

Submitted By: Clarke County School District
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Project Classification: Social Well-Being
Project Focus: Quality of Life
Project Type: Facility Renovation or Expansion (non-Leisure Services)

Previously Submitted and Rejected: No
Continuation Project: No

Project Total Cost: \$ 4,388,000

Total Operating Cost: \$ To be paid by CCSD

Project Description: The aim of this project is to provide funding for upgrading athletic fields at Cedar Shoals High School and Clarke Central High School to artificial turf surfaces. In addition, funds are sought to resurface the running track at Clarke Central High School. This request will provide enhanced facilities for the support of youth athletic programs in ACC as well as for all community members.

Project Mission Statement/Goals & Objectives: The goal of this proposal is to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with Athens-Clarke County to install artificial turf fields at Cedar Shoals High School and Clarke Central High School and to resurface the track at Clarke Central High School. The need for this proposal is heightened by the regular presence of Athens-Clarke County youth at each of these facilities. In addition, community members of all ages utilize these facilities as they engage in physical health activities. The ultimate goal of this proposal is to enhance local facilities so that students and families have access to quality grounds in order to improve their personal well-being.

Projected Useful Life of Project: 8-10 Years

To meet the Project Goals & Objectives, when should this project be completed? In order to meet the goals and objectives of this proposal, the target date for beginning the project is May 1, 2019 with anticipated completion of August 1, 2019.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building System compliance: N/A

How will this project help meet the Public Safety, Basic Facilities/Infrastructure, and/or Quality of Life needs in Athens-Clarke County? There is a wealth of research on the importance of youth physical activity and long-term health benefits and development. In addition, studies have found more significant health challenges in communities of poverty, thus reinforcing the need for structured physical activities for children in low income areas. Ensuring that students have access to high quality community recreation programs and facilities are essential for physical and social-emotional development. Clarke County has a variety of organizations (ACC Leisure Services and private entities) that support youth athletic and social development

through football, basketball, track and other activities. However, most of these organizations lack funds to purchase and maintain playing facilities. Clarke County School District has worked collaboratively with these organizations to provide field and gymnasium usage for the purpose of supporting Athens-Clarke County youth sporting activities and overall family wellness. Due to continuous use of district outdoor space, the athletic fields and tracks of both schools could benefit from upgrades to ensure the quality needed for competitive training and playing.

How is this Project recommended/included in any approved ACCGOV Land Use Plan, Master Plan, Study, Service Delivery Plan, Envision Athens, etc.? Unsure

Triple Bottom Line Impacts

Positive Benefits for the Prosperity of Athens-Clarke County: The promotion of health and wellness must be a priority for all governmental organizations in Athens-Clarke County. Research is clear that overall citizen wellbeing positively impacts the economic wellbeing and the sustainability of economic growth. The Institute for Local Government points to research and best practice health promotion recommendations. Among these include neighborhood revitalization and quality of life improvements for residents, including offering easy access to parks, green spaces and exercise opportunities. Braunstein and Lavizzo-Mourey (2011) highlight efforts of communities addressing root causes of poor health experienced by many who live in low-income neighborhoods, such as lack of access to health care and wellness opportunities, limited food choices, and exposure to environmental hazards. (Well over half of Clarke County's non-white citizens live in low-income neighborhoods.) Specific efforts include:

- Reducing exposure to allergens and irritants to reduce asthma among low-income children;
- Financing the operation of grocery stores in "food deserts;"
- Promoting early childhood development and health;
- Passing clean air laws and ordinances;
- Promoting clean and safe neighborhoods; and
- Providing opportunities for exercise and physical activity.

These types of actions are intentional on the part of local governments to focus on prevention and protective factors to lower the need and burden of the healthcare industry.

