

## Artificial Turf vs. Natural Grass: Cost Comparison and Justification

As Brazos ISD continues to grow and maximize its facilities to serve more students and activities, it is important to consider the long-term financial and operational impact of facility improvements. One major consideration in our May bond proposal is the investment in **artificial turf** for our football, softball, and baseball fields. Below is a comparison to help stakeholders understand the financial feasibility and benefits of this investment.

### Cost Comparison (10-Year Outlook)

Category	Artificial Turf (Per Field)	Natural Grass (Per Field)
Initial Installation	\$700,000 (ave.per field)	\$400,000
Annual Maintenance	\$15,000/year	\$40,000/year per field
10-Year Maintenance Total	\$150,000	\$1.2 million (FB/BS/SB)
Total 10-Year Cost	<b>\$865,000</b>	<b>\$1,600,000</b>
Usability	40+ events/year	10–15 events/year
Weather Impact	Minimal	High (rainouts, field damage)
Lifespan Before Replacement	12–14 years	Ongoing maintenance, indefinite

### Operational and Educational Benefits

- **Maximized Usage:** Turf fields allow for significantly more use by athletics, band, PE, and community events without deterioration—maximizing taxpayer investment.
- **Reduced Cancellations:** Turf allows for games and practices in all weather conditions, reducing cancellations and rescheduling burdens.
- **Water Conservation:** Artificial turf eliminates irrigation costs and supports conservation in our rural community.
- **Cost Savings Over Time:** Although turf has a higher initial cost, it becomes cost-effective over time when factoring in lower maintenance and water use.
- **Safety and Consistency:** Modern turf fields provide a consistently safe and level playing surface throughout the year.