

**Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development****Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Kenai Peninsula Borough****Federal Tax ID: 92-0030894****Project Title:****Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades**

# Kenai Peninsula Borough - Soldotna High Schools Artificial Turf Field

**State Funding Requested: \$3,700,000****House District: Kenai Areawide (28-30)**

One-Time Need

**Brief Project Description:**

Upgrade to artificial turf fields.

**Funding Plan:**

Total Project Cost:	\$4,200,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$3,700,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$500,000

*Funding Details:*

None

**Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The competitive athletic fields at these facilities would benefit greatly by being upgraded to artificial turf fields. Artificial turf fields would enable our communities to use these facilities for a much greater portion of the year by allowing use much earlier in the spring and much later in the fall than they currently can. Additionally, artificial turf fields are able to handle a much greater amount of use than natural turf fields without risking damage.

Both of these facilities have received funding from the State to upgrade their running tracks. Homer High Schools track upgrade was completed during the summer of 2012 and the running track at Soldotna High School is scheduled to be re-built during the summer of 2013. The installation of an artificial turf field at these schools will complete the work at these facilities and will result in highly functional, long lasting, low maintenance facilities that will withstand much heavier use than the existing fields.

These facilities are used by students of all ages during school-sponsored events and by the community for many other activities. Quality athletic facilities are vital for a community to encourage healthier lifestyles, promote exercise, hold athletic competitions, and as a location for many community events. Well maintained and functional athletic facilities make for a healthy community.

Engineering and cost estimates have been completed for both locations. Even though the geotechnical conditions and drainage requirements for each project is different, the engineers cost estimate for each athletic turf field is 2.1 million dollars.

**Project Timeline:**

Construction would be scheduled for summer 2013-2014

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

Kenai Peninsula Borough

**Grant Recipient Contact Information:**

Name: Kevin Lyon  
Title: Capital Projects Director  
Address: 47140 East Poppy Lane  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669  
Phone Number: (907)262-9657  
Email: klyon@borough.kenai.ak.us

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



# Kenai Peninsula Borough

Year 2013 State Capital Improvement Projects

## CAPITAL PROJECT: HIGH SCHOOL ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELDS

**Funding Recipient:** Kenai Peninsula Borough

**Project Name:** Homer and Soldotna High School Artificial Turf Fields

Tier: 1

### Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The competitive athletic fields at these facilities would benefit greatly by being upgraded to artificial turf fields. Artificial turf fields would enable our communities to use these facilities for a much greater portion of the year by allowing use much earlier in the spring and much later in the fall than they currently can. Additionally, artificial turf fields are able to handle a much greater amount of use than natural turf fields without risking damage.

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Time line: Construction would be scheduled for Summer 2013-2014

Funding Requested:	\$	4,200,000	Election District:	Senate:	O
Total Project Cost:	\$	4,200,000		House:	29 & 30

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Kevin Lyon, Capital Projects Director  
47140 East Poppy Lane  
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Phone: (907) 262-9657  
Fax: (907) 262-6090  
E-mail: [klyon@borough.kenai.ak.us](mailto:klyon@borough.kenai.ak.us)



## CITY OF HOMER

Community Recreation  
600 E. Fairview Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

Telephone (907) 235-6090  
Fax (907) 235-8933  
Web Site  
[www.homercommunityrecreation.com](http://www.homercommunityrecreation.com)

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March 27, 2013

To: Alaska House Representative  
Honorable Paul Seaton  
State Capitol Room 102  
Juneau AK, 99801

I am writing this letter of behalf of the City of Homer Community Recreation Program in support of the Homer High School and Soldotna High School Artificial Turf Fields capital improvement project as requested by the Kenai Peninsula Borough. While the Community Recreation program offers many recreational and educational programs, we are a very strong advocate for promoting and supporting all health, wellness and recreational activities in our community and throughout the state. The continuing need for outdoor recreational opportunities and exercise is directly or indirectly essential to the mental, physical and social health for all Alaskans. The local schools are the literal axis for opportunity as rural communities such as the southern peninsula rely heavily on the local school facilities, fields and infrastructure for programs and activities beyond school district functions. Simply stated: our schools are the *lifeblood* of keeping all Alaskans healthy and active.

