



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2016.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Loudoun

Program Title: Athletic Field Initiative

Program Category: Parks & Recreation

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Steve Torpy

Title: Director

Department: Parks, Recreation and Community Services

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Telephone: 703-777-0343 Website: loudoun.gov/prcs

Email: steve.torpy@loudoun.gov

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: Steve Torpy

Title: Director, Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

Signature: 



Loudoun County, Virginia

www.loudoun.gov/prcs

Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services

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Loudoun County Athletic Field Initiative – Challenges & Solutions

As the population of Loudoun County has continued to grow, so has the demand for recreational ballfields, as it has in other localities. When this demand surpassed the inventory held by the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, public school fields were added to the inventory. Over time, the overwhelming majority of athletic fields that were being used for recreational use were located at public school sites; however, these school fields were originally designed for physical education curriculum, not competitive league play.

In collaboration, the Loudoun County School Board Committee, Loudoun County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board and county staff reviewed the shared use of school fields, developed recommendations to increase usage and examined the feasibility of taking over turf management of all (200) elementary and middle school fields. The Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board and department staff conducted an audit to develop an inventory of all existing county and school athletic facilities, usage rates and memorandums of understanding with sports leagues. They created a prioritized list of improvements, cost estimates and recommendations for maximizing field use.

It was determined that a total of 70 fields were in unplayable (3) or poor (67) condition, and the condition of these fields would worsen without intervention. This inventory is also expected to grow; by 2018, as many as 55 more fields are projected to be built at parks and schools. Since the department assumes responsibility for maintenance and renovation once the fields are constructed, a long-term, systematic solution was necessary. Any renovation work on the fields would have to be

balanced with the almost constant use of the fields by athletic leagues and schools. If multiple fields were worked on simultaneously, or within a short period of time, too many fields would be removed from an already tight field roster, with negative consequences on leagues and school sports activities.

The purpose of the athletic field initiative was to improve turf conditions on all middle and elementary school fields programmed by the department for recreational league use. A hybrid model was proposed, which uses contractual services and staff resources to address current and future needs. The first part of the initiative created a turf management program to responsibly and effectively improve soil conditions at every field. The second part established a three-year renovation component to add irrigation, improved topsoil and sod to the 25 fields in poorest condition.

The turf renovation crew, dedicated to renovating and maintaining the athletic fields, as well as supervising related contractual work, consists of 3.0 FTEs, a working supervisor and two equipment operators, who perform most of the work involved with rough and fined grading, laying topsoil and installing sod. Private contractors drill wells, design and install irrigation systems and supplement the installation of sod. Using this internal crew with proven expertise, combined with contractual work, will result in the total renovation of seven to ten fields per year, with the initial 25 fields renovated in 2½-3½ years.

The model recommended by staff meets the short term goal of renovating 25 fields (in poorest condition) in less than five years and establishes the foundation for a long-term, systematic solution for improving all 70 fields, those that may deteriorate in the coming years, and new fields coming on line. These combined resources and work pace provide the least disruption to school and community field use and ensure steady and continuous improvement to field conditions. The

addition of 3.0 FTEs ensures that existing department maintenance workload is not negatively impacted by the renovations.

Part-one of the initiative was funded by an addition to the department's maintenance division annual base budget for contracting turf services. Part two was funded through a \$2.1 million bond referendum for the Capital Improvement Program, as well as a mid-year budget enhancement for three new positions and equipment needed for renovations. (Funding required for the FTEs, equipment and associated costs was approximately \$395,000 for the first year and \$267,000 for subsequent fiscal years.)

The partnership between the department and schools was a major asset to the program's success. PRCS staff communicated directly and frequently with school principals and administrative staff. Work was completed throughout the year, sometimes during school hours. The processes, communication and relationships that were developed helped ensure success. Overall turf quality has improved exponentially throughout the inventory. A new turf care standard of 2.5 was developed where regular field fertilization, PH soil balance, seeding and aeration is conducted by department staff and mowing is handled by the schools. This ongoing higher level of service will elicit significantly higher quality turf and fields on a consistent basis. Eighteen of the 25 fields have been renovated, ensuring safe and desirable playing surfaces. School staff and recreational users have voiced satisfaction with the "impressive" results.

The renovation program has remained on schedule and within budget. The last seven fields will be completed by November 2016, and another potential 25 fields have been identified.

Loudoun County Athletic Field Initiative – Overview

The athletic field initiative, supported by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors in 2012, developed a strong partnership and collaboration among the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Loudoun County Public Schools and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board.

