

Los Alamos County Artificial Turf Study**Community Engagement Meeting #1****Date:** October 30, 2024**Time:** 5:30-7:30pm**Location:** Fuller Lodge**Attendees:** 13 community members (6 in-person, 7 online)

Cory Styron, Los Alamos County Community Services Director

Wendy Parker, Los Alamos County Parks Superintendent

Many Abeyta, Los Alamos County Assistant Parks Superintendent

Linda Lindstrom, Los Alamos County Senior Management Analyst

Chelsea Ashcraft, Los Alamos County Senior Management Analyst

Ania Pastuszezewska, NV5 Project Manager

Lisa Gavioli, NV5 Project Manager

Shasta Meehan, Sites Southwest Landscape Designer

Todd Smith, R&R Engineers Principal Engineer

Question/Comment	Response
There are a large number of injuries each year due to the condition of the natural turf.	Field maintenance and pest management issues will be given focused consideration in the study, in collaboration with County staff.
Adult softball season is May through October, and there are around 1000 participants. It would be great to extend this season by installing artificial turf.	Extending the playing season is noted as an important benefit of installing artificial turf.
There has been an uptick in injuries related to gopher holes. Health and safety of the athletes is a high priority for field conditions.	Athlete health and safety will be given focused consideration in the study.
Please consider artificial turf on Byers field.	Noted.
Little League season is March to June. Artificial turf would help the players get on the fields sooner in this season.	Extending the playing season is noted as an important benefit of installing artificial turf.
Appreciation for the efforts of County staff to maintain the fields.	Noted.
300-400 kids per year participate in baseball and softball. Existing fields cannot accommodate all games.	Rate of field usage is being given focused consideration in the study.
Prepping the fields takes extra time in advance of the games.	If field use is properly scheduled, LAC staff prep the fields accordingly. However, if field use is unscheduled, the fields will not be prepped in advance.
Safety concerns, especially on Bomber Field.	Athlete health and safety will be given focused consideration in the study.
Drainage concerns at Flint. A portion of the retaining wall washed out, and drainage has made the field unplayable.	Noted.
Early in the season, artificial turf would be a big advantage. Extending the season is an important benefit.	Extending the playing season is noted as an important benefit of installing artificial turf.
Consider adding a soccer field in the outfield when installing turf at Overlook so it can be dual purpose.	Noted. The team is looking at options for flex fields.

Question/Comment	Response
Consider adding artificial turf to Flint. It is a good candidate because it is a very highly used field, more than Dara Jones.	LAC staff need schedules from leagues to better manage field use.
LAPS values athlete experience and safety as top priorities.	Athlete health and safety will be given focused consideration in the study.
County staff does a ton of maintenance, but it is a huge area to cover. Often parents help filling in gopher holes.	Noted.
Bomber and Senior outfields are frequently in unsafe condition due to gopher holes.	Athlete health and safety will be given focused consideration in the study.
Baseball/softball tryouts are in early February generally. When these have to happen on concrete, it is not a good athlete experience. The season (including pre-season) runs late January to early May. Natural turf fields are unusable until they are no longer frozen. Extending field use with artificial turf would be a big advantage for LAPS athletes.	Extending the playing season is noted as an important benefit of installing artificial turf.
Field user meetings are an effective way to coordinate scheduling. LASA has had no conflicts using the fields.	LAC staff need schedules from leagues to better manage field use.
Scheduling has not been a concern. Field users make their own schedule and coordinate with County staff. Communication has been transparent.	
Sometimes scheduling conflicts occur, but these can generally be worked out among the groups.	
The field user meetings (especially the spring one) that the County holds are well attended and effective.	
Artificial turf fields will be more desirable, and there will be more competition for use.	Noted.
Artificial turf is a fantastic tool, but not the complete answer to issues with fields.	Noted.
Artificial turf will be hot in the summer/warmer months - something to consider. Perhaps retaining some sprinklers to cool off fields would be an option?	Irrigation benefits for artificial turf fields will be considered in the study.
Dara Jones was not usable this past year because of its condition / safety concerns.	Dara Jones was just renovated in 2024 with leveling and new natural turf.
Might consider alternative materials for artificial turf - other colors for rubber.	Noted.
Concerns about carcinogens in artificial turf.	Team is compiling available information to address these concerns.
As the Los Alamos and White Rock communities grow, there will be more players, which will lead to more instances of field overuse.	LAC staff need actual schedules from youth leagues to better manage field use.
A well-presented and safe field encourages players.	Noted.
The transitions between infield and outfield are not smooth.	Condition noted.
At Lou Cavaglia, the outfield is sloping away.	Condition noted.
Improvements are needed at dugouts.	Condition noted.
Gophers are a consistent issue in all areas.	Field maintenance and pest management issues will be given focused consideration in the study.
Adult softball has teams from Taos, Espanola, Cuba, Santa Fe, all over. White Rock fields are more convenient and have better weather.	Location preference noted.