The artificial turf fields will be a tremendous cost savings with a reduction of staff time, material, watering, etc. It will provide additional usage beyond the typical short spring/summer/fall season that usually prevents both school and public users from being on the field in fear of ruining the grass. The ability to host large school events and other events such as Pop Warner football and soccer games will be a highly welcomed fiscal shot in the arm for the local economy by filling up the local hotels and restaurants. This will allow access and opportunity for other area school events, feeder sports programs and the recreation program to be able to offer additional recreational and wellness related programs. This will all be made possible if artificial turf becomes available.

With keeping our youth in mind, we are seeing rising trends of obesity, depression, suicide, drug and alcohol use in our state that has many long term consequences that we cannot put a price tag on. Here is an investment that will combat these negative trends and create many beneficial and healthy options for all of community members not just school district students. Thank you for considering the KPB's request for artificial turf to provide safe and positive experiences for all who live, work and play in the southern peninsula.

Sincerely yours,

Michael C. Illg, CPRP (Certified Parks & Recreation Professional)  
Recreation Coordinator  
City of Homer Community Recreation  
[millg@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:millg@ci.homer.ak.us)  
907.235.6090

**From:** Michael Wojciak [<mailto:MWojciak@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 03, 2013 11:29 AM  
**To:** Rep. Paul Seaton  
**Subject:** Homer High Football Field

Hello Mr. Paul Seaton,

This is Mike Wojciak, principal at Voznesenka School. I have met you on at least three occasions, so you may recall who I am. I do rent from Candy Rohrer and Jim Van Oss on East End Road, with whom I'm sure you're well acquainted.

I'm writing to share my support for the proposed upgrades to the Homer High Football Field. Homer High, Alan Gee in particular, has been very supportive of our expanding athletic programs. Next year, the Voznesenka Varsity Football Team, which is a cooperative team with the communities of Razdolna and Kachemac-Selo, will be competing in the Greatland Conference and will be using the Homer facility for all of our home games. This field is not in the best of shape, and with the increased amount of use this field will need to endure, it won't last. I know there are many other programs that also take advantage of the Homer High Football Field, as it is a community facility. As part of our expanding athletic programs, we feel with much certainty that we will also have a high school girls' soccer team that will also require the support of the Homer High facility. We greatly appreciate the use of the Homer High's field and are hopeful that an artificial turf has your support.

On a side note, I'm not in favor of House Bill #21

Thanks for your support,

Mike

**From:** Cindy Koplin [<mailto:CKoplin@KPBSD.k12.ak.us>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2013 9:53 AM  
**To:** Rep. Paul Seaton  
**Subject:** support for turf field in Homer

60621 Bear Creek Dr

Homer, AK 99603

Dear Representative Seaton,

I am writing to ask you to please support the funding for a turf field at Homer High School. My 5 children have all played soccer in Homer since the time they were little (my youngest is 17 now) and the experiences and lessons they have learned from soccer apply to all areas of their lives now.

A turf field would extend the soccer season and allow more kids to play for a longer time. There are years when we barely get any practice time actually on the field before the real games begin because we are waiting for the fields to dry out....

Getting every student we can involved in sports is a benefit for our whole community. The lessons learned about self-discipline and sportsmanship are invaluable. Getting a turf field would make a huge difference in sports involvement at Homer High School.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter!!

