boston Marathon and other City-events. In front of 360 Commonwealth Ave. is a light pole made of concrete. The plan will be to replace this light pole with a new black aluminum pole and to place an new light pole directly across the street. We will tie a ribbon on the pole to mark it for you should you wish to visit the site.

If you would like to see the what the new poles look like, we have the same style on Commonwealth Ave. at Baumont St. I have a picture below to help visualize.

Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving,

Nicole Banks  
Commissioner of Parks, Recreation & Culture