Question/Comment	Response
Temperature differences between Overlook Park and North Mesa Rec Area are significant, especially in the early season. White Rock fields are more affected by monsoon season, and more lightning at North Mesa. The heat is worse at Overlook in June/July, but Overlook is more convenient. Both locations have pros/cons.	Location pros/cons will be given focused consideration as the team begins to generate recommendations.
Would consider Saturday options at North Mesa and Overlook during weekdays.	Noted.
People who live in Los Alamos are not as excited to travel to White Rock for games/practices, but people who live in White Rock are fine traveling to Los Alamos. Would be great to have artificial turf in both locations.	Noted.
Some families experience frustration with boys HS and girls HS games happening at the same time in different locations. Having HS baseball and HS softball game fields in the same location with artificial turf would be preferred.	Opportunities for field consolidation / reconfiguration are being given focused consideration as the team begins to generate recommendations.
Co-locating baseball and softball game fields would increase game attendance and create opportunities for more inter-generational exposure.	
Tournaments would benefit from co-location of fields, especially multi-age tournaments. Tournaments would also increase revenue. Co-location of game fields for baseball and softball would present fundraising opportunities with concessions. Possible opportunity to introduce food trucks.	
Co-locating baseball and softball game fields would present opportunities for new programs and sharing of coaches, as well as increasing support for athletes by HS athletes supporting middle school and youth, etc.	
Concession stands are underutilized because they are run by volunteers.	Comments regarding concession utilization, restrooms, parking, batting cages and opportunities for facility improvements and amenities are noted and will be taken into consideration.
Concessions would be better utilized if baseball and softball game fields were co-located.	
Concessions are a big fundraising opportunity that would benefit from co-locating baseball and softball game fields.	
North Mesa could use improved restrooms. Concessions at North Mesa could also be improved. Parking concerns at North Mesa stem from multiple events happening simultaneously.	
Parking issues at Overlook, especially for Little League.	
Parking at Overlook gets congested, especially around soccer games. People crossing the road is a safety issue.	
Facility needs: lights at Hope, batting cages everywhere, storage at North Mesa, bathrooms and running water, changing rooms for athletes, concession stands	
Interested in artificial turf for soccer.	Opportunities for artificial turf are being considered for baseball, softball, and soccer fields at North Mesa and Overlook.

Question/Comment	Response
Adding lighting to soccer fields would greatly increase playing time.	Lighting additions and upgrades are being considered in the study. If adding additional lights, we will need to consider and mitigate neighborhood impacts.
Lighting would be beneficial for all sports in extending playing time.	Lighting additions and upgrades are being considered in the study. If adding additional lights, team will need to consider and mitigate neighborhood impacts.
White Rock and North Mesa have different lighting systems. No preference between the two (call-in versus manual).	
Games have been limited by lack of lighting (adult softball).	
Lighting updates are needed and could improve safety without over-lighting facilities.	
Adding lighting to soccer fields would greatly increase playing time.	
Could use safety netting at some of the fields at Overlook, especially fields 1, 2, 3, and 4, to protect cars and people.	Request for safety netting noted.
Having a flat and level playing surface for soccer greatly improves quality of game and athlete experience.	Noted.
Caution that artificial turf gets very warm in mid-summer and that cuts/scrapes can get irritated or infected by artificial turf.	Team will review available studies and research regarding human impacts of artificial turf.
Artificial turf fields are hot, and irrigating them may cool them down but also creates humidity (different problem - drawback).	
Extending the playing season is a huge benefit for artificial turf.	Extending the playing season is noted as an important benefit of installing artificial turf.
What are the maintenance requirements for artificial turf?	Additional maintenance equipment required for artificial turf fields will be considered in the study.
Is the County considering purchasing specialized equipment for artificial turf maintenance?	Additional player equipment required for artificial turf fields will be considered in the study.
Sullivan gets dragged for trash and infill. Two full-time people manage/groom fields once/month.	Experience of maintaining other existing artificial turf fields in the area is an important consideration.
Players would love artificial turf. When Sullivan got turf, everyone wanted to be on it. Turf is popular and desired.	Experience using other existing artificial turf fields in the area is noted.
Younger kids are afraid of sliding on dirt. They are less afraid of artificial turf.	
Little League has scheduled some games in Pojoaque to give kids the different experience of playing on artificial turf.	
For adult softball, there are two turf fields in Angel Fire and one in Albuquerque. Games are more competitive on artificial turf fields, and they are great for tournaments.	
Another potential drawback of artificial turf is that players can't eat sunflower seeds on turf.	Noted.
Players will need two sets of cleats (metal and rubber) because metal cleats are not allowed on artificial turf. Right now, players use metal cleats for practice and home games and rubber cleats for away games where there is artificial turf.	Natural and artificial turf have different player equipment requirements. This is being considered in the study. Team is investigating about how coaches, athletes, and parents feel about equipment requirements.

