

Outdoor Athletic Facilities Task Force



Findings and Recommendations



December 9, 2008

History

In 2003, Mounds View Public Schools appointed a task force to create a five to 10 year plan for outdoor athletic facilities at five secondary school sites. Cunningham Group Architecture and Anderson-Johnson Associates were hired to facilitate the task force and produced a comprehensive review of District outdoor athletic facilities. In addition, the task force was charged with creating recommendations for a five to 10 year outdoor athletic facilities plan. That report was completed and presented to the School Board on June 28, 2004 and has come to be known as the Cunningham Report. The Cunningham Report provides an overview of all existing District outdoor athletic facilities, current needs, trends in outdoor athletic facilities and recommendations for each site in a priority fashion for the following five to 10 year period. District administration reported to the School Board in 2007 that the majority of the recommendations in the Cunningham Report had been completed. As a result, in early 2008, the School Board asked District Administration to form a new task force to assess the current state of District outdoor athletic facilities and to establish a new five to 10 year plan. In addition, the task force was charged with identifying recent construction or upgrades to facilities with revenue source identified.



Overview

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Mounds View Public Schools Outdoor Athletic Facilities Task Force was charged with reviewing existing outdoor athletic facilities and providing advice and recommendations in the creation of a 10 year plan for the maintenance and replacement/creation of appropriate outdoor athletic facilities. The committee identified the following outcomes to guide its work:

- Creation of a revised and updated 10 year outdoor facilities plan
- Articulated rationale supporting each area of the plan and recommended projects
- Provide a history of facilities with responsibility for costs and improvements
- Specification of which facilities and associated equipment and/or amenities are funded by the District and which are funded by fundraising or booster groups
- Identification of current trends in outdoor athletic facilities
- Assurance that any recommendations generated are consistent with District, Athletic Conference, State and Federal Guidelines

PROJECT APPROACH

The initial focus of the task force was on the condition of existing District outdoor athletic facilities. Meetings were held during June of 2008 with coaches of outdoor athletic teams at both Irondale High School and Mounds View High School. These meetings were conducted by the Director of Operations along with the Activities Directors at both schools. Also in attendance were the Facilities and Maintenance Manager and Supervisor. Both long-term and short-term issues were identified through these meetings. The landscape architect and planning firm of Sanders, Wachter, Bergly, Inc. consulted on this project. Visits were then conducted by a small segment of the committee at District outdoor athletic facilities. Through these meetings and tours, a preliminary assessment of the state of outdoor athletic facilities, as well as priorities for future maintenance was created. This draft was then disseminated to committee members representing coaches, boosters and municipal representatives for a review and comment. Meetings were then offered and held for those members of the committee who wanted to discuss. After this stage, the final outdoor athletic facility plan was finalized for recommendation to the School Board.

Executive Summary



The committee finds that the Mounds View Schools outdoor athletic facilities are safe and commensurate with acceptable outdoor athletic facilities in other Minnesota school districts. In addition, the outdoor athletic facilities are using state of the art technologies that result in longer lasting durability and greater volume of use. All outdoor athletic programs are currently having their facility needs met within the limited existing space at District schools. There is a need for more storage at Irondale High School and Mounds View High School.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The committee was chaired by John Ward, director of human resources and operations; Doug Austin, Irondale activities director and Bob Madison, Mounds View High School activities director. All members of the following subgroups were provided an opportunity for input: coaches of all outdoor athletic activities and band, local municipalities, booster groups, community members who have history of interest and philanthropy with district outdoor athletic facilities.

Findings

CURRENT USE OF OUTDOOR ATHLETIC FACILITIES

The high schools have a large variety of activities and a large need for field space and storage areas. This need cannot fully be met by the footprint of the high school sites themselves. Therefore, the high schools consistently utilize middle school outdoor facilities as well as city or county parks to meet their needs. The use of outdoor athletic facilities on district property is also made available to community groups who sponsor athletic programs such as football, rugby, lacrosse, soccer, softball and baseball. Much of the District’s current outdoor athletic facilities have been provided or enhanced through donated time and dollars on behalf of District residents. What follows is a summary of the various outdoor facilities, which activities utilize them and, where known, how they were funded. Note that records regarding funding date from 1995 to present. Most of the District’s facilities are older than 1995 and it can be assumed that the original cost of the facility was borne by the District.