Sincerely,

Cindy Koplin

[c.koplin@kpbsd.k12.ak.us](mailto:c.koplin@kpbsd.k12.ak.us)

**From:** Hanna Mikols [<mailto:hannamikols@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 31, 2013 6:42 PM  
**To:** Rep. Paul Seaton  
**Subject:** Turf Field for Homer

Dear Representative Seaton,

I have been playing soccer at Homer High School for the past four years. Each year we start practicing in early March, and play in the gym for much of our season. On a typical year we don't get onto a field until our first game, and other times our team has to pay for our field to even get plowed off. The negative side effects of playing in the gym are numerous. Every season we are faced with numerous injuries including shin splints which are a result of running on a hard floor for hours at a time. Playing on the gym floor is extremely hard on the athletes bodies. The condition that our current field is in is also a safety hazard. The field has poor drainage and acquires a large amount of mud and water in numerous places across the field. Many athletes slip and fall, spraining ankles and also causing concussions due to head contact with the ground. The place where we currently take corner kicks is a huge puddle, which is another safety hazard that should be taken into account.

Many athletes do not think it is worth it to practice so long in the gym and only have games outdoors. This results in countless athletes quitting every season. Promoting athletics among students is crucial to their wellbeing and also encourages a healthier lifestyle. The raising levels of obesity in the US are shocking, and athletics and exercise helps prevent this problem. Also getting students involved with sports allows them to focus their time on something productive as well as their school work. Athletes at our school must maintain a C average in order to participate in sports, so having more students participate in athletics would also raise incentive to get good grades. This years track team has significantly more participants than the previous years, and this is directly related to the fact that they have a new track, that can actually be utilized.

Despite the fact that I am a senior this year, I strongly believe that Homer High School needs a turf field for the future of our athletics programs. Many other schools across the state are being granted them, including Anchorage and Valley schools. It is important for all athletes in the state to have equal facilities in order compete fairly. It is also crucial for a school and community to be able to promote sports, and for athletes to be excited about them. I believe that the track raised tremendous community support, and I think that a turf field is equally important. More user groups would be able to utilize the field including high school, middle school, elementary school, and community run sports. If Homer had a suitable field we would be able to host events such as regions, which would bring in much needed revenue for businesses during the off season, helping to support the community. This is the time that our legislature must take action, especially with the issue of lowering oil taxes. The community of Homer needs to be represented in Juneau in order to get the turf field that is so baldly needed by many user groups.

Thank you for your time,

Hanna Mikols

March 28, 2013

Dear Representative Seaton,

My name is Katie Pitzman; I'm a senior at HHS and a lifelong resident of Homer. I am the oldest of seven children, and my siblings and I are very active in sports and activities both within our schools and the community. In fact, last April I traveled to Juneau for the Youth Education Summit and met you in the House when I was a guest page. I am writing to you today regarding the funding for the Homer and Soldotna High School's artificial turf fields.

I've played soccer at Homer High for 3 years and in that time I've personally felt the frustration that all field dependent programs experience. It is for the following reasons that I hope that you'll use your influence, as our community's representative, to continue to make our project a legislative priority.

The soccer season begins in March and due to field conditions we must begin the season indoors. Waiting for the fields to dry out, we are often unable to practice on the field until mid April, sometimes even after conference games have started.

In addition, this field would not only be an asset to the High School football and Soccer programs, but also for community recreation of all ages. In Homer there are many summer and fall sports associations that utilize the field, including Little Feet Soccer and Pop Warner Football for kids as well as adult sports leagues. This field will be a critical help to the many user groups.

As a senior this year I write mainly for posterity. Though my sports career at Homer High is ending in the spring, this project remains important to me because of my younger teammates and siblings. I write to you so that they will have access to improved practice space in the future. Please support our turf field and continue to make healthy youthful activities a priority.

Thank you,

Katie Pitzman

PO Box 1227  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
March 25, 2013

Dear Representative Seaton,

I am writing in support for funding the turf athletic fields for Homer and Soldotna High Schools.

I strongly believe that a artificial turf field should be installed in Homer. I played for Homer's U-14 Boys Soccer team last summer. With real grass, our season usually doesn't start until late May and end late August. Until late May, our field is a big mud pit. But with new turf, our season could be a lot longer. We could have much more time to practice and prepare for the Alaska Airlines Cup in the first week of June.