Question/Comment	Response
Preference for dirt pitching mounds because artificial mounds are not desired.	Artificial mounds bounce and have less traction, making pitching more challenging than on natural dirt. This is being taken into consideration. One option that could be considered is having a movable artificial mound.
Santa Fe High School has dirt infield with artificial outfield - this might be an option to consider.	Noted. Team is looking into multiple options for design of artificial turf fields.
Major companies have improved the design to increase playability. Look into movable parts that can be switched around based on preferences. Consider dirt pitching mound. Artificial turf will attract more attendance / participation.	
Transportation to White rock for players is an ongoing issue. The circulation bus runs 45 minutes late, and there is a lack of communication between the school district and sport schedules.	Transportation to/from locations is being taken into consideration in the study.

Next Meeting: January 30th at Fuller Lodge at 5:30pm

Los Alamos County Artificial Turf Study Community Engagement Meeting, Listening Session #2

Date: January 30, 2025

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Location: Fuller Lodge

Attendees: 3 community members (3 in-person)

Cory Styron, Los Alamos County Community Services Director

Wendy Parker, Los Alamos County Parks Superintendent

Manny Abeyta, Los Alamos County Assistant Parks Superintendent

Linda Lindstrom, Los Alamos County Senior Management Analyst

Chelsea Ashcraft, Los Alamos County Senior Management Analyst

Ania Pastuszezwska, NV5 Project Manager

Lisa Gavioli, NV5 Project Manager

Shasta Meehan, Sites Southwest Landscape Designer

Todd Smith, R&R Engineers Principal Engineer

Topic of Discussion	Community Input	Response
Scheduling	High school softball begins playing their playing season in early February on Hope field, giving them a longer playing season than many other user groups. Little league starts their season in March which is when there is overlap in schedules for occupying Hope field. Synthetic turf could help improve scheduling conflicts between the two leagues by creating more opportunities for field usability.	Scheduling implications of artificial turf are being given consideration in the study.
Scheduling	Available and improved lighting on fields could increase flexibility in playing time for league schedules	Lighting improvements will be considered as part of this study.
Scheduling	High school softball scheduling goes through the athletic director in an excel sheet to the county.	Noted.
Scheduling	Little League scheduling goes through the county directly to reserve fields.	Noted.
Scheduling	Scheduling is booked by levels of priority. High school is the top priority, then JV, and then little league.	The team is considering options for co-locating varsity and JV game fields, and scheduling impacts that may result.
Scheduling	The size of Spirio could potentially accommodate the soccer community at a greater capacity and avoid scheduling conflicts within the soccer leagues.	Noted.
Dog Waste	There are often dog walkers on fields instead of the designated dog park.	The team is considering how to improve conflicts between dog uses and athletic uses of the fields.
Dog Waste	Potentially more regulations on dog waste cleanup could prevent waste on the fields.	Introducing new regulation is beyond the scope of this study.

Topic of Discussion	Community Input	Response
Dog Waste	Concerned that creating a larger facility for dog users could interfere with the goal of increasing field usability.	Noted. The team is studying the possibility of separating dog and athletic uses.
Scheduling	Artificial turf could improve field use by having fewer games and tournaments impacted by weather conditions.	Extending playing seasons is noted as a benefit of artificial turf.
Scheduling	Los Alamos is a great venue, if it had quality fields it would be an ultimate attractive location for tournaments.	Attracting tournaments is noted as a benefit of field improvements and possibly artificial turf.
Scheduling	Softball coach mentioned that weather and drainage are a big deterrent in scheduling fields.	The team is studying field conditions and making recommendations for improvements.
Scheduling	Softball season is long, and they use fields regularly at a high capacity.	Noted.
Scheduling	X Lovato is a popular field to be scheduled due to lighting. If there were more lighting options, there would be less competition for X Lovato.	Noted.
Dog waste	Concerned that dog users should have priority access to fields at complex. Believes that children should have that priority to the complex.	Noted.
Scheduling	The Minor field is small. If it could increase to a 200' field, it could accommodate softball and meet more user needs.	Reviewing field usability and realignment options are considered in the study.
Location	High School baseball experiences a limited playing season due to field locations in Los Alamos that are affected by weather. If Bomber field had artificial turf, it could resolve this problem.	Extending playing seasons is noted as a benefit of artificial turf.
Location	The conditions of Virchow field do not make it an equal substitute for when Bomber field is not usable.	Noted.
Location	Hope Field is a good candidate for artificial turf due to its current popularity.	Noted.
Location	Lou Caveglia could be a beautiful field w/ updates made.	Noted.
Location	Bun Ryan and Bomber could be good options for artificial turf and could accommodate multiple users at one complex.	Noted.
Location	Children often go back and forth between complexes, so if they improved field orientations that had practices or games at one location that would be ideal.	The team is considering options for co-locating facilities.