Stadium:

Physical Education, Football,
Soccer, Lacrosse and Track



Irondale Stadium	District Expense	Donated Dollars	Total
Turf/Track	\$874,000	\$290,000	\$1,164,000
Lights	11,000	0	11,000
Bleachers	5,000	61,997	71,997
Goal Posts	12,020	0	12,020
Goals	525	0	525
Scoreboard	0	420	420
Concessions	0	0	0
Fencing	670	0	670
Throw Area			
Hurdles	2,202		2,202
Jump Area	0	18,025	18,025
Total	\$905,417	\$376,442	\$1,281,859

High School Practice Fields

Edgewood Fields	District Expense	Donated Dollars	Total
Turf	\$150,838	0	\$150,838
New Goal Posts	4,489	0	4,489
Total	\$155,327		\$155,327

Highview Field	District Expense	Donated Dollars	Total
Turf	\$180,155	0	\$180,155

Stadium:

Physical Education, Football,
Soccer, Lacrosse and Track



Mustang Stadium	District Expense	Donated Dollars	Total
Turf/Track	\$800,000	\$0	\$ 800,000
Lights/Electric	87,204	1,100,000*	1,187,204
Scoreboard	0	10,500	10,500
Pressbox	0	3,000	3,000
Fencing	59,600	0	59,600
Goal Posts	20,000	0	20,000
Throw Area			
Hurdles			
Jump Area			
Total	\$966,804	\$1,113,500	\$2,080,304

*Includes lights, concession area, toilets, bleachers, additional fencing, goals, goal posts and mustang monument

Mounds View Practice Fields	District Expense	Donated Dollars	Total
Sand based	\$800,000		\$800,000

Bobby Theisen Park- Arden Hills

Southpointe Park - North Oaks

Shoreview Commons- Shoreview

Phy Ed. & Tennis



Irondale Courts	District Expense	Donated Dollars	Total
Surface	\$147,100		\$147,100
Nets	1,086		1,086
Fencing			
New Courts	20,000	\$20,000	40,000
Total	\$168,186	\$20,000	\$188,186

Edgewood Courts	District Expense	Donated Dollars	Total
Surface	\$155,838		\$155,838
Nets			
Fencing			



Mounds View Courts	District Expense	Donated Dollars	Total
Surface	\$121,500		\$121,500
Nets	3,000		3,000
Total	\$124,500		\$124,500

Chippewa Courts	District Expense	Donated Dollars	Total
Surface	\$150,500		\$150,500
Nets	0	\$3,000	3,000
Fencing	10,400		10,400
Benches	0	3,000	3,000
Total	\$160,900	\$6,000	\$166,900

Baseball



Irondale Field	District Expense	Donated Dollars	Total
Turf	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000
Scoreboard	4,905	0	4,905
Bleachers	321	0	321
Fencing	0	15,000	15,000
Dugouts/Misc.	0	60,000	60,000
Total	\$5,226	\$100,000	\$105,226

Irondale Practice Fields	District Expense	Donated Dollars	Total
	\$11,000	\$4,000	\$15,000

Edgewood Fields

Mounds View Field	District Expense	Donated Dollars	Total
Turf	\$153,000	\$0	\$153,000
Fencing	13,570	0	13,570
Dugouts	4,359	0	4,359
Bullpen			
Batting Cages		14,000	14,000
Scoreboard*			
Electrical*			
Storage*			
Total	\$170,929	\$14,000	\$184,929

*Proposed for upgrades pending city approval.

McCollough Park – Shoreview



Irondale High School – Softball

Irondale Field 1994 through 2007 All donated time and materials by boosters
Total of \$58,000

Mounds View High School – Softball

Rice Creek Park – Shoreview pursuant to a 1999 agreement whereby the District contributed \$150,000 to the construction for use of the park though 2014 with an option for an additional 10 years.

Irondale High School – Nordic Skiing

Utilizes Long Lake Park in Ramsey County through an agreement that the team participants will be responsible for grooming of trails and upkeep. Students and boosters donate their time to see that the terms of the agreement are satisfied.

Mounds View High School – Nordic Skiing

Como Park and other sites as needed

Irondale High School – Alpine Skiing

Wild Mountain Ski Area

Mounds View High School – Alpine Skiing

Wild Mountain Ski Area

Irondale High School – Golf

	District Expense	Donated Dollars	Total
National Youth Golf Course (NYGC) - Blaine			
Boys	\$2,500	0	\$2,500
Girls	2,500	0	2,500
Total	\$5,000		\$5,000

Mounds View High School – Golf

	District Expense	Donated Dollars	Total
Manitou Ridge-Girls	\$2,500	0	\$2,500
Tanners Brook-Boys	2,500	0	2,500
Total	\$5,000		\$5,000