A major concern to athletes in Homer is that we have to transfer between fields throughout the summer, due to the fact that we have to let our grass rest after being torn up by cleats. It gets tough to find field time with all our user groups and these marginal fields.

Artificial turf would also benefit the football team, as they are in the same boat as us. Getting this new turf would be really great for all the athletes.

Thank you for all your hard work, and we look forward to bringing home the state soccer trophy.

Sincerely,  
Henry R. Russell

PO Box 2534  
Homer, AK 99603

Dear Representative Seaton,

I am writing this letter of support for the turf fields for Homer and Soldotna. I have coached soccer here in Homer for 22 years, starting the club team back in 1991. Every year, we have injuries and frustrations due to a lack of safe, dry fields for our athletes to play on. Our time to play is so limited because of the field situation. Very often, we step on the field to play our first game without even one practice on the field.

This field, however, could also be used by football and community sports activities. I bet the field would be used all day long!

The number of turf fields in Alaska is growing rapidly as we figure out that in order for us to have outside sports both fall and spring, a faster drying, safer surface will be necessary! Kenai got its field. Homer and Soldotna have been waiting patiently for ours.

I urge you to push to support this funding.

Thank you,

Wendy Todd

-----Original Message-----

From: Kaela Jiron [<mailto:kjfiremonkey@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 7:39 PM

To: Rep. Paul Seaton

Subject: Homer Turf Field

Dear Representative Paul Seaton,

Homer is in desperate need of a turf field. Not having one is causing the students in Homer not to be able to play as many games as the students with a turf fields, or practice as efficiently. At this time of the year it is difficult for the sports players to find adequate areas to practice in. Having a turf field would essentially eliminate this problem. Please supply Homer a turf field!

Soccer player,  
Kaela Jiron

**From:** Alyssa Vanliere [<mailto:av.alaskancutie@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013 6:35 PM

**To:** Rep. Paul Seaton

**Subject:** Homer High Turf Field

To whomever it may concern,

My name is Alyssa VanLiere, I'm a freshman at Homer High School and also part of the Lady Mariner's Soccer Program. For years our school has been in dire need of a high quality field. Not only is our practice time on the field limited to 3-5 practices before games because of it's quality, but also, the fields condition has caused many injuries to both away teams and Homer teams. A turf field would be highly appreciated and a great addition to Homer High School's soccer program.

Thank you for your consideration, Alyssa VanLiere

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Rohr [<mailto:rrm.rosey@gmail.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 6:29 PM

To: Rep. Paul Seaton

Subject: Homer High Turf Field

Dear State Legislators,

Homer High and the Homer community would benefit greatly from a turf feild. The field would allow the soccer teams at the high school to practice out doors sooner and prevent many injuries that are caused by practicing on the gym floor and hallways. There are many community soccer teams as well as soccer scrimmages set up by community schools. The field would provide a safe space for the games and practices to occur. Please give us the money for the fields to prevent injury and better our soccer program in Homer.

Sincerely,

Jane Rohr, Homer High Sophomore

**From:** Samantha Draves [<mailto:sportastic123@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, March 28, 2013 6:58 PM

**To:** Sen. Peter Micciche

**Cc:** Rep. Paul Seaton; [WTodd@KPBSD.k12.ak.us](mailto:WTodd@KPBSD.k12.ak.us)

**Subject:** Homer Turf Field

To Senator Peter Micciche and Representative Paul Seaton,

Hello. My name is Samantha Draves, and I am a Homer high school freshman who plays soccer. The need for a turf field is killing the girls soccer team. We practice indoors in a gym not even half the size of a soccer field because practicing outside could cause a player a season ending injury, which Homer needs every player we can get. Also, the field could get wrecked to where it is not usable for the actual season. All the teams except Homer are already practicing on their turf fields which makes this all the more important. Football will gain from this too by getting a better playing surface. Turf fields also have lower maintenance than grass fields. I believe it is Homer's turn. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule.

Sincerely,

Samantha Draves