Topic of Discussion	Community Input	Response
Location	What if Lou Caveglia could host high school softball games?	Study team is reviewing field use and potential realignment to accommodate more user groups.
Dog Waste	Concerned that dog park expansion will not improve field availability problems at the complex.	Recommended improvements to the dog park would be situated within a suite of other possible solutions.
Location	Concerned about the amount of artificial fields proposed. Would suggest that LAC begin with one field conversion for a period of 5 years before re-evaluating more field conversions.	The phasing plan for artificial turf installation will largely depend on funding as well as community support.
Environmental Concern	Concerned about carcinogens in artificial turf and the water requirements required to maintain artificial turf.	The study includes reviewing the latest studies on environmental and human impacts of artificial turf. More information about available research is available on the project website and will be considered in the report. The study includes reviewing the latest studies on environmental and human impacts of artificial turf.
Environmental Concern	Concerned about the safety of artificial turf, including environmental impacts and injuries to athletes involving scrapes and heat exposure.	
Environmental Concern	Encourages LAC to consider that regions with water shortages should evaluate the water requirements needed to maintain artificial turf.	The study includes the consideration for water use.
Environmental Concern	Concerned that artificial turf will not resolve the gopher problem in LAC and that gophers will destroy the new fields.	The study includes the consideration for gopher management.
Injury Risk	Gopher holes are a serious risk of injuries for players and artificial turf could prevent them.	Noted.
Injury Risk	Risk of abrasion injuries from artificial turf are not as bad as the current dirt conditions in existing fields. The existing quality of fields causes more injury risk than turf abrasion injuries.	Noted.
Location	The county had Bomber field re-done and brought in new dirt to avoid the prior issues.	Noted.
Location	Many professional athlete stadiums use natural grass (example: raiders stadium)	Noted.
Location	Cleats often get stuck in artificial turf.	It has been brought to the team's attention that plastic cleats are recommended for artificial turf and most athletes have two sets of equipment: one for natural and one for artificial turf.

Topic of Discussion	Community Input	Response
Flex/Multiuse Fields	Flex fields were used at his college for baseball and football and seemed to work well.	Noted.
Flex/Multiuse Fields	As long as it does not negatively impact soccer players and their field availability then it seems like multi-use fields could be beneficial.	Noted.
Flex/Multiuse Fields	Bomber field has been used as a flex field before with football players.	Noted.
Mini Pitch	Would mini pitch fields be installed on existing fields or in separate spaces?	At this time we do not have a design for mini-pitch and we are gauging the community's interest for incorporating them into the site plans.
Mini Pitch	Pickleball is popular and could be something for parents to do while kids practice	Introduction of pickleball facilities is not part of the scope of this study.
Mini Pitch	Would it be possible to have tennis courts? Tennis users could use more courts.	Introduction of tennis into either of the complexes is not part of the scope of the study.
Mini Pitch	Concerned that mini pitch users would compete for usable space at the complex.	Noted.
Mini Pitch	Idaho College had an indoor sports facility due to winter conditions and it was very popular.	Noted.
Mini Pitch	Concerned that mini pitches could take away from usable space at complexes.	Noted.
Central Plaza	The concessions at White Rock could use a better central location.	The study includes reviewing amenities and their locations.
Central Plaza	Gazebo at plaza area between 1-3 at Overlook could be a great place for concession. Many children already play in that area.	The study includes reviewing amenities and their locations.
Central Plaza	Hope field is too far away from concessions currently.	The study includes reviewing amenity locations and potential field realignment.
Central Plaza	Concessions at North Mesa are located behind Lou Caveglia. This could be dangerous due to fly balls.	The study includes reviewing amenities and their locations.
Central Plaza	Concessions are run by the Little League and fundraise money for the league.	Noted.
Central Plaza	Food trucks would likely be poorly received because it would take away from the Little League Concession sales.	Noted.
Transportation	Currently rides the bus to work and sees softball girls using the bus system.	Noted.

