

FAQ REGARDING LANDSCAPE UPGRADES

1) What funds are available for capital improvements?

LGUSD has two primary sources of funding for capital projects including developer fees and deferred maintenance funds.

2) How can developer fees be used?

Per Edcode 17620 District is authorized to levy fees on any construction within the District boundaries to pay for construction and reconstruction of school facilities. Construction or reconstruction does not include regular maintenance, routine repair or deferred maintenance and these are explicitly precluded in the ed code.

3) What are the pros and cons of artificial turf?

Please see summary from Verde Design [Pros and Cons](#)

4) Can some of the disadvantages of artificial turf be mitigated?

- a) Heat-Artificial turf during humid and extremely hot days can be significantly warmer than natural turf. While this can be generally mitigated through watering of the artificial turf, using natural infill materials and ensuring users are following hydration and rest recommendations for the weather condition does address the major concerns. However, there will still likely remain some heat differences.
- b) Maintenance-Can drought tolerant varieties of natural turf reduce the maintenance and watering needs of the fields. Verde Design has reviewed and has recommended new drainage, sprinklers and controllers that will improve the water efficiency of the new surface. We have been working with Waterfluence since 2018 to determine whether we can improve the water and maintenance of our existing irrigation. Our staff has voluntarily reduced our watering to help eliminate wet conditions for our PE staff and to meet conservation efforts. However, any new natural grass surface, including drought tolerant varieties will require additional watering than is currently being used at the sites in order to be maintained in a reasonable condition.
- c) Environmental concerns-While information on manufacturing processes and materials used are not fully available, the major concern on possible environmental toxins are related to the infill materials. The infill materials proposed will only be natural materials. Typically no additional chemicals are added during installation or during maintenance activities. Additionally the sourcing and recycling of the padding and turf materials can be specified to be recyclable and only reputable manufacturers and installers will be considered during our bidding process.
- d) Injury-With appropriate shock pads, there is no material difference between natural surfaces and artificial turf related to injuries. Over time, the condition of

the artificial turf often remains more consistent and therefore, ankle and tripping injuries are less common on artificial turf.

5) What materials are being considered for the corridors and fields?

We are considering a variety of materials based on the water, sun, path of travel and durability concerns of each area. The architect has provided a variety of alternatives to address individual site conditions. In areas that have heavy traffic and poor drainage, pathways using pavers, colored concrete and decomposed granite have been suggested. Other areas will have low maintenance drought tolerant ground covers. Most importantly there has been an emphasis on providing a variety of flexible outdoor spaces so the staff and students can determine which areas best meet their programmatic needs at any given time.

6) Are there other local schools using these type of artificial turf fields? These are fields completed by Verde Design. There are other local fields that can be toured if more information is requested.

The SJUSD sites below are cork or olive pit infills:

Allen at Steinbeck ES, San Jose SD

Almaden ES, San Jose SD

Anne Darling ES, San Jose SD

Empire Gardens ES, San Jose SD

Gardner ES, San Jose SD

Grant ES, San Jose SD

Horace Mann ES, San Jose SD

Lowell ES, San Jose SD

Washington ES, San Jose SD

Beach Park ES, Foster City (other ES sites are getting synthetic turf in next 1-2 years) – organic infill