



The group reviewed the latest field plans. Some of the changes from previous versions are:

- added fences with gates built in for access;
- high jump area was changed from one specific zone to a multiuse, larger space to reduce wear from high jump and optimize space;
- added paving for future storage opportunities for equipment or other needs;
- shotput area was rotated so that track activities are closer together.

turf. Through this process, the committee concluded that installing turf fields was the best practice for construction. This decision is based on injuries, longevity, and installation methods. The committee notes [are available here to view](#). Most of the decision on what infill to use comes down to personal preference, based on longevity, performance, and sustainability.

Jeff Burke brought samples of the following materials: cork, olive pits, TPE (thermoplastic elastomers), geofill, brockfill, Nike grind, coated cork, coated rubber, and crumb rubber. Sand acts as a balance to keep turf in place, is not noticeable during use, is low dust and available locally. Some of these materials have been used more than others and have more research or information about performance. The best practice is to select a material that is widely used and tested. Warranties generally address wear and tear, not poor outcomes.

Generally, crumb rubber is the most widely used infill for turf fields. A previous University of Washington soccer coach expressed concern about higher rates of cancer among players, potentially due to crumb rubber infill in turf, but research determined that the cancer rate in this group was not unusual. [More information from public health can be found on the DOH website](#). Kim Niederhauser, director of health services, discussed best practices for limiting exposure, which include washing hands and showering after playing on a field, and not wearing shoes indoors. Other concerns about crumb rubber include runoff into streams and waterways. Mark Peterson, director of facilities and sustainability, mentioned [this study](#), which gives more information about mitigating environmental impact from rubber runoff into streams.

Locally, cork is the most popular alternative turf infill option. Cork is a renewable resource and can be more sustainably disposed via composting. More sand is used on cork fields for balance