Topic of Discussion	Community Input	Response
Transportation	Concerned that the last bus is around 7:30, which is difficult for adult softball league users who live further away.	Noted.
Transportation	In White Rock a lot of traffic happens around the complex and the field entrances could use better circulation.	The study includes reviewing access and accessibility.
Transportation	Many people use multiple fields and turn cars around in the middle of the street, which is dangerous.	The study includes reviewing access and accessibility.
Amenities	Safety netting and fencing would be beneficial additions.	Noted.
Amenities	Hope field was remodeled in 2020 and had 6' fences added around the perimeter to protect bleachers from fly balls.	Noted.
Amenities	The 3rd base line of Minor B needs safety netting to protect bleachers.	Noted.
Amenities	Batting cages need to be maintained and improved	The study includes reviewing field amenities and field maintenance.
Amenities	Batting stations could be a beneficial addition. Maybe having one at every field to practice drills with kids.	The study includes reviewing field amenities.
Amenities	Changing rooms are already installed at Hope Field and are used frequently for storage as well.	Noted.
Amenities	A changing room at Bun Ryan would be useful.	Noted.
Amenities	Rodent issues are present at changing rooms. This could be remedied by using something like spray foam to seal the areas.	Noted.
Amenities	There are parking issues at Minor B and Hope during major events.	The study includes reviewing options for increasing parking capacity.
Amenities	Virchow, Lovato, Hope, and Byers need parking improvements.	The study includes reviewing options for increasing parking capacity.
Transit	Shuttles would only be used for big events at Spirio.	Noted.
Transit	Fire safety could be an issue with a lack of parking.	The study includes reviewing options for increasing parking capacity.
Transit	Possible parking west of Spirio if there was a large enough buffer between residents and the parking.	The study includes reviewing options for increasing parking capacity.

Next Meeting: February 27th at Fuller Lodge at 5:30pm

Los Alamos County Artificial Turf Study Community Engagement Meeting Session #3 - Workshop

Date: February 27, 2025
Time: 5:30-7:30pm
Location: Fuller Lodge
Topic: Discuss proposed realignment options
Attendees: 3 community members (3 in-person)
 Cory Styron, Los Alamos County Community Services Director
 Wendy Parker, Los Alamos County Parks Superintendent
 Manny Abeyta, Los Alamos County Assistant Parks Superintendent
 Linda Lindstrom, Los Alamos County Senior Management Analyst
 Ania Pastuszezwska, NV5 Project Manager
 Lisa Gavioli, NV5 Project Manager
 Shasta Meehan, Sites Southwest Landscape Designer
 Jonathan Cunningham, Sites Southwest Landscape Designer
 Todd Smith, R&R Engineers Principal Engineer (on-line)

Site	Community Input	Response
North Mesa	What is the size of the proposed new soccer field?	Same as one of Flint fields. Replaces the space of the existing RV park.
North Mesa	Agrees that removing RV Parking from the athletic fields is beneficial.	This would bring the soccer field closer into the complex.
North Mesa	For lacrosse users, advocating for full field size. Would prefer one full size field over two smaller fields.	Noted.
North Mesa	Limiting the size of soccer/lacrosse will negatively impact athletes, especially in spring.	Noted.
North Mesa	Lighting improvements are highly desired.	Lighting improvements will be considered in the next iteration of site plan options.
North Mesa	Full-size field for soccer is important.	Noted.
North Mesa	Youth soccer would likely like the artificial turf smaller field, but adults would like full size.	Noted.
North Mesa	Is there a reason why the RV Parking lot must be in the sports complex and/or near Flint? Could the County find another place for RV Parking?	This is being considered.
North Mesa	Grading concerns.	Study team is considering grading and we will take a closer look once the site plan options are decided.
North Mesa	Grading issue to swap location of parking and new soccer field in the north?	Study team looked at this and will revisit this idea in Option 2.
Noth Mesa	Would like the study team to look at how soccer field could increase in size.	There might be a possible increase in new soccer field size if it switched placement with the proposed parking.

Site	Community Input	Response
Overlook	Season overlaps in spring for lacrosse, soccer and baseball. Dara Jones could be multi-purpose but lines for each overlayed use could get busy. Perhaps use it as shuffling field, offset between time slots. Anticipate all fields will be busy with multi-use field encountering scheduling conflicts.	Playing seasons and compatibility of uses will be considered when exploring multi-use field opportunities.
Overlook	No concern with multi-use except negotiation who uses it. Youth would use it for practice. OK with natural turf there.	Noted.
Noth Mesa	Parking below senior looks great. Doesn't impact soccer/lacrosse.	Parking expansions are being studied for recommendations.
Overlook	E-W field orientation for soccer would not be ideal, but they'll take it. Improved lighting would help.	Lighting improvements will be considered in the next iteration of site plan options.
Overlook	One of the major concerns are dogs on Dara Jones. Separating dogs away from artificial turf would be ideal.	Separating dog uses from athletic uses is being explored as a strategy for improving field user experiences.
Overlook	Recommends talking to adult softball about losing Field 4.	All field user groups will be given the opportunity to provide feedback before recommendations are finalized.
Overlook	New roundabouts require appropriate signage and spacing to be effective.	Noted.
Overlook	Roundabouts slow down traffic. Agrees with above.	Noted.
Overlook	Storage is a "nice to have". Lighting is #1.	Lighting improvements will be considered in the next iteration of site plan options.
Overlook	Lacrosse has some storage at Dara Jones built by Eagle Scout Project.	Noted.
Overlook	Stressed preference for full size fields, painted and striped N-S, ideally. Lacrosse would prefer 1 full-size striped field, than 2 smaller fields. 2 full size fields if they fit!	The team is considering field sizes and orientation in formulating recommendations.
Overlook	Lacrosse used Spirio, but not this year. Lacrosse will use Dara Jones. May use Spirio for tournament ~3 days. Very supportive of artificial turf on Dara Jones.	Noted.
Overlook	Soccer also very supportive of artificial turf. The only issue is heat in the summer. But grass will not withstand sharing between two sports. If there was another field, they would like Dara Jones to remain natural grass. If shared with no new field, then it has to be artificial.	Noted.