Facilities Use Summary Charts

Outdoor Facility Task Force Irondale Information

Teams	Coach	Game Facility	Training site(s)	Levels	Maintenance	Comments	Last Worked On	Next Scheduled Work
Cross Country B & G	Chris Torvi (b) Jesse Abing (g)	Off – Site	Community Roads, Irondale Track	V & JV	BGT's	Needing a warm up area.		
Football	Ben Geisler	Irondale Stadium	Irondale Stadium Irondale Fields	9, b-squad, JV, Varsity	BGT's	All levels play games on the stadium field and practice fields.	Turf was installed in 2004	2019
B. Soccer	Scott Krohn (b)	Irondale Stadium	Irondale Fields	9, b-squad, JV, Varsity	BGT's	Use of Edgewood alternates yearly between Boys and Girls	Turf was installed in 2004	2019
G. Soccer	Bill Mauricio (g)	Irondale Stadium	EW Fields				Sink spots just off field.	
G. Tennis	Mike Walseth	Irondale and EW Courts	Irondale and EW Courts	c-squad, JV, Varsity	BGT's		Resurfaced in 2006 at Irondale and EW	2009 – color coat every three years
B. Tennis	Mike Walseth	Irondale and EW Courts	Irondale and EW Courts					
Baseball	Chris Fink	Irondale Field	Irondale Fields 9 th grade at EW	9, b-squad, JV, Varsity	BGT's			
Lacrosse B & G	TBD (b) TBD (g)	Irondale Stadium	Irondale Stadium	JV, V	BGT's		Same as FB and Soccer	Same as FB and Soccer
Softball	Melinda Johnson	Irondale Fields	Irondale Fields 9 th grade at EW	9, b-squad, JV, Varsity	BGT's	Cannot put backstop by baseball batting cage as it cuts into FB practice area.		
Track B & G	Tom Rodefeld (b) Tom Franta (g)	Irondale Track	Irondale Track	9, JV, Varsity	BGT's	No swing gate. Some cracks in track. Shot put and discus area. Garbage dump.	Latex Binder was applied in 2005	
Nordic Ski	Chris Torvi	Varies	Long Lake Park	9 through 12	Coach/Athletes	No Warm up area Fence issue near shot area	Annually by team and parent boosters	
Alpine Ski	Jonathan Grandell	Varies	Wild Mountain	9 through 12	None			
Golf B & G	Jim Olson – G Ron Olson - B	Varies Varies		9 through 12	None			

Outdoor Facility Task Force Mounds View Information

Teams	Coach	Game Facility	Training site(s)	Levels	Maintenance	Comments	Last Worked On	Next Scheduled Work
Cross Country B & G	Ross Fleming (b) Tess Koepcke (g)	Off – Site	Community Roads, Chippewa course, Track	V & JV	Chippewa and MV Track – MV BGT's	Chippewa is used for the Mustang invite.		
Football	Jim Galvin	Mustang Stadium	Mustang Stadium & Upper Fields	9, b-squad, JV, Varsity	MV-BGT's	All levels play games on the stadium field and practice fields. Varsity on stadium field only.	2004	2019
B. Soccer	Joe Voeller	Mustang Stadium	Upper field, stadium field, and Southpointe	9, b-squad, JV, Varsity	Southpointe? Lower and Upper fields – MV BGT's	Varsity practices at Southpointe when not on stadium field. Lower levels on upper fields for transportation reasons	2004	2019
G. Soccer	Sharon Swallen	Mustang Stadium	Upper Field, upper fields, Shoreview Commons, Bobby Theisen	9, b-squad, JV, Varsity	Bobby T. Shoreview Commons			
G. Tennis	Mike Cartwright	Mounds View Courts	MV courts, Bethel, Northwestern, Chippewa	c-squad, JV, Varsity	Bethel MV and Chippewa-MV BGT's	Northwestern removing their courts.	MV and Chippewa Resurfaced in 2007	2017
Baseball	Mark Downey	Kohler Meadows McCullough (9, b-squad)	McCullough, Kohler Meadows, Upper Fields	9, b-squad, JV, Varsity	MV BGT's McCullough	New field at Mounds View in 09	Currently	
Lacrosse B & G	Marc Jacobson (b) Kristen Opilinski (g)	Mustang Stadium	Mustang Stadium Shamrock	JV, V	MV – BGT's	We try to let the upper fields heel in the spring.		
Softball	Frank Roth	Rice Creek Fields	Rice Creek Fields	9, b-squad, JV, Varsity	Shoreview and BGT's	Northwestern removing their courts.		
Track B & G	Ross Fleming (b) Aaron Redman & Scott Ylkanen (g)	Mounds View Track	Mounds View Track	9, JV, Varsity	MV - BGTs	Jumps and throws area is in need of major work.		
Nordic Ski	John Swain	Varies	Como Park	9 through 12	None			
Alpine Ski	Mike Auge	Varies	Wild Mountain	9 through 12	None	Coach Buses		
B. Golf	Chris O'Connel	Varies	Tanners Brook	9-12	None			
G. Golf	Paul Bailey	Varies	Manitou Ridge	9-12	None			

Trends

An examination of recent trends in outdoor athletic facilities yielded four prominent themes.

