

## **Granby Memorial High School Turf Track and Field**



### **Priority Funding for Turf Track and Field Replacement at Granby Memorial High School**

A top priority for funding is the replacement of the turf track and field at Granby Memorial High School. Originally installed in 2013, the track has been meticulously maintained and serves as a source of pride and enjoyment for both the school district and the greater Granby community.

The track is a vital community asset, used daily by residents for walking, running, and athletic training. Granby students rely on the track and field for physical education, wellness, and recreation across three seasons each year. Additionally, Stadium Field is an essential facility that supports not only football but also boys' and girls' soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and cheerleading. Beyond athletics, the field hosts major events such as the annual GMHS graduation ceremony, Bearcats football games, and community fundraisers, including the Alzheimer's Walk.

### **Urgent Need for Repairs**

In recent years, the track and field have faced significant structural challenges, including the formation of sinkholes. These issues have progressed to the point where track and field meets can no longer be hosted, and safety concerns have led to restrictions on community access.

Turf fields generally have a lifespan of 8–10 years, which can be extended to 10–15 years under optimal conditions. However, as the GMHS field enters its 12th year, it has exceeded its expected lifespan, and due to unique environmental factors, a full replacement is both warranted and necessary.

### **Cost and Remediation Efforts**

The estimated cost to replace the track and field, including the necessary remediation to address existing structural challenges, exceeds \$2 million.

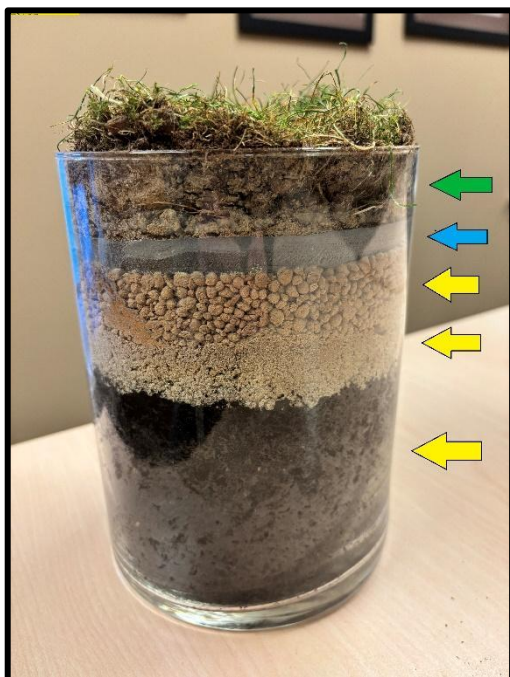
In 2022, the geotechnical firm Haley Aldrich conducted subsurface testing, including seven 15-foot deep geoprobe test holes, to investigate the cause of recurring sinkholes and surface depressions. Their analysis revealed the

presence of air pockets and poorly graded soil beneath the track area. In 2024, GZA Geotechnical Services reviewed the initial findings, conducted a site visit, and confirmed the assessment.

Both firms concluded that organic materials, such as tree stumps left unexcavated during the original construction, are decomposing over time, creating air pockets that cause the sand layers to sink and surface layers to depress. Additionally, concerns were raised about significant levels of poorly graded sand and air pockets at depths ranging from 1 to 10 feet in various locations.

To ensure long-term stability, experts recommend a comprehensive remediation process, including soil removal, excavation, screening for organic materials, and multiple layers of soil compaction before reinstatement. Without these corrective measures, the risk of additional sinkhole formations in the coming years remains high.

The following samples illustrate the existing subsurface conditions at GMHS, with each container representing depths of up to 15 feet.



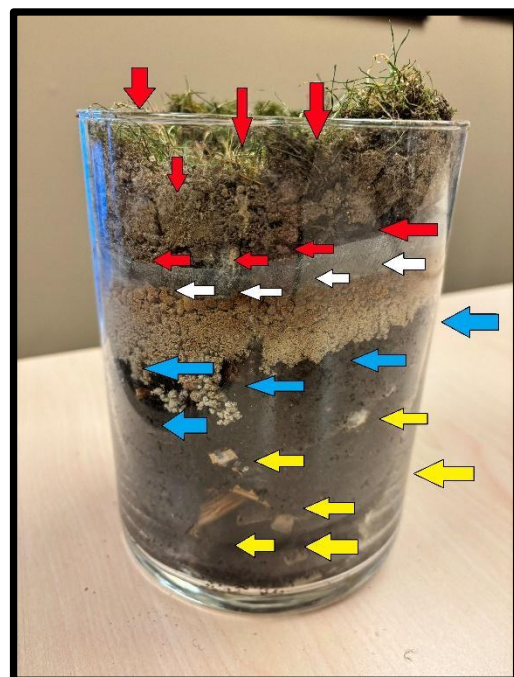
### **Unaffected Turf Field**

Properly compacted soil (yellow)

Properly compacted / installed base (yellow)

Level base surface (blue)

Level turf surface (green)



### **Granby Turf Field**

Uncompacted soil w/ pockets of debris and air (yellow)

Sinking levels of subsurface (blue)

Sinking base level (white)

Uneven, depressed, and sinking turf surface (red)