Site	Community Input	Response
Overlook	Gophers are a problem in natural grass.	Pest control and maintenance of fields are being given focused consideration in the study.
Overlook	Lighting doesn't have to be as tall for soccer as it is for baseball. Low level lighting would be great.	Lighting improvements will be considered in the next iteration of site plan options.
Overlook	Make fields a place to be and hang out; safe to use (holes, etc.).	Noted.
Asked about public meetings v. digital input	Digital is easier. (Seeking public input) doesn't have to be a huge production. Thank you.	The team is considering utilizing a follow up digital survey to gain additional input on the draft framework plan options presented tonight.
Both parks	Can we get copies of the site plan options?	Plans will be available via Los Alamos County project website: Artificial Turf Study - Incorporated County of Los Alamos, NM
Both parks	When will this be built?	When the project is funded. Public is encouraged to reach out to their councilors to fund the project.

Next Meeting: April 24th at Fuller Lodge at 5:30pm

Los Alamos County Artificial Turf Study Community Engagement Meeting Session #4

Date: April 24, 2025
Time: 5:30-7:30pm
Location: Fuller Lodge
Topic: Discuss proposed realignment options
Attendees: 7 community members (7 in-person)
 Cory Styron, Los Alamos County Community Services Director
 Manny Abeyta, Los Alamos County Assistant Parks Superintendent
 Linda Lindstrom, Los Alamos County Senior Management Analyst
 Ania Pastuszezewska, NV5 Project Manager
 Lisa Gavioli, NV5 Project Manager
 Shasta Meehan, Sites Southwest Landscape Designer
 George Radnovich, Sites Southwest Principal Landscape Architect
 Todd Smith, R&R Engineers Principal Engineer (on-line)

Site	Community Input	Response
North Mesa	Is there enough water from the wastewater treatment plant?	Reclaimed water is based on community water usage (demand).
North Mesa	What are the temperature variances between natural and synthetic turf?	Newer materials are 20-30 degrees cooler.
North Mesa	Will the newer material have more time or greater durability between raking?	There's no set time between each raking and it will depend on the level of use, type of turf and infill.
North Mesa	Does the county currently have the equipment for raking?	Newer materials require less equipment maintenance.
North Mesa	Are newer materials more expensive?	Better turf and infill is 5-10% more expensive than other average products.
North Mesa	What has been put in place to deter gophers from going below existing natural fields?	We have not gone into that level of detail, but we are exploring means to install gopher barriers below the field and fencing around the synthetic turf facilities.
North Mesa	Understand that synthetic turf can get up to 160 degrees. So even if it's 20-30 degrees less the turf is still very hot.	Comment noted.
North Mesa	What is the plan for addressing water runoff from reclaimed water? A Synthetic turf would increase the chances of an impermeable surface.	We haven't looked at grading yet, but typically we utilize de-sedimentation ponds and other grading techniques to capture runoff to ensure it filters into the ground.
North Mesa	Is there room for ponding?	Haven't analyzed grading and drainage yet - will provide more specificity as design progresses.
North Mesa	Parking behind the outfields is a concern.	We are considering higher fencing and vegetative screening along outfields.
North Mesa	Will the current maintenance facility and restrooms be moved? Will there be water by the restrooms?	We are planning to move these facilities, and will recommend water by the restrooms.