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Athletic Field Initiative – Brief Summary

Along with the population growth in Loudoun County, the demand for ballfields grew, as it has in other localities. When this demand surpassed the inventory held by the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, public school fields were added to the inventory. Over time, the overwhelming majority of athletic fields that were being used for recreational use were located at public school sites. These school fields were originally designed for physical education curriculum, not competitive league play.

The “athletic field initiative” was enacted to address school-field playing conditions. The purpose of this innovative program was to improve turf conditions on all (200) middle and elementary school fields programmed by the department for recreational league use. The first part of the initiative created a turf management program to responsibly and effectively improve soil conditions at every field. The second part established a three-year renovation component to add irrigation, improved topsoil and sod to the 25 fields in poorest condition.

Field renovations have been completed at 18 of 25 targeted elementary schools, and the department has taken over turf management at all elementary and middle schools in the county. The initiative’s goal of increasing playability, decreasing the impact of weather-related field closures, and enhancing overall safety of the fields has been achieved through partnering and collaboration among Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Loudoun County Public Schools and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Board.

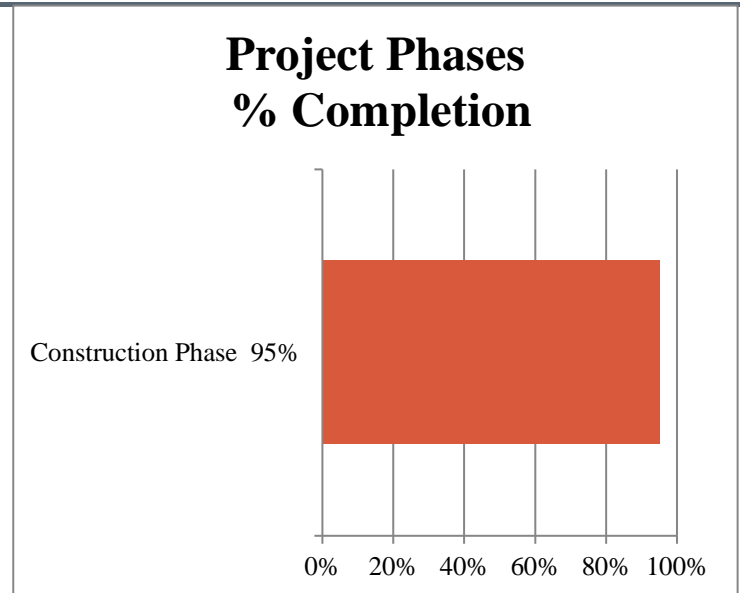


PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name	ATHLETIC FIELD IMPROVEMENTS
Project Description	This project funds turf and irrigation upgrades to 25 athletic fields at Elementary and Middle school sites throughout the County to improve playing field conditions.
Project Type	Parks, Recreation and Culture Facilities
Project Phase Funding	Construction Phase
Program Department Contact	Steve Torpy, PRCS 703.777.0345 Steve.Torpy@loudoun.gov
Project Contact	Mark Novak, PRCS 703.737.8992 Mark.Novak@loudoun.gov
Election District	Countywide
Supervisor	Countywide

PROJECT BUDGET & SCHEDULE

Budget	
Design	\$0
Construction	\$2,100,000
FFE	\$0
Land	\$0
Proffered Land	\$0
Total Project Cost:	\$2,100,000
Project Phase Progress:	
Land, Easement, ROW Phase N/A	N/A
Design Phase N/A	N/A
Construction Phase 95%	95%
FFE Phase	N/A
Construction Phase Completion:	Fall 2016
Project Revenue(s)	
General Obligation Bonds	\$2,100,000
Total Revenue	\$2,100,000



Project Status Update:

In this quarter, renovation work started on the Countryside Elementary School field. In the next quarter, renovation work will be completed at Countryside Elementary School and work will begin on the Arcola Elementary School fields. Fields at the last two remaining schools, Arcola and Liberty Elementary Schools will be renovated in Summer 2016 and Fall 2016, respectively. Since a well cannot be installed at Blue Ridge Middle School, a request will be made to move funds to another school. These are the last of the 25 field renovations funded as part of this project. Since there will be no irrigation at Liberty Elementary School, the renovation work cannot occur until Fall 2016 in order to preserve the field. Therefore, project completion is expeted by Fall 2016.

School Field Before



Another example



Seneca Ridge Middle School – Under Construction



Seneca Ridge Middle School – Under Construction



Seneca Ridge Middle School – Under Construction



Seneca Ridge Middle School – Under Construction



Belmont Station Elementary - Completed Field



Belmont Station Elementary - Completed Field

