

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

SAND CREEK SPORTS COMPLEX (“SCSC”) SYNTHETIC TURF

1. Why choose synthetic turf over natural grass?

Synthetic turf provides a highly durable, consistent playing surface that allows for extended use throughout the year—regardless of weather conditions. Unlike natural grass, which can become muddy, patchy, or unusable during wet or cold seasons, synthetic turf remains playable and visually appealing year-round with less downtime.

The City of Brentwood hosted two community input meetings in 2023 in regards to Sand Creek Sports Complex. There was a clear preference from the user groups for synthetic turf fields, primarily for its year-round use.

2. Are synthetic turf fields safe? What about injuries?

Numerous studies have shown that injury rates on well-maintained synthetic turf fields are comparable to those on natural grass. In some cases, the injury risk is lower due to the consistent and level surface. Modern designs, including shock-absorbing layers and infill systems, have significantly reduced these concerns.

3. Do synthetic fields get hotter than grass?

Yes, synthetic turf can become significantly hotter than natural grass—sometimes 35–60°F warmer on hot days. However, many fields are designed with heat-reducing infill materials, light-colored fibers, or integrated cooling technologies to mitigate this issue. In some cases, fields may be watered down briefly before play to reduce surface temperature.

The Sand Creek Sports Complex will be equipped with sports lighting to allow evening play during cooler hours of the day, especially during the summer months.

4. How does maintenance compare between synthetic and natural grass fields?

Synthetic turf:

- Requires no mowing, watering, or fertilizing
- Needs regular grooming to redistribute infill and keep fibers upright
- Requires occasional sanitization and inspection for wear or damage
- Lifespan typically 10-15 years, after which the turf and infill may need replacement

Natural grass:

- Requires frequent mowing, irrigation, fertilization, and pest control
- Needs rest and recovery time between heavy use to prevent bare patches
- Can become unplayable during or after rain
- Long-term costs can be higher due to water use and ongoing upkeep

5. Are synthetic turf fields environmentally friendly?

While synthetic turf does require the use of plastics and infill materials, it significantly reduces water usage and eliminates the need for pesticides or fertilizers. Some systems use recycled materials for infill, and newer products are being developed with recyclability in mind at the end of their life cycle.

6. How long do synthetic fields last?

With proper maintenance, a synthetic turf field typically lasts 10-15 years before needing replacement. The sub-base and drainage infrastructure, however, can last significantly longer and support multiple turf replacements.

7. What sports are suitable to play on the synthetic turf at SCSC?

Synthetic turf is versatile and widely used for:

- Soccer
- Football
- Lacrosse
- Field hockey

It is engineered to meet sport-specific safety and performance standards.

8. What are the initial costs vs. long-term savings?

Synthetic turf installation has a higher upfront cost than natural grass, but long-term savings are significant due to reduced:

- Water bills - an estimated 1.5 million gallons of water saved per field annually using synthetic turf.
- Labor and equipment needs
- Field downtime (leading to more booking/revenue opportunities)

Over time, the cost per playable hour is often much lower with synthetic turf.