

Watchung Field and Playground Fact Sheet

The process for the turf replacement of the Watchung Field was started in 2018 as follows:

December 17, 2018 – Board resolution for architect to work on the project

April 3, 2019 – Board resolution to solicit bids on the project

April 25, 2019 – Bids were received and opened

May 1, 2019 – Board resolution to reject the bids received on 4/25/2019

May 16, 2019 – Board resolution for submission of project application and drawings to the DOE

Concerns were raised by parents. Plans were then changed to include a complete replacement and redesign of the playground, adding to the cost of the project and requiring additional funding.

October 19, 2020 – Board resolution for architect Parette Somjen to work on the revised project (turf and playground replacement)

March 3, 2021 – Board resolution to re-advertise for bids on the revised project

April 13, 2021 – Bids were received and opened

April 19, 2021 – Board resolution awarding contract to Grade Construction for the Watchung turf field and playground replacement

May 31, 2021 – Scheduled start date. The project was paused for a week while the District met with the Watchung Playground Committee families

June 7, 2021 – Work commenced

Original substantial completions date of August 19, 2021 was changed to August 27, 2021

Per our Athletic Department

The total field dimensions are specified to be 390 ft long by 215 ft wide.

The playing field is 120 yards.

The playground area will be 2,000 sq. feet larger than the previous playground.

Size of existing playground (mulch area)	±8,000 sq.feet
Size of existing gaga pit area (to be relocated to rear grass area)	±2,855 sq.feet
Size of asphalt area that will be removed	±7800 sq.feet
Size of paver patio seating area that will be removed	±3,287 sq.feet
Size of new playground (mulch area)	±10,659 sq.feet

Field Hockey Field will be lined: 100 yards in length by 60 yards wide

Girls & Boys Soccer Field will be lined: 120 yards in length by 60 yards wide

Girls Lacrosse Field will be lined: 120 yards in length by 60 yards wide

Boys Lacrosse Field will be lined: 110 yards in length by 60 yards wide

Architectual Watchung Playground Layout/Design with equipment