

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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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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