

**Wayland**  
Massachusetts

# Public Information Meeting Natural Grass and Synthetic Turf Field Systems

September 12, 2017

## Introductions

- Gene Bolinger, Weston & Sampson
- Mike Moonan, Weston & Sampson
- Cass Chroust, Weston & Sampson
- Marie Rudiman, Weston & Sampson

## Purpose of Today's Meeting

- Brief update on the Town-wide Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan
- Discuss the pros + cons of natural grass and synthetic turf field systems in light of existing conditions and pressures on Wayland's athletic facilities

## How We Got To Where We Are Today

- Construction of existing high school synthetic turf field: 2007
- Prior studies and recommendations
- 2016 Open Space + Recreation Plan Update
- High School Master Plan
- Town-wide Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan
- Critical needs | town-wide field shortage
- Fall 2017 Town Meeting
- Continuing design, permitting and public outreach process

# The High School Master Plan

- Existing fields and user groups
- Existing conditions of athletic facilities
- Current High School Master Plan draft
- The stadium complex and field

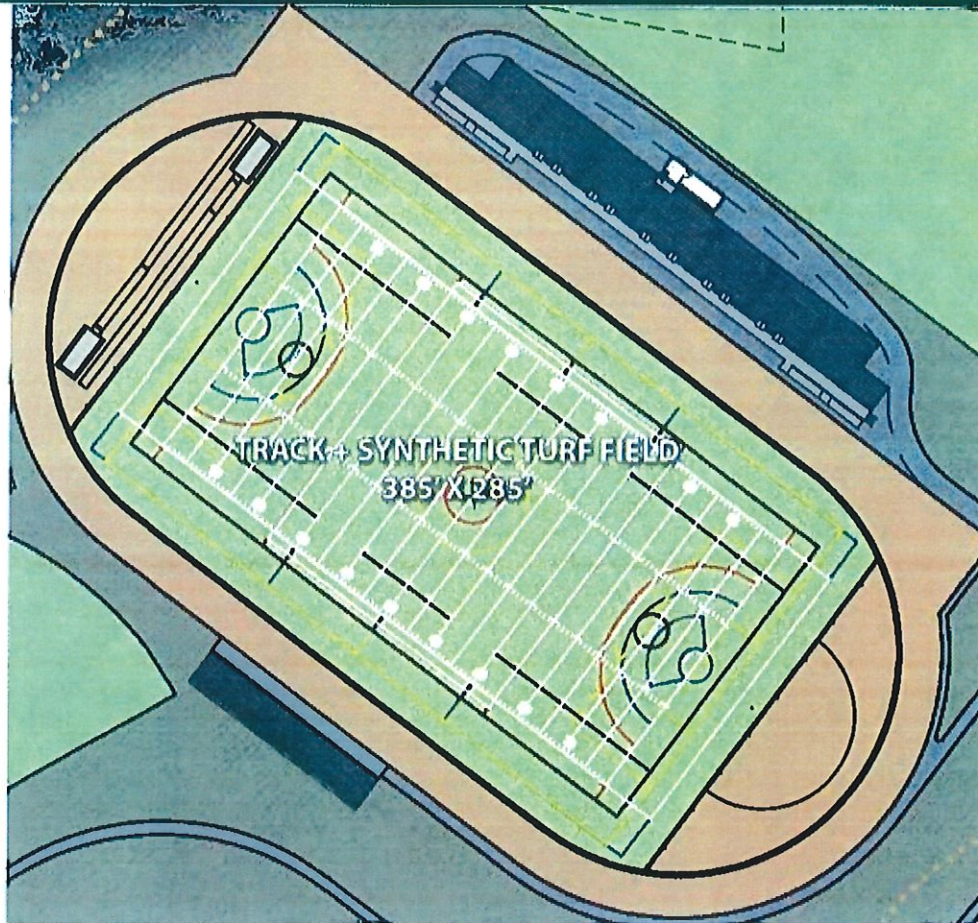
# The High School Master Plan – Existing Fields and All User Groups



# The High School Master Plan – Current Draft of HS Master Plan





# The High School Master Plan – Stadium Complex and Field





# Natural Grass Compared to Synthetic Turf

## NATIVE SOIL ROOTZONE


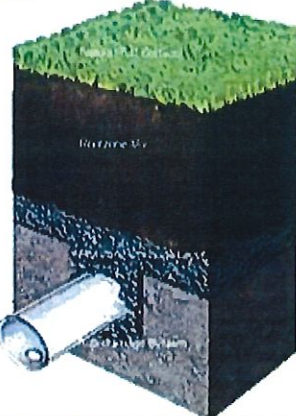



**NATURAL SOILS**

1. **ROOTZONES**  
 2. **SOIL**  
 3. **ROOTZONES**  
 4. **SOIL**  
 5. **ROOTZONES**  
 6. **SOIL**  
 7. **ROOTZONES**  
 8. **SOIL**  
 9. **ROOTZONES**  
 10. **SOIL**

The grass roots are responsible for the soil's structure and stability. The soil is composed of various particles, including sand, silt, and clay, which are held together by organic matter. The roots of the grasses penetrate the soil, creating a network that helps to hold the soil in place and prevent erosion.

