

# Turf Sports Field

## OVERVIEW

In every phase of the development, and approval process of the TTSM park there has been a plan to build a multi-sport playing field at the park. The TTSM plan approved by both the Town, and Village of Rhinebeck almost a decade ago included detailed drawings of an artificial turf playing field. Since the approval of that plan (2013?) The Rhinebeck Soccer League has been raising funds through donations and sponsorships to help fund the development of the field. The Rhinebeck Park Fund through donations and its wonderful Porchfest event has also been raising money dedicated to the field's creation. The work of the board, league, park fund and many other community members has finally "moved the ball" toward our final goal of building this wonderful resource for safe outdoor activity and community. We hope to break ground this spring 2022!

## What This Playing Field Bring to the Park

- Community
- Health
- Youth and adult active recreation
- Families

## Turf vs. Grass

Why artificial turf?

- **Use:** Turf holds up. The aim of the field at the park is to provide a safe, quality surface that can hold up to all the demands of multiple teams and sports activities. A single natural grass field can't survive this kind of traffic. In order to accommodate the needs of local sports leagues, and non league play the town would need **5-7 grass fields** that could be rotated to protect the grass from over use, and death. This is cost prohibitive to build, and more importantly maintain in a safe playable condition.

- **Climate:** Changes in drought patterns, and especially the intensity of rain events have made maintaining a grass field in playable condition more and more difficult. Fields need to rest, and time to dry after large rain events and when played on wet, significant damage can happen to the structure of the grasses. This kind of damage requires expensive repair, and long rest periods for reseeding and recovery. These difficulties make maintaining a heavily trafficked grass field beyond the resources of most municipalities and clubs.
- Here is a table comparing some of the negative impacts of both natural and artificial turf systems. Please understand a playable natural grass surface will **require** fertilization, herbicide (broad leaf such as 24D), and insecticide applications to stand up to the kind of traffic and use required of a sports field.

<b>Artificial Turf</b>	<b>Natural Grass fields (x5)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Equipment Carbon emissions-</b> Once per season grooming (can be electric cart powered), weekly mowing of grass buffer area of less than .25 acres</li> <li>● <b>Chemical Application-</b> none</li> <li>● <b>Water Use-</b> occasional, if daytime temperatures remain very high for prolonged periods to cool surface for players</li> <li>● <b>Surface materials-</b> nylon or polypropylene blades, and polyester cord backing. Made from partially recycled materials, and then either reused or recycled at the end of its sports field life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Equipment Carbon emissions-</b> twice weekly mowing, Semi-annual fertilizer, insecticide, and herbicide applications. Dethatching and aeration every other year- for an area of more than 7 acres.</li> <li>● <b>Chemical Applications-</b>Bi-annual herbicide, insecticide, and fertilizer application.</li> <li>● <b>Water use-</b>1”-2” of water on every field every week. That is 54,308 gallons per field per week without rain(380,156 for all fields). Watering can be less during rainy weeks.</li> </ul>

Please read the following document from the NYS dept of health on artificial sports field risks:

[https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/synthetic\\_turf/crumb-rubber\\_infilled/fact\\_sheet.htm](https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/synthetic_turf/crumb-rubber_infilled/fact_sheet.htm)

## Current Committed Funding

- Town of Rhinebeck Bond and capital projects fund 1 million
- Rhinebeck Soccer league
  - Field Development Funds 80k
  - Michael DeCola 100k
  - Kibel Foundation 50k
  - Michael Cassano and Google match 20k
  - R M (anonymous) 10K
  - RSL Match solicitation \$2500(as of 1/24 24hrs old!)

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- Rhinebeck Park Fund/Porchfest 90K

### **Scope of Project Phase One**

This spring we will begin construction on the field and fenced area with an estimated completion of late spring early summer. Lighting will require a separate permit and that design, and fundraising will begin during construction.

### **Additional Considerations**

- The field will require an annual maintenance of the “carpet” and infill. This service can/should be outsourced and will be paid by rental fees.
- The Town and local sports leagues will need to work together to schedule, administrate, and collect compensation for field use.