



RUTHANNE FULLER
MAYOR

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December 27, 2022

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

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting the use of \$3,240,000 in FY2022 Free Cash for synthetic turf carpet and infill materials, installation, and construction oversight to replace the two (2) synthetic turf fields at Newton South High School and to resurface the perimeter track at the school's Winkler Stadium.

The age and condition of these critical playing field surfaces requires replacement promptly as they have exceeded their expected life of ten years (both are 13 years old). Both fields are requiring more frequent maintenance and repair and are delivering a diminished quality for our athletes. With timely City Council funding approval, we will be able to order the products in early 2023 so that we may remove the existing turf and infill and install new products this coming summer of 2023. A summer installation will minimize scheduling impacts to our Newton South athletics programs and youth sport leagues. Summer construction operations also will not interfere with school traffic and activities.

Earlier this year the City Council approved funds for the early engineering services so that we could plan for this replacement and resurfacing work. A team from Parks, Recreation & Culture (PRC) and Newton Public Schools has 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, performed site evaluation work, and to begin the preparation of bid documents.

As part of PRC's community outreach, the project team presented before the Council's November 9th Programs and Services Committee meeting. During this meeting the team 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. The team has also presented the project to the Conservation Commission. The team has also submitted a Notice of Intent to that Commission ([application](#) and [plans](#)) and received an Order of Conditions for the project.

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 [here](#).

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 initial 'R'.

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor