



Update on a Summer 2006 facilities project
Correcting the deteriorating, unsafe aspects of Panther Stadium. A project that will provide up to 20 times its current usage for students

PANTHER STADIUM PROJECT

A very visible and vital project is underway this summer at Spring Lake Park High School. It's the long-awaited Panther Stadium renovation project to correct a severe drainage problem, to replace an unsafe track, and add a synthetic turf playing field to benefit all students by providing 20 times the field's current usage.

While not a part of the voter-approved bond referendum, this project is a part of the long-range facilities plan recommended by the citizen-staff facilities task force.

- It can no longer be used for any practices or meets, varsity through the elementary schools, including traditional elementary Track & Field Day events.
- Spring Lake Park High School can no longer host track meets until it is corrected. All meets have been "away." All "home" practices have been at the National Sports Center.

THE CONTINUAL PROBLEM . . .



Panther Stadium TRACK

- It is an acknowledged safety hazard. It has been determined to be unsuitable for high school North Suburban Conference use, essentially

eliminating varsity and any other use.

- There are very large cracks on the track surface. It is not safe to run on. Students in physical education classes or student athletes could risk serious injury.
- Because of safety concerns, it was not used in Spring 2005 or Spring 2006.



Panther Stadium DRAINAGE

- Because of the poor drainage, sections of the track surface can be lifted off of the base. Run-off water flows down the banks, onto and under the track, deteriorating track surface and base.
- An attempt to solve the drainage problem was made some years ago. It did not solve the problem. It continued to degrade.

Panther Stadium ATHLETIC FIELD

- The current natural grass field was in very poor condition, needed immediate attention. It had become less safe to play on.
- Rain on a game day can damage the field for the remainder of the season. The grass becomes torn up, disappears, and turns to mud and dirt. Substantial resources are needed to make it "playable."

- Because of its condition, the field has zero to limited use as a high school physical education teaching-learning station on a campus with severely limited green space/practice space available. It cannot be used for practices by football, soccer, baseball, the dance team, cheerleading squads, or community youth athletic groups.
- It has a very uneven, unsafe playing surface.
- The necessary "crown" on the field is no longer there.



THE SUMMER 2006 SOLUTION ...

Panther Stadium TRACK

A new track surface is required to replace the current unusable surface.

Panther Stadium DRAINAGE

The ongoing drainage problem will be corrected prior to replacing the stadium's field and track surfaces.

Panther Stadium ATHLETIC FIELD

The district is installing a multi-purpose synthetic grass surface that will give the field as much as 20 times its current usage. This is the surface of choice for many school districts that are upgrading their facilities because of the many benefits.

Benefits of Synthetic Grass

- With no additional room at the high school complex to add fields, better and more practical use of the space is needed.
- The natural grass field was used 17 hours/week, 8 weeks per year. This is only 136 hours.
- With synthetic grass, the field will have 70 hours per week of potential use, 36 weeks per year, or a total of 2,700 hours. *It will potentially have twenty times its current usage.* It will now be used significantly more and be a far more valuable community asset.
- It will be cost-effective and fiscally responsible. In addition to providing 20 times its current usage, it will provide significant yearly savings on maintenance and repair, mowing, sodding, watering, fertilizing.
- A synthetic field has up to 20 years of usage.

- It will extend the life of the current field north of the school which is currently used for football, baseball, and physical education during the year.
- A turf field will provide more Physical Education teaching opportunities, and provide more practice space for football, soccer, baseball, the dance team, all cheerleading squads, and community youth athletic groups.



PROJECT FUNDING

The need for track and field improvements at Spring Lake Park High School were identified in 2004 and subsequently recommended by a school citizen-staff facilities task force that studied facilities needs for over a year.

The Panther Stadium Improvement Project, now underway, is a part of the district's Facilities Improvement plan, but is not funded with the Bond referendum funds.

Funding is through a State Department-authorized levy proposed by the School Board in September 2005 and approved in December. The timing was necessary in order to be able to begin work on the project in the spring of 2006.

The Minnesota Department of Education authorized District 16 to use levy authority to fund the cost of additional instructional space due to enrollment growth and to provide additional instructional space for physical education classes by replacing the unusable track and athletic fields at Spring Lake Park High school.

The project will be completed by the start of the 2006-07 school year.