

Letter for Parkdale field 2023.pdf

Uploaded by: Francisco Lopez

Position: FAV

Good Morning,

Student story:

<https://phspawprint.org/1325/sports/parkdale-athletes-struggle-due-to-inadequate-field/>

Nothing is more important than the health and safety of our players. Every year, not long after fall sports begins, our field quickly becomes a hardened dirt field, or dust bowl, as many call it. There are also numerous holes where players have seriously injured themselves. There are metal pipes sticking out from the ground on both sides of the field and there is no drainage system of any kind. As soccer and football games can get very physical with tackles, sliding, etc. falling on such a hard surface increases the probability of serious injuries, including but not limited to concussions. Having turf will help lessen the impact suffered when falling on the surface, thus better protecting our athletes. It is our responsibility to ensure our players are able to practice and play games in the safest conditions.

Another way we will benefit from a turf field is in terms of team performance and preparations. Our field constantly takes a beating from all the games, as well as teams practicing simultaneously. With lights and a more adequate field, football (varsity and JV) as well as boys and girls soccer (varsity and JV) can each have an appropriate amount of time on the field to themselves without worrying about daylight cutting their practice short or interrupting other sports' practices. All of our teams deserve adequate time to practice, especially as the days get shorter.

A third benefit to upgrading our field falls under Ticket Sales/School Fundraising. Having turf will mean that even in the event of rain, the field is still in good condition to play on. We will not have to cancel games or move them to opponents' home fields because they have turf. We would still be able to host our games and draw in revenue in ticket sales and concessions to further fundraise for our program and students. An upgrade to the field would not only be an investment in our athletic teams, but in Parkdale itself, for many years to come.

We have a passionate student body and athletic programs. The students took it upon themselves to start a social movement a few years ago, but they had no success with getting the county to recognize their very valid concerns.

Any help in working towards getting the turf field would be a huge boost of morale for the entire student body. We have extremely hardworking student-athletes and staff that are trying their best to create a successful athletic experience to help the kids achieve opportunities post high school. Unfortunately the lack of care and commitment to enhance our facilities is counterproductive to the development and well being of our students thus proving to be an adversity when it should be the opposite.

Best Regards,

Francisco Lopez & William Sama













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@Iammord



These are photos of the parkdale field...We would need your help @pgcps @PGParents @nbcwashington @fox5dc @washingtonpost @Sports_PGS @Jose_M_Umana @arelisrhdz to help us get turf. The turf will prevent frequent player injuries and better play.. #turfforparkdale #nomoreinjuries



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SB818 Letter of Support.pdf

Uploaded by: Jodie Kulpa-Eddy

Position: FAV



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Jodie Kulpa-Eddy

COUNCIL MEMBERS
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Faustino Menjivar
Jason W. Papanikolas

March 7, 2023
Senator Guy Guzzone
Chairman, Budget & Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Re: Senate Bill 818 – Support

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 818 (House Bill 313), Establishing the Public School Stadium Grant program.

Incorporated in 1896, the Town of Berwyn Heights is the sixth oldest municipality in Prince George's County, Maryland. Our nearly 3,300 residents live in 1,050 single family homes on 0.65 square miles within the Capital Beltway. Our students are assigned to Berwyn Heights Elementary School, Greenbelt Middle School and Parkdale High School.

We believe physical activity and participating in sports is an important element in helping students across the state recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The link between mental health and the benefit of sports is well-known. I am sure there are many towns like ours that enthusiastically support their local Boys and Girls Club to model and encourage the development of healthy social behaviors.

However, parents have noticed that playing at some locations can be difficult. The field at Parkdale High School is in terrible shape, and apparently there is a 6-inch pipe sticking up out of the ground that the athletes have had to learn to avoid.

We should be making it as easy as possible to access and use these resources, and providing grants to county boards for major renovation or replacement of stadiums for public high schools is a good start. For this reason, I respectfully request a favorable report on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Jodie Kulpa-Eddy,
Mayor, Town of Berwyn Heights