Site	Community Input	Response
North Mesa	Misinformation about artificial turfs: We have plenty of effluent to water natural fields, forever chemicals & microplastics – No good path for disposal and banned in UK/Europe, artificial turf is made from oil, natural turf is 10 degrees colder than air temp, artificial turf can get up to 120 degrees.	Certain types of synthetic turf and components have been banned – most manufacturers are no longer using these materials. A lot of products in daily life are made from oil, and there are many commonly used products that have more impact than artificial turf. Artificial turf temperatures get up to 120 degrees depending on the products used. There are existing artificial turf fields in AZ, TX & CA. We have put together a list of resources for people to read up on the latest research and studies on human and environmental impacts of artificial turf. This list is available on the project website.
North Mesa	Is there more pavement?	There is an increase in pavement for proposed paths and parking.
North Mesa	How many fields are proposed as synthetic?	There are two proposed options (1) Lou Caveglia (2) Bomber – nothing is set in stone.
Noeth Mesa	Synthetic Turf will allow year-round training and make our players more competitive.	Comment noted.
North Mesa	Sidewalk between Bomber/ Bun Ryan & Parking lot (where there's a hill) will there be a pathway?	Yes, the pedestrian path will be preserved and improved.
North Mesa	Where would ponding go?	We will be looking at grading and identifying ponding areas.
North Mesa	Is the RV parking lot gravel? Will it be paved?	This has not been determined. This is not a design plan to be bid out, just a framework plan (master plan of sorts) to assist in decision making in future.
Overlook Park	Who would be billed for EV spaces?	Pay chargers – county is going to a fee-based system
Overlook Park	Would dogs be able to use the field area aside from training?	This field could be reserved for athletes, whereas the dog field would be open to all.
Overlook Park	Why is the dog park shown as dirt?	Could be mulch or another material – considering how to separate dog use from sports field. Material has not been decided.
Overlook Park	Would there be sprinkler systems and gopher barriers?	Yes, looking at both as well as lighting to comply with dark skies and accessibility to comply with ADA.
Overlook Park	Are there any changes to Spirio?	No major changes.
Overlook Park	For those that live by Minor B, will bright lights be mitigated or will there be noise mitigation?	We will consider sound attenuation with vegetation and specify upgraded lights (with less light pollution outside the fields).

Site	Community Input	Response
Overlook Park	How would you think about accessibility on Spirio? Gophers are the biggest accessibility issue on Spirio.	Proposed paths will be accessible. We will recommend gopher prevention measures.
Overlook Park	Adult softball objects to the elimination of Field 4. Last year adult softball had 17-19 severe injuries & 8 ambulance visits. None of the synthetic turf fields would serve adult softball. Lighting is critical for adult softball in expanding visibility of fields. Games are May – October 1 game a night. Multiuse field on Spirio will not work for adult softball of homeruns.	Looking at adding lighting and shared lighting at fields 1-3 to maximize field availability. Proposed, new lights have much less “spillover” for neighbors.
Overlook Park	Multiuse on Spirio will not work due to not having a fence and there being too many conflicts. Dara Jones is a heavily used field by soccer and lacrosse would be fantastic for Dara Jones to have synthetic field.	We will consider this.
Overlook Park	Would like to see basketball courts at both parks.	We will consider this.
Overlook Park	Multipurpose field 4 on Spirio is not feasible because infield is not compatible with soccer	We will consider this.
Overlook Park	What amenities are you proposing at the center of clover leaf?	Accessibility improvements, play area.
Overlook Park	If you limit pathways to pedestrians only, this may be a problem especially for events.	Considering removable bollards to allow limited vehicular access.
Overlook Park	Adult softball association paid for Field 4 improvements.	Comment noted.
Overlook Park	Will the new parking areas be paved?	Not determined yet – at minimum accessible parking & paths would be paved or lined with hard surface/ADA approved material. Goal is to improve accessibility and pedestrian circulation.
Overlook Park	Current accessible access drop-offs into the middle of Spirio. Would there be an option for improving accessibility for Spirio?	It’s possible to create an accessible walking path around the perimeter of Spirio.
Overlook Park	Will there be bleachers?	Yes, there will be improved seating at all fields. Permanent bleachers at the baseball/softball and removable bleachers at the soccer field.

Site	Community Input	Response
Overlook Park	Spirio only works for full size E-W (soccer).	Comment noted.
Overland Park	Consider a dog park layout that isn't rectangular.	We will consider this.
Overland Park	Would the trailhead have increased parking?	Yes
Overland Park	Does this design eliminate the RL track?	No
Overland Park	Success with killing gophers with carbon monoxide.	Comment noted.
Overland Park	Advocating for preserving Field 4.	We will consider this.
Overland Park	What are the criteria for location of event stage?	The stage is used primarily for large events, such as the Fourth of July and the Kite Festival (location of accessible kite building tent).
Overland Park	Encourage food trucks.	Comment noted.
Overland Park	Not all changes are necessary. Focusing more on improving the fields. Appreciative of the work done thus far, but there's still many issues to resolve.	Comment noted.

Next Meeting: May 15th at Fuller Lodge at 5:30pm

Los Alamos County Artificial Turf Study Community Engagement Meeting Session #5 – Workshop

Date: May 15, 2025
Time: 5:30-7:30pm
Location: Fuller Lodge
Topic: Discuss proposed realignment options and next steps.
Attendees: 4 community members (4 in-person)
 Cory Styron, Los Alamos County Community Services Director
 Wendy Parker, Los Alamos Parks Director
 Manny Abeyta, Los Alamos County Assistant Parks Superintendent
 Linda Lindstrom, Los Alamos County Senior Management Analyst
 Ania Pastuszezwska, NV5 Project Manager
 Shasta Meehan, Sites Southwest Landscape Designer
 George Radnovich, Sites Southwest Principal Landscape Architect
 Todd Smith, R&R Engineers Principal Engineer (on-line)

