

We have recently received some questions from the community about the use of the synthetic turf field. As the outdoor sports' season is upon us, we wanted to share the following information:

The use of the Abington Middle-High School turf field by non-profit Abington youth organizations is encouraged. Fees are charged to local non-profit youth groups in a way that recoups the short-term costs of field use. Other groups and private, for-profit, organizations are charged a higher amount in-order to defray the long term and more expensive maintenance costs.

Why is there a fee for Abington Based Youth Organizations to use the turf field and what is it used for?

The fee helps cover the cost of the daily use of the field such as lighting, clean up, small field repairs, grooming and scheduling. Any remaining funds are put aside in an account for more expensive, long-term expenses. The cost to replace the field, after its normal 12-15 year lifespan at today's cost, is approximately \$1 million. All funds are deposited into their own separate account for the turf field.

Why is there a fee to use the bathrooms?

The cost of cleaning of the bathrooms is charged to Abington Youth groups. There is a 3-hour minimum for custodial services which is generally at the overtime rate because the person assigned is working either on a night or weekend to clean the bathroom. Additionally, this fee covers the replacement paper goods and cleaning products.

Can additional field lines be added?

Yes, with advanced notice we have the ability to paint additional lines on the field. The Football and Soccer lines are sewn into the field, however, both boys and girls lacrosse fields are painted. We can paint additional fields (smaller soccer fields, field hockey, etc) if provided advanced notice and dimensions.

When will the two grass fields be ready and what are their intended uses?

The grass fields in front of the building were seeded either in the fall or this spring. It is strongly recommended that the fields not be used for three growing seasons, with this spring being season one. The intended use of the fields is for recess, physical education classes, youth sports and limited high school sports. However, because the grass will still be in its infancy, once available for use, access may be limited. We are hopeful the front field will come on line in the Spring of 2019.

Why can't I bring strollers or chairs on the field?

The stroller wheels can catch the seams of the turf field and get caught in the wheels causing significant damage to the turf. Additionally, any uneven or sharp edges on the wheel can puncture the turf, creating a rip that can catch and cause further damage. Additionally, it can cause the rubber infill to be unevenly dispersed which can create an unsafe playing surface over time, increase maintenance costs and reduce life expectancy of the turf.

Are there plans to add additional bleachers to the turf field?

The turf field was designed to remain versatile to accommodate multiple sports and maximize playing space for students and teams. With this in mind, all of the bleachers on the field are portable and able to be moved relatively easily. This allows us to line various fields that are not currently on the field should a need arise. It is possible to add additional portable bleachers to the turf, currently with the bleachers and benches we can seat approximately 185 spectators on the turf field. Due to site constraints on the perimeter of the existing turf fields we were unable to expand beyond the current dimensions to add a more permanent seating structure while maintaining space for two playing fields.

Why can't I have food and drinks on the field?

Food and drinks can cause damage to the infill of the field which is crucial to providing a safe playing field. Certain substances can cause the infill to stick together creating a drainage and safety issue. Additionally, some substances can cause a deterioration of the infill reducing the life expectancy of the field. Finally, certain foods and drinks can discolor the turf field.

Will there be a concession stand?

A concession stand was not a part of the original building project; however, included in the design and construction of the new building was the underground infrastructure needed to add a concession stand with water, electricity and bathrooms. A possible concession stand is in the planning stages.

How can I or an organization schedule time on the fields?

Contact AHSBuildinguse@abingtonps.org with a completed building use form which can be found at http://abingtonps.org/community/building_use.php