

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools

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MVRHS School Committee Submits Application for New High School Track First Phase of Master Plan to Rebuild Athletic Campus

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The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) today submitted Phase 1 of its overall master plan to rehabilitate the high school's athletic fields and buildings to the Oak Bluffs Planning Board (OBPB) and the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC). The MVC's review is pending referral from the OBPB.

The submission follows a feasibility study of the entire athletic campus, prompted by the closure of the track due to safety concerns. The resulting master plan was developed by Huntress Associates, a landscape, architectural, engineering and planning firm in Andover, MA. Huntress Associates specializes in sports and recreation fields at both the high school and collegiate levels.

The scope of Phase 1 of the master plan will address the immediate needs of the athletic campus, including the following elements:

- A new, eight-lane, 400m track replacing the current track which is failing and at the end of its usable lifespan;
- One multi-purpose natural grass athletic field;
- One multi-purpose synthetic and recyclable turf field from sustainable sources;
- New LED lighting for a new grandstand and press box;
- Reorienting the track and inside field to run parallel to the Edgartown Road, thereby minimizing impact on neighbors;
- New facility including public restrooms, concessions, player locker rooms, and weight room;
- Track and field storage shed for equipment; and
- ADA compliant walkways.

Phase 1 is estimated to cost \$7.7 million with the funding to come from private donations. A link to the submissions to the MVC and OBPB, including attachments, [is here](#). The review by the MVC is triggered by the MVRHS' long-time status as a Development of Regional Impact (DRI).

“We’re excited to embark on this project, which will provide safe and responsible athletic facilities for our students and the community. We have an opportunity to finally create an athletic campus that is worthy of our student-athletes, our coaches, and our fans,” said Kris O’Brien, the MVRHS School Committee member selected to represent the track project. “This has been an open, inclusive, and fully transparent process. Today’s submission is an important step and we are eager to make the case for our kids and move forward.”

“We’re doing this the right way, with a full master plan that’s environmentally sound, significantly reduces the nitrogen load, and helps maintain our grass fields by resting them in the growing season or bad weather,” said Dr. Richie Smith, assistant superintendent of schools. “The synthetic field meets the highest industry standards with organically grown, sustainably harvested Georgia pine infill. The entire product is completely recyclable at the end of its life span, and studies have shown the pad reduces player injuries.”

“There is enormous community energy around this project,” said Kimberly Kirk, chair of the MVRHS School Committee. “It is clear we cannot put the financial burden on our taxpayers and we will soon announce a campaign to raise the necessary funds from private donations. Athletics are an important part of the high school experience. They generate pride and enthusiasm in the student body, as well as the larger community. We are excited to take this first step towards providing an improved, safer, and sustainable athletics facility for our students and community for years to come.”

For submissions to the MVC and OBPB, including attachments, please go to:
<https://www.mvrhs.org/track-fields-project/>