

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)

Grant Recipient: Palmer

Project Title:

Palmer - Palmer High School Field Turf Project

State Funding Requested: \$ 1,500,000

House District: 13 - G

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Design and replace Machetanz Sports Field grass with artificial turf.

Funding Plan:

Total Cost of Project: \$1,500,000

<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
There is no other funding needed					
<i>Explanation of Other Funds:</i>					
<i>No other funding needed.</i>					

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Funding is sought for the renovation of Machetanz Field. A recent example can be found at Dimond High.

Justification: Safety and Community Involvement.

Safety for all student athletes is paramount.

Field turf surfaces significantly reduce 3rd degree, cervical, cranial, and neural injuries. New grass is slippery for soccer and other sports and requires close monitoring and maintenance.

We also acknowledge that with turf replacement, Palmer and the greater Mat-Su community would have access to a facility for most of the year; the facility use would be extended far beyond the current season.

Project Timeline:

2008-2009

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Mat-Su Borough Schools

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

4:24 PM 4/29/2008

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Wolfgang Winter, Principal
Phone Number: (907) 746-8400
Address: 1170 West Arctic Avenue, Palmer, AK 99645
Email: Wolfgang.Winter@matsuk12.us

Funds for this project are located in the Governor's FY09 Budget:

No

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No



PALMER HIGH SCHOOL

~ Home of the Moose ~

1170 West Arctic Avenue
Palmer, Alaska 99645

phone (907) 746-8400 fax (907) 746-8481 activities (907) 746-8484

www.phs.matsuk12.us

Principals - Wolfgang Winter, Sheela Hull, & Jim Simmons
Activities Director - Jeff Thiede

- Life-long Learners -
- Community Assets -
- Citizens of Integrity -



The Honorable Lyda Green
The Honorable Carl Gatto
Alaska State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Green and Representative Gatto,

First, the teachers, students, parents, and staff at Palmer High thank you for all you have done for the Mat-Su Valley, and in particular for your continued support of education for our community.

In keeping with our communities desire to have healthy children, and the Bush administration's encouragement to make exercise a more regular and natural part of a child's life, we as parents want our children to spend more time outdoors. A huge help in accomplishing this is upgrading our infrastructure through a capital project expenditure of \$1.5 million to replace the Machetanz Field's grass surface with turf.

This would be an appropriate place to install a turf field for a number of reasons. Primarily, it will improve the safety for any and all students and student athletes who use the facility. Spikes and cleats that would otherwise not be able to be used can be used on an artificial surface. When talking about natural grass fields, Palmer High School has, arguably, the best football field in the state. It comes, however, with a cost. The Palmer High football coaches put innumerable hours into seeding, watering, and otherwise maintaining the field. In spite of the money and hours that are poured into this ongoing project, weather does not always allow us to retain a field that is in adequate condition. Further, because of the sensitive nature of sod cleats or spikes cannot be used on the field for Spring sports prior to May 1st. Because new grass is very slippery at that time of the year, there is a significant safety issue for soccer players and any other athletes who use the current surface.

3. March 2008



PALMER HIGH SCHOOL

~ Home of the Moose ~

1170 West Arctic Avenue
Palmer, Alaska 99645

phone (907) 746-8400 fax (907) 746-8481 activities (907) 746-8484

www.phs.matsuk12.us

Principals - Wolfgang Winter, Sheela Hull, & Jim Simmons
Activities Director - Jeff Thiede

- Life-long Learners -
- Community Assets -
- Citizens of Integrity -



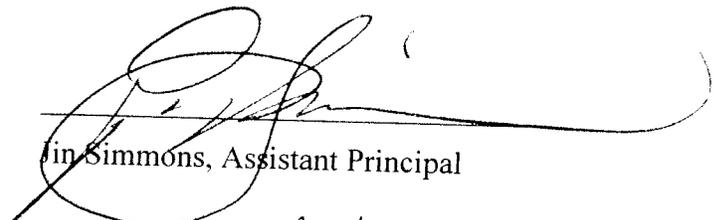
Palmer High is the longest established Valley school with a stadium known throughout Alaska. With turf replacement, Palmer and the greater Mat-Su community would have access to a facility for most of the year; the artificial surface would allow us to extend the use of our facility far beyond what it is now. Another benefit to installing turf at Palmer High School is it coincides with a new video surveillance system in place by this Fall, ensuring effective safety/security of the new field. Finally, with the long-awaited visitors bleachers soon to be a reality with seating for about 500 spectators, this will be one of the few schools in the state with quality seating on both sides of the field—a great benefit to the region.

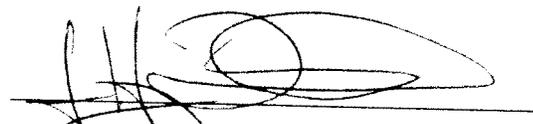
Palmer High School was the first school in the state to have an all-weather track; this occurred about 20 years ago. However, the Mat-Su Valley lags behind in turf field installation—a tremendous means of ensuring safety for our student athletes, increasing community participation, and extending the sports season.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,


Wolfgang Winter, Principal


Jim Simmons, Assistant Principal


Jeff Thiede, Athletic Director


Rod Christiansen, Head Football Coach


Kevin Dearborn, Head Boys Soccer Coach


Brian Fish, Head Girls Soccer Coach