1. Synthetic turf fields are the preferred surface for new construction or renovation at larger public high schools in Minnesota and nation-wide.
2. Sand based fields are recommended for all athletic facilities not using synthetic turf in terms of grass practice or game facilities
3. Mondo track surfaces are currently state of the art. However, currently they are cost prohibitive for our district. A Mondo track surface would cost the District \$400,000 each whereas a latex or polyurethane track is priced around \$200,000 each.
4. Expectations regarding game day experience have changed. This affects potential improvements to concessions, press boxes, ticket booths, etc.

Summary Findings

1. Mounds View Public Schools outdoor athletic facilities 10-year plan, created in 2003, has been realized in every area with the exception of the track throw and jump area at Mounds View High School.
2. Mounds View Public Schools outdoor athletic facilities are state of the art in the areas of synthetic turf and grass field subsoil.
3. Mounds View Public Schools provide a state of the art base playing surface for all its outdoor athletic programs. Ongoing maintenance is necessary to keep these facilities in optimum condition.
4. Mounds View Public Schools outdoor athletic facilities have been greatly enhanced and improved through the efforts of community members who have donated over \$1.6 million from 1986 to present and through the generous gift of their time to work on fields or fundraise.
5. Mounds View Public Schools have an identified shortage of storage space for its outdoor athletic or fine arts activities.
6. Storage is the number one priority for outdoor athletic facilities.
7. The track throw and jump area at Mounds View requires a renovation to a sand based grass field.
8. The track surface at Irondale is latex based and will need replacement within the next 10 years.
9. The track surface at Mounds View is a polyurethane material that may need replacement within the next 10 years.

10. The Synthetic Field Turf at both high school stadiums has tremendously alleviated reliance and use of the grass fields.
11. The Synthetic Field Turf at both high schools will need to be replaced within the next 10 to 15 years.

Recommendations

The following facility recommendations are made by school site and are for large scale projects only. They constitute the recommended ten year plan for a period running from 2009 to 2019. Please note that as part of this recommended plan it is assumed that District maintenance will continue to work with the activities directors, coaches, and the public to make sure that routine maintenance work is carried out to ensure a safe environment for students and the public. Examples include annual inspection of bleachers, turf care, fencing replacement, adequate irrigation, mowing, etc. Cost for this type of maintenance work is estimated at \$100,000 annually. This includes employee time, machinery upkeep and replacement costs.



1. Project: Storage – Renovation of existing storage building at stadium. Creation of two bay garage for use as career and technical education classroom adjacent to the existing storage building.

Rationale: The number of sports and activities leave the site short of usable all-weather storage space.

Funding: This project is estimated at approximately \$200,000 dollars and would be funded through capital resources.

Timeline: As soon as appropriate funding for project can be identified.

2. Project: Replacement of latex track surface with either a Mondo track surface or a polyurethane track surface.

Rationale: Current track surface will no longer be safe within the next five years.

Funding: Alternative Facilities Revenue.

Timeline: By 2015

3. Project: Replacement of synthetic turf on stadium field.

Rationale: Turf's life expectancy will be reached.

Funding: Alternative Facilities Revenue

Timeline: By 2020



1. Project: Storage – Building of a small storage shed near the stadium

Rationale: The number of sports and activities leave the site short of usable all-weather storage space.

Funding: This project is estimated at approximately \$75,000 dollars and would be funded through capital resources.

Timeline: As soon as appropriate funding for project can be identified.

2. Project: Replace turf in track jump and throw area and install a sand peat based grass turf. Resurface jump area.

Rationale: This item was identified as a need and was not addressed in the original Cunningham Report.

Funding: This project is estimated at \$125,000 and would be funded through capital resources.

Timeline: As soon as appropriate funding for project can be identified.

3. Project: Replace track surface with Mondo or polyurethane surface

Rationale: Current track surface will no longer be safe within the next 12 years.

Funding: Alternative Facilities

Timeline: By 2020

4. Project: Replace synthetic turf on stadium field

Rationale: Turf's life expectancy will be reached.

Funding: Alternative Facilities

Timeline: By 2020