

Public Information & Involvement Plan (PIIP)
Implementation Plan

Today's Date: October 22, 2024

Project Name: Artificial Turf Conceptual Study

Revised? Yes No (if yes, skip to the end of the form)

PIIP Phase: (Check one): Design Construction

Administrative Department: Community Services Department

Project Manager: Wendy Parker

PIO Assigned to Project: Julie Williams-Hill, Mia Casados, Linda Lindstrom

Describe your project briefly below (the purpose, scope, location, timing). Attach a map of the project area if possible.

CSD has contracted with NV5 to study the advantages of artificial turf for the high school baseball and softball fields at North Mesa Sports Complex and Overlook Park. Converting specific fields to artificial turf is one of the short-term projects identified and recommended in the CSD Integrated Master Plan. Artificial turf offers several key benefits over natural grass, including performance across diverse weather conditions that prevent damage from muddy or frozen ground, ensuring the fields remain playable year-round. This durability allows for increased scheduling flexibility, which is essential for LAPS and our other organizations that rely heavily on these fields. Additionally, artificial turf significantly reduces maintenance needs, saving both time and money by eliminating the need for mowing, watering, and chemical treatments, while being resistant to pests. It also provides a consistent playing surface that enhances safety and performance.

Once the Artificial Turf Conceptual Study is completed, NV5 will deliver a recommendation on the optimal fields and field alignment, construction estimates that meet the playing requirements of NMAA, USA Baseball, and USA Softball, and a final rendering of the fields and amenities compliant with ADA requirements. The study will also include short-term and long-term maintenance recommendations, such as the estimated annual cost of maintaining synthetic fields, necessary equipment for upkeep, and management strategies involving staff, volunteers, and contractors. Additionally, it will provide estimated costs for design and construction, ensuring that the renovation updates the playing surfaces and amenities while aligning with ADA compliance, environmental and playability goals.

The study is anticipated to be completed by June 2025.

PART A. Who are you talking to?

Think about your audience --who do you define as your “public” or “stakeholders” for this project? List all that apply and why you think they will be affected or interested in your project (neighborhoods, special interest groups, certain segment of the population, commuters).

- County departments/divisions such as Dept. of Public Utilities, Public Works, Parks and Recreation
- Parks and Recreation Board members
- Los Alamos Public School District
- Proximate neighborhoods
- Impacted Youth athletic groups
- Adult Sports Leagues
- Environmental Sustainability Board
- Community Members currently experiencing barriers when using Los Alamos County outdoor facilities and amenities

Do you intend to X inform X educate X involve the public? Check all that apply and note any explanations here.

- Inform the public on the Purpose of the Study.
- Educate the public on the advantages and disadvantages of Artificial Turf fields.
- Involve the public by facilitating opportunities to provide input and feedback on field use and accessibility issues, support for or against the use of artificial turf, and any additional opportunities this study could provide.

PART B. What are the issues?

1. What is the serious problem that this project, initiative, topic or issue needs to address?

The field use for the Los Alamos Public School (LAPS) programs varies from normal summer leagues since LAPS begins practice in February of each year. The February start time has challenges of extreme winter temperature and weather that interferes with early season games and practices. The County desires to explore the feasibility of installing artificial turf for reduced environmental impact, ease of maintenance, and improved playability. The desired artificial turf conceptual study is intended to update the playing surface, fencing, bleachers, dugouts, scoreboards, and score booth; improve light use; and ensure the facilities and amenities are compliant with the American with Disabilities Act of 2010 (the “ADA”).

2. Are you the right entity to address this issue? In fact, given your Mission, would it be IRRESPONSIBLE if you did not address it?

The Community Services Department of Los Alamos County is responsible for planning, construction, maintenance and updates of all recreation areas, fields and facilities within the County. Therefore, CSD is the right entity to address this issue.

3. Is your approach to addressing the problem reasonable, sensible and responsible?

Yes- CSD has procured an outside vendor that will expertly study the feasibility of artificial turf fields for five Los Alamos owned athletic fields and will elicit community input that will aid in this study.