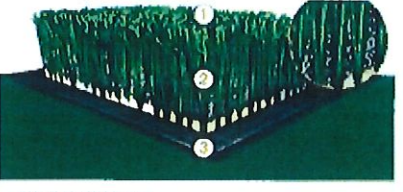
## SAND BASED ROOTZONE

**ROOTZONE MIX**

The sand-based rootzone is a synthetic turf system designed to mimic the natural soil rootzone. It consists of a layer of sand infill between the turf fibers and the backing. The sand infill provides a stable base for the turf fibers and helps to maintain their upright position.

## TURF SYSTEM



**SYNTHETIC TURF**

The synthetic turf system is a man-made product designed to look and feel like natural grass. It consists of several layers: a primary backing, a secondary backing, a sand infill, and the turf fibers themselves.

- 1. FIBER**  
The fibers are responsible for the look and feel of the turf. They are made of a synthetic material, such as polyethylene or polypropylene, and are designed to mimic the appearance and texture of natural grass blades.
- 2. INFILL**  
The infill is a layer of sand or other material that is placed between the fibers and the backing. It provides a stable base for the fibers and helps to maintain their upright position.
- 3. BACKING**  
The backing is a layer of material that is attached to the bottom of the turf. It provides a stable base for the infill and the fibers, and helps to prevent the turf from shifting or tearing.

# Meeting Agenda

- Purpose of today's meeting
- How we got to where we are today
- Town-wide Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan
- High School Master Plan
- Synthetic turf compared to natural grass
- Discussing community concerns
- Recommended field improvement
- Open discussion | Q + A

# Natural Grass Compared to Synthetic Turf

|                                       | Native Soil<br>Natural | Sand Based<br>Natural | Synthetic Turf |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Initial Construction Cost             | \$500,000              | \$750,000             | \$1,100,000    |
| Annual Maintenance Cost               | \$25,000               | \$30,000              | \$10,000       |
| Replacement Cost After 12 Years       | \$85,000               | \$85,000              | \$450,000      |
| Life-Cycle Cost over 12 Years         | \$885,000              | \$1,195,000           | \$1,670,000    |
| Hours of Recommended use per Year     | 100 to 200             | 350 to 600            | 3,000+         |
| Average Cost per Hour of Use per Year | \$369                  | \$166                 | \$46           |

## Conclusions:

\*Figures based on a field with an area of 93,000 square feet (360' x 225')

- Native Soil Field – less playing time available
- Sand Based Natural Field – less playing time available
- Synthetic Turf Field – most playing time available; **BEGIN** alleviating critical field shortages