North Mesa or Overlook Park	Community Input	Response
North Mesa	Would love an indoor facility for the winter part of the season to practice baseball and softball. JV, Varsity and Little League can share.	This is not in the current scope of the project.
North Mesa	Add sidewalk from overflow parking to Bomber.	This is possible and we will look at that.
North Mesa	How wide are paths?	Proposing paths to be 15ft.
North Mesa	Will the paths be lit?	Haven't looked into this yet; likely the paths will be designed with path lighting.
North Mesa	Asking about 'Master Plan' approach. Will details come later?	Details will evolve with design development. This study provides a framework plan to inform future decision-making and is not a true Master Plan.
North Mesa	Regarding details, as things get approved. Will there be consultants to develop details/design?	Yes. If the project gets approved and funded for further design, there will be consultants hired to complete the design. Our group is not contracted for this scope.
North Mesa	Bathrooms are an issue – multiple facilities would be helpful/desired.	We will consider this.
North Mesa	Indoor facility with full infield size/practice with bathroom, locker rooms, nets would have to fight basketball and track teams.	Noted
North Mesa	Bathroom near Bomber field?	There is a pit toilet at RV Park and could remain there.
North Mesa	Voting for North Mesa to host JV & Varsity and T-ball.	Noted.

North Mesa	Better facilities attract more players. Currently insufficient facilities & concessions.	Noted.
Noth Mesa	Early season play at Artesia have nets over stands; strategic placement of nets (foul balls, cars, etc.)	Noted.
North Mesa	Score announce booth needs improvement.	Noted.
North Mesa	All for N. Mesa fields completely: expose all small businesses in LA, and historical museum, etc. for outsiders/visitors.	Noted.
North Mesa	Oil & Casino \$ fund nice fields (Artesia, Hobbs, Pojoaque)	Noted.
North Mesa	Love natural fields, but they cost a lot to maintain well; grass grows year-round in ABQ, not in Los Alamos. Artificial turf gets hot, but not too hot to play. Artificial turf abrasions don't hurt so much. New turf is more cushy than old turf for 70s.	Noted.
Overlook Park	More bathrooms – much needed for all fields	Noted.
Overlook Park	Likes basketball courts	Noted.
Overlook Park	Likes dog training having its own area for them to play.	Noted.
Overlook Park	Suggestion to divide the dog park into 4 areas which can be rotated to allow the grass to rest in between uses.	Noted.
Overlook Park	Playground at N. Mesa hub	Noted.
Overlook Park	More bathrooms – much needed for all fields	Noted.
Overlook Park	Can all fields in the county be used by everyone? Would like to be able to continue walking dog.	Yes, the fields are open to all.
Overlook Park	Supportive of artificial turf in Los Alamos, not at Overlook.	Noted.
Overlook Park	Grass looks good at Overlook.	Dara Jones was regraded and resoded last fall.
Overlook Park	What is the life expectancy of artificial turf? Natural turf?	12-15 years; natural sod every 6-7 years needs to be regraded and redone every so many years depending on use.
Overlook Park	Can you use artificial turf in winter if no snow? How is it different from natural turf?	Artificial turf freeze a lot less. You wouldn't hurt it by using it when frozen. You won't have to close the field in cold weather. Natural turf would need 3 days or so to reopen.

		Note: Yes, artificial turf is more playable, but it will still need to be closed for maintenance from time to time.
Overlook Park	Will Dara Jones be used for La Crosse or Soccer?	Both.
Overlook Park	Would the frozen artificial turf absorb a bounced ball's shock less than natural?	If compared to natural, artificial turf absorbs shock better than natural turf when frozen.
Overlook Park	North Mesa is preferred to host HS Baseball and Softball teams.	(This comment was made in response to a prompt: which park should host HS Baseball and Softball?)
Overlook Park	Comments on reusing effluent water. Could use the water at Overlook.	Reclaimed water can be used at Overlook.
Overlook Park	North Mesa could really use the new layout. Loves the proposed amenities and parking improvements at Overlook. Sees benefits of updating both parks. More effective gopher management or artificial turf.	(Response from White Rock Resident @ Overlook when prompted which park should be prioritized?)
Overlook Park	Space out bathrooms to serve all fields.	Noted.
Overlook Park	Regarding concessions and food trucks. Would they be there only during games, or broader use year-round? It would be nice to have this available instead of driving to town for snacks.	Noted.
Overlook Park	What about security?	Musco (lighting company) also has tech for security which could be integrated into the design.
Overlook Park	Bathrooms would freeze. Staff put out heaters, but they get stolen.	Noted.
Overlook Park	Charging gate fee for tournaments would be nice.	Noted.
Overlook Park	Think it's good that there is a policeman living in trailer nearby.	Noted.
Overlook Park	Would like the lighting to comply with Dark Skies.	All proposed lighting will be required to meet the Dark Skies ordinance.