Currently, Clarke County is the 50th healthiest county in Georgia, which is the 41st healthiest state in America. That ranking puts Clarke County below surrounding, mostly rural counties like Oconee (#2 healthiest); Hall (#13); Jackson (#15); Barrow (#25); Walton (#30); Oglethorpe (#32); Morgan (#33); Madison (#45); and Banks (#47). Community poverty and income inequality are both high in Clarke County; however, root causes of poor health include Quality of Life factors, like poor physical and mental health; Lack of Access factors, like physical inactivity, food insecurity and limited access to health foods; and Physical Environment factors, like air pollution and severe housing problems.

A research study conducted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (2016), links unhealthy communities and unhealthy workforces. The study found that healthier communities cultivate a healthy, more productive

workforce fueling economic growth. In addition, healthier communities are associated with higher education.

Detrimental Impacts to the Prosperity of Athens-Clarke County: None

Positive Benefits for our Citizens and Visitors: Both Clarke County High school facilities are utilized daily by various athletic programs and individual citizens. In addition to the Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services sports teams, Athens is fortunate to have fourteen additional athletic boards which provide opportunities for students to participate in various competitive sports. The sports teams provide a safe outlet for many area youth to participate in activities which support improved physical well-being, team building skills and social-emotional development. The improved facilities will also benefit all citizens of Athens-Clarke County as the community does not own a running track. High school tracks are used by community members of all ages as they walk or run for overall health, train for various events and prepare for competitions. An added benefit of this proposal is the collaboration between the unified government and school district. Clarke County School District will provide personnel to manage and maintain all of the proposed facilities and will coordinate with ACC and community athletic boards to schedule official events. Several counties in the Northeast Georgia region have engaged in such intergovernmental projects and have reported tremendous success and usage by community members.

Detrimental Impacts for our Citizens and Visitors: None

Environmental Benefits, including but not limited to Positive impacts on existing Infrastructure/Systems: As stated above, the promotion of preventative health and wellness opportunities for the citizens of Athens-Clarke County will improve overall environmental factors that impact citizen well-being. Partnerships between the school district and county government capitalize on shared resources to broaden both access to facilities and participation in physical activity in safe and clean spaces. In addition, the turf stadium fields would eliminate the need for fertilizer and herbicides and reduce the need for irrigation.

Detrimental Impacts for the Environment, including but not limited to Negative impacts on existing Infrastructure/Systems: None

Positive/Negative Impacts on ACCGOV Departments, Agencies, or other Organizations, if not covered in one of the above questions: Positive impacts would include greater accessibility for the community and youth leagues who would have increased opportunity for access to a field during inclement weather.

Project Costs

Detailed project capital budget costs (to be funded from SPLOST 2020 only):

Project Costs (round to thousand)	Amount
1. Land Acquisition / ROW / Easement:	\$ -
2. Design Fees: (Min.12% of New Const.; 14% of reno.; 16% for LEED proj.)	\$ 130,000
3. Miscellaneous Fees: (Min. Minimum of 3% of Construction Costs – used for permitting, etc. Utilize minimum of 10% if land acquisition if necessary.)	\$ 25,000
4. Fixtures, Furniture, and Equipment (for a facility): A detailed estimate is preferred – but dependent upon the specific project, utilize at a minimum \$15 to \$20 per square foot.	\$ -
5. Construction:	\$ 3,020,000
6. Construction Contingency: (10% of the Construction line item)	\$ 302,000
7. Acquisition of Capital Equipment:	\$ -
8. Testing:	\$ -
9. Project Management: (4% of the total budget line items above)	\$ 140,000
10. Project Contingency: (10% of the total budget line items above)	\$ 362,000
11. Public Art: Calculated at 1% of the Construction line item.	\$ 31,000
12. Other 1: Removal of rock at Clarke Central High School	\$ 250,000
13. Other 2:	\$ -
Project Subtotal:	\$ 4,260,000
14. Program Management (3% of Project Subtotal):	\$ 128,000
SPLOST 2020 Project Total:	\$ 4,388,000

Project Financing

Is the proposed Project to receive funding from source(s) other than SPLOST 2020? No