5  
6-10  
10 x 50

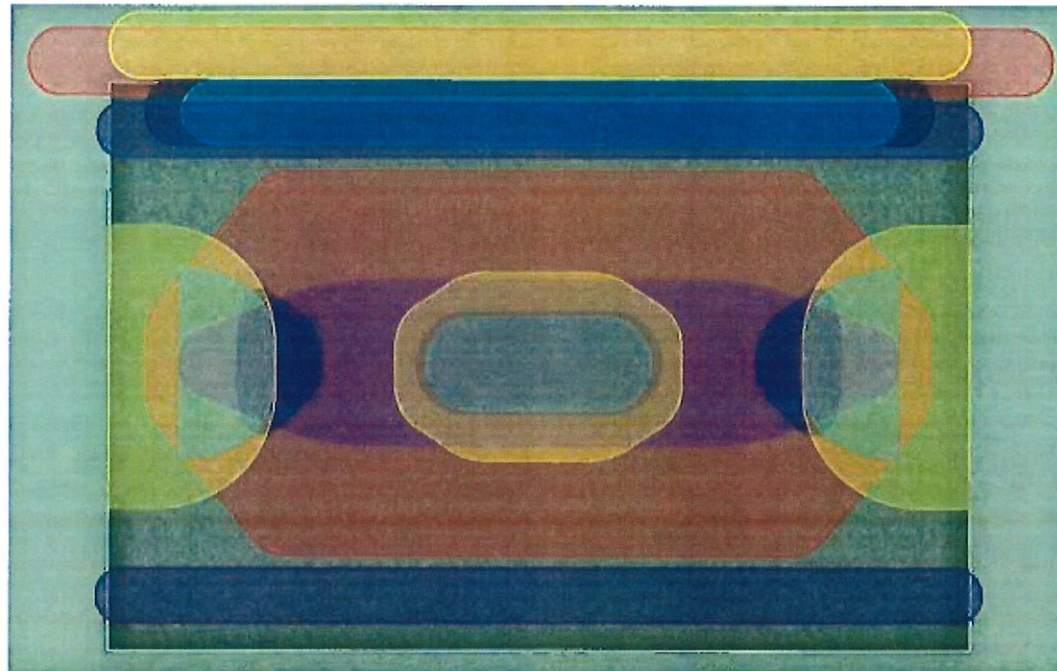
6-10  
10

4 x 5

30 week

# Natural Grass Compared to Synthetic Turf

## NATURAL TURF WEAR



SOCGER **RUGBY** FOOTBALL LACROSSE FIELD HOCKEY

Average Multi-Use Field (240'x360') | [Field Wear & Tear Zone: 62%](#) | [Sideline Wear & Tear Zone: 32,300 SF](#)

# Natural Grass Compared to Synthetic Turf

## Pro's and Cons for Natural Turf Fields:

- Initial Cost - Cheaper to construct and replace/re-sod.
- Playability can be limited by weather.
- Higher maintenance costs
- Limited Playing Time - It is recommended that higher performing natural fields are only played on for 350-600 hours or less per year.
- Environment impacts

## Pro's and Cons for Synthetic Turf Fields:

- Higher Initial Cost – More expensive to build, repair and replace.
- More Playing Time - Can support higher intensity of use and can extend the playing season.
- Less intensive maintenance program
- Fewer Injuries due to even playing surface and consistent G-max performance
- Potential heat hazards

# Natural Grass Compared to Synthetic Turf

## Synthetic Turf Field Infill Options

| Rubber   Plastic                              | Natural   Organic   | Minerals/Coated Minerals        |
|---|---|---------------------------------|
| Wide use, best performance + resiliency       | Organic   | Longest life before replacement |
| Some recycled                                 | Prone to migrating, more maintenance                                      | Less resiliency, harder surface |
| Perception of toxicity                        | Requires shock pad, higher cost   | Requires shock pad, higher cost |
| Heavy metals in trace amounts, not releasable | Moisture required to retain resiliency, can freeze                        | Can be abrasive                 |
| Shock pad required with some products         | May contain pesticides, heavy metals in trace amounts that are releasable |                                 |

## Discussing Community Concerns

### Marie Rudiman (Weston & Sampson)

#### Human Health Risk Assessor/Toxicologist

- Northeastern University | Toxicology
- Experience: 23 Years
- Focus: Evaluate chemicals to determine if they cause an unacceptable/acceptable risk to human health using Federal (EPA) and State (DES/DEP) regulations and guidance

## Discussing Community Concerns

Risk = Exposure x Toxicity

- Bioavailability of chemicals in synthetic turf fields
- We will analyze proposed crumb rubber prior to installation
  - Metals
  - Benzothiazole
  - PAHs, SVOCs
  - VOCs
- Ways we looked at available data to determine if the risks are acceptable
  - Comparison to applicable standards
  - Ingestion of crumb rubber particles (CRP)
  - Dermal contact with CRP and turf bed
  - Inhalation of chemicals that may volatilize from the synthetic field
  - Leaching of chemicals into groundwater
- We will evaluate data we collect from proposed fields in the same manner



# Discussing Community Concerns

## Comparison to Applicable Standards

| Constituent   | Maximum Detected Concentration<br>mg/kg | ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) F3188-16<br>Safety of Toys<br>mg/kg | European Standard EN 71-3 Category III<br>Safety of Toys<br>mg/kg |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| <i>Metals</i> |   |   |   |
| Aluminum      | 68                                      | 70,000  | 70,000  |
| Barium        | 6                                       | 18,750  | 18,750  |
| Boron         | 9                                       | 15,000  | 15,000  |
| Cobalt        | 1                                       | 130   | 130   |
| Copper        | 5                                       | 7,700   | 7,700   |
| Manganese     | 8                                       | 15,000  | 15,000  |
| Nickel        | 2                                       | 930   | 930   |
| Strontium     | 10                                      | 56,000  | 56,000  |
| Titanium      | 5                                       | NA  | NA  |
| Zinc          | 1,080                                   | 46,000  | 46,000  |