4. Any other issues to be considered (is the project near a school, will there be traffic delays, additional noise?)

Drones may be used in the assessment of this area. This may temporarily disturb some local users in the area.

PART C. Desired outcome?

What is the desired outcome of your communication strategy and what is the Plan to achieve it?

- Considering the information you have listed above, what is the desired outcome of this communication effort?
- For the public to actively participate in community listening sessions and other types of input gathering initiatives in order to best incorporate user's feedback into this study.

PART D. Key messages?

What are your key messages to your identified audience(s)?

The Community Services Department desire is to engage community members to participate in the process and assist the contractor and department with this study.

PART E. Communication channels

What channels will you use to convey these messages to your audiences and when will you issue them? (Door hangers, ads, press releases, social media platforms, printed collateral – postcards, flyers, posters?)

- Listening & community engagement sessions, press releases, social media, flyers, website project pages and email communications- all will be issued when appropriate throughout the duration of the project.
- The public can keep up with the project by going to the project listed on the Community Services webpage at: <https://www.losalamosnm.us/Government/Departments-and-Divisions/Community-Services/CSD-Projects>

PART F. The Plan

Work with contracted vendor, NV5, to evaluate and assess the project sites, review existing information, conduct targeted interviews of key users and potentially affected interest parties, hold at least 5 public hybrid engagement meetings/events, conduct a variety of public input surveys which will all finalize in a comprehensive study. This study will encompass the following:

Initial listening session in October 2024

1. Recommendations for Artificial Turf on existing Fields and alternative concepts for Field realignment or consolidation.
2. Recommendations of Field reconfiguration or orientations to meet the turf requirement and desire for a single complex location.

3. Technical and product recommendations for:
 - a. Artificial Turf,
 - b. Renewable energy use
 - c. Lighting systems ensuring that recommendations for focused lighting being set up so that monitoring and access can be controlled through a web-based system and public WiFi.
4. Maps with orientation of Fields that meet the New Mexico Activities Association (“NMAA”) standards for baseball and softball.
5. Recommendations and specifications for various options including future project scopes of work and cost estimates for design and construction for each Field that meets the playing requirements of NMAA, United States of America (“USA”) Baseball, and USA Softball, or any other requirements identified throughout the Project.
6. Renderings of Fields and amenities that meet applicable ADA requirements.
7. Best practices for building construction and sustainability.
8. Identify short-term and long-term maintenance standards, practices, and recommendations for Artificial Turf Fields to include:
 - a. Frequency and type of maintenance required.
 - b. Estimated annual cost of maintaining Artificial Turf Fields.
 - c. Equipment recommendations to maintain Artificial Turf Fields.
 - d. Short-term and long-term maintenance management operated by County staff, volunteers, and contractors.

A progress update and input from the community will be given in the 1st Quarter of 2025.

PART G. How will you know what the public thinks?

County staff will work with NV5 to ask relevant, purposeful, appropriate questions that will provide useful information regarding the public and all affected interest parties’ opinions, concerns and desires regarding the usability, maintenance/upkeep issues and other factors of artificial turf athletic fields to aid in this study. A variety of input tools may be used that will ask open-ended, multiple choice and general feedback questions. These tools will be available to all community members and will also be targeted to specific user groups. The time and availability of these tools will be shared via social media, press releases and distribution to email of project attendees.

PART H. How will you gather feedback about the success of your PIIP?

We will bring the team together to discuss the project and what areas we can improve immediately and in the future. These meetings will occur to make course corrections during the process and at the end.

PIIPs require the review and approval of the Project Manager, Department Manager, and County PIO. Please route for signatures:

Submitted by: Project Manager Date

Approved by: Department Manager Date

Julie Williams-Hill approved Approved by: County Public Information Officer 10/22/2024

REVISIONS: (complete this section only if you are filing a revision to your original PIIP)

Please outline below the revisions you are making to the PIIP. Explain “why” and list any associated impacts on cost, schedules, staffing or other impacts.