# Discussing Community Concerns

## Comparison to Soil Background

| Constituent   | Maximum Detected Concentration in Crumb Rubber mg/kg | Soil Background Concentrations from Massachusetts 90th Percentile mg/kg |
|---------------|--|---|
| <u>Metals</u> |  |   |
| Aluminum      | 68   | 10,000  |
| Antimony      | 4  | 1   |
| Barium        | 6  | 50  |
| Boron         | 9  | Not Determined  |
| Cadmium       | 0.53   | 2   |
| Chromium(III) | 1.7  | 30  |
| Cobalt        | 120  | 4 *   |
| Copper        | 27   | 40  |
| Lead          | 26   | 100   |
| Manganese     | 8  | 300   |
| Molybdenum    | 2  | Not Determined  |
| Nickel        | 34   | 20 *  |
| Strontium     | 10   | Not Determined  |
| Titanium      | 5  | Not Determined  |
| Vanadium      | 0.84   | 30  |
| Zinc          | 14,000   | 100 *   |

# Discussing Community Concerns

## Evaluation Through Risk Assessment

**Risk Assessment is a way to estimate potential health risks from exposure to chemicals**

$$\text{Risk} = \text{Exposure} \times \text{Toxicity}$$

**Conclusion:** Potential Risks are an Acceptable Exposure/Negligible Exposure

- Residential Receptor
- Age 1 through 31 years
- 30 year exposure

# Discussing Community Concerns

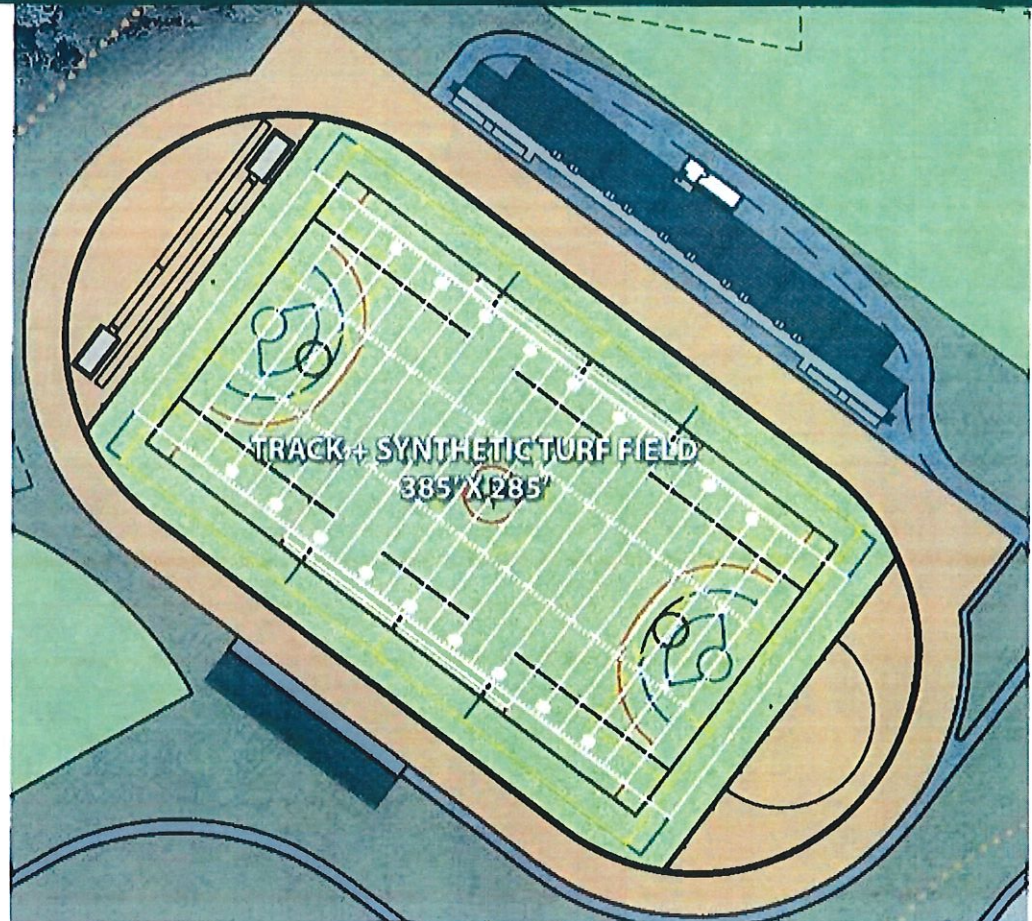
## Conservative Risk Assessment Assumptions

- Maximum detected concentrations were used
- Subchronic exposure (1 yr old) 2 days/wk/30 weeks
- Chronic exposure 3 days/wk/30 weeks
- Exposure through ingestion and dermal contact
- Ingest 100 mg/kg crumb rubber on each day of exposure
- Crumb rubber sticking to face, forearms, hands, lower legs and feet
- Assumes crumb rubber can be ingested like soil and adheres to skin like soil. Reality: far less exposure!

# Recommended Stadium Complex + Field Reconstruction Approach

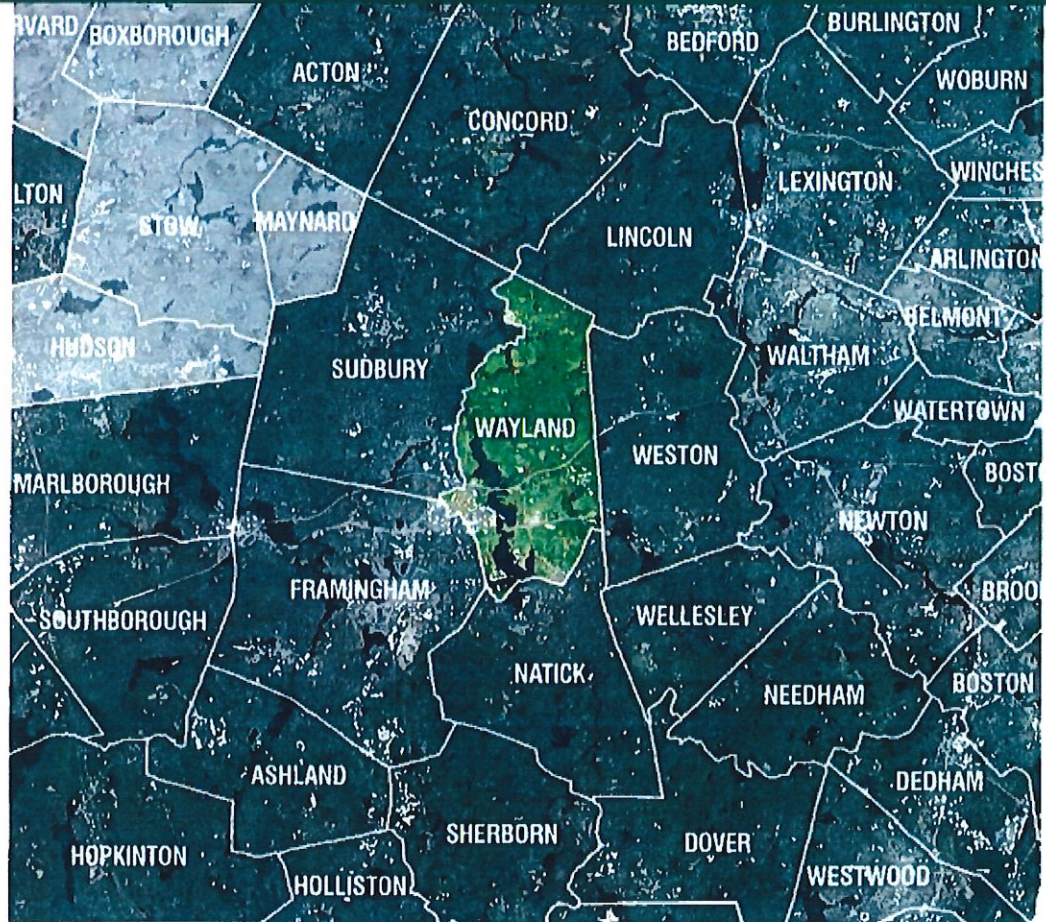
## SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD

- Replace existing turf field system
- Improvements in synthetic turf field systems since last turf system constructed in 2007
- Eases critical rectangular field shortages
- Performs at a high level
- Reduces impacts to other natural turf fields
- Accommodates high impact sports
- Accommodates school and community uses
- Maximizes periods of usage
- Drainage characteristics limit storm impacts to use



# Recommended Stadium Complex + Field Reconstruction Approach

Neighboring Communities  
with Synthetic Turf Fields



Open Discussion | Q + A

**THANK YOU!!**

**Questions | Comments | Discussion**