



State of Our Fields Engagement Summary

When evaluating the challenges surrounding the flooding and limited availability of RPS athletic fields, what perspectives should the district consider?

March 4, 2024

PARTICIPATION

Breakdown of Participation



1,381
Participants



1,043
Thoughts




19,455
Ratings



PARTICIPATION - Breakdown of Participation

I am a (check all that apply):

 **1291**
Responses


%		Answer <i>(Multi-select)</i>
74%	(949)	Parent of current student
20%	(252)	Parent of former student
2%	(31)	Student
11%	(140)	Staff Member
8%	(101)	Alumni
25%	(328)	Community Member
2%	(22)	Other



PARTICIPATION - Breakdown of Participation

My student(s)/I am in grade (check all that apply):

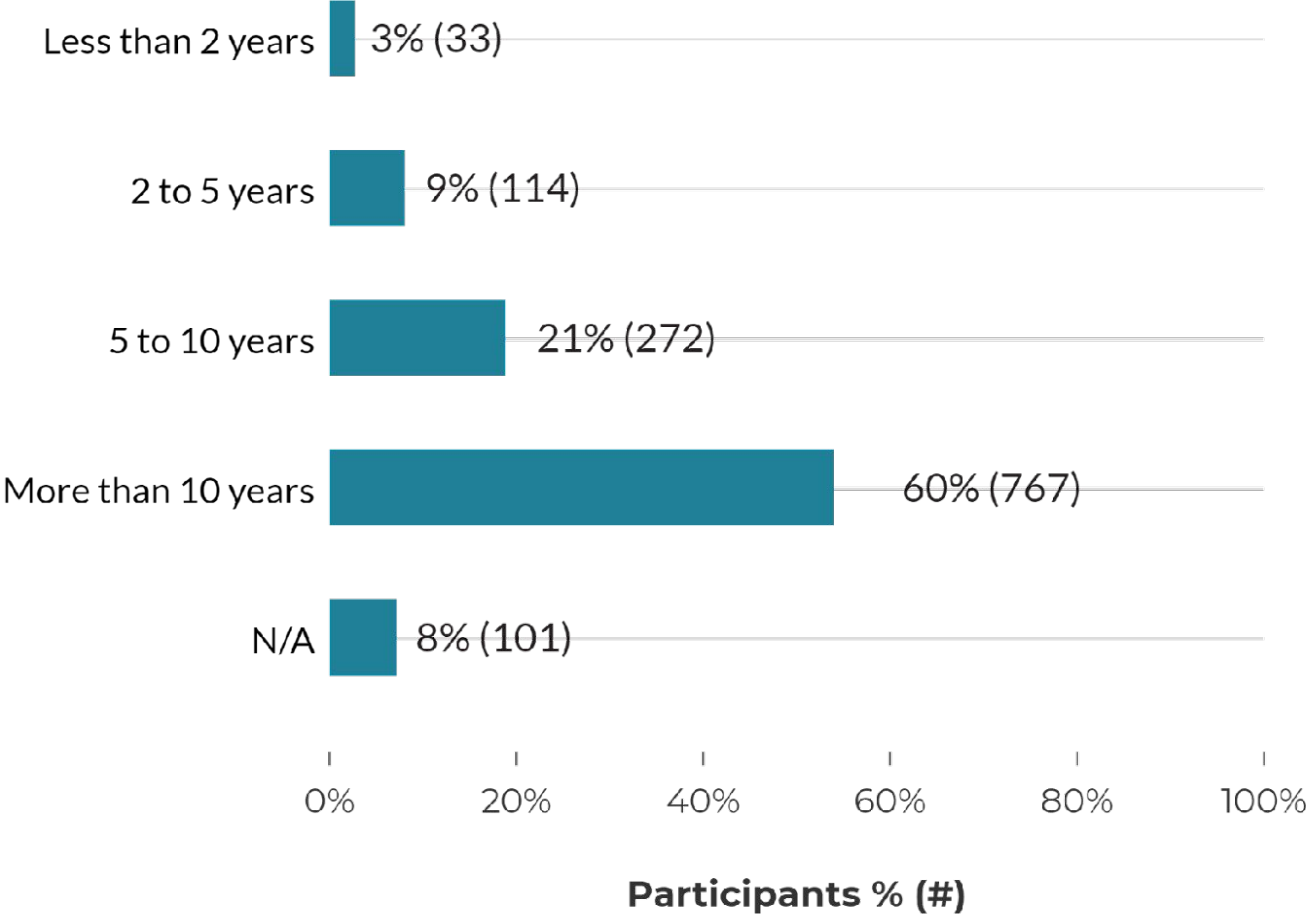
 **1288**
Responses

%		Answer (Multi-select)
7%	(96)	Pre-K
42%	(542)	K through 5
31%	(400)	6 through 8
40%	(513)	9 through 12, or STEPSS
18%	(227)	Not Applicable



PARTICIPATION - Breakdown of Participation

I have lived in Ridgewood for:



THOUGHTS - Highest Rated

Considering the persistent flooding as a new norm, the district should prioritize long-term engineering solutions for sustainable fields. This approach ensures sustained functionality and resilience against the challenges posed by long-term flooding

4.6  (22 )
Ranked #1 of 1043

A long term solution should be implemented. Reccuring flooding issues causes too much disruptions.

4.5  (22 )
Ranked #2 of 1043

Fix the athletic fields permanently please The temporary remediation will not solve the problem and is only a waste of tax dollars

4.5  (19 )
Ranked #3 of 1043



TOPICS - Long Term Solution

A long term solution should be implemented. Reccuring flooding issues causes too much disruptions.

4.5  (22 )

Long term solution Repeating the same mistakes is costly and time consuming

4.4  (25 )

Investing resources to fix the problem for the long term, even if it causes short term inconvenience The same problem keeps happening, and that itself needs to be addressed.

4.4  (23 )



TOPICS - Health

student/user safety turf continues to be degraded by flood inundation. this makes the fields no longer perform to original specification. this is a safety concern

4.2  (23 )

The primary perspective should be the health and safety of field users and the environment. RPS records shows PFAS ground contamination at Orchard, which can't be remediated. The same tests should be done at all fields and water sources.

4.2  (21 )

Short and long term environment, health, safety, cost We have a responsibility to assess the impact thoroughly and thoughtfully

3.9  (24 )



TOPICS - Kids Need a Reliable Place to Play

Village resources are constantly wasted on remediation, when a more permanent solution should be sought. The kids suffer the most, as their seasons are being disrupted, and then they are exposed to harmful toxins following a flooding.

4.3  (23 )

Permanence of solutions to the flooding problem. So that we don't have to keep having these discussions over and over again and so that the kids have a reliable place to play

4.3  (22 )

Finding a permanent solution is very important. Affects all the kids and schedules

4.3  (21 )



TOPICS - Cost to Fix Offset by Cost to Replace

The cost of addressing the field situation vs. the unpredictable disruption caused when they do flood. While a permanent solution may be costly, it may be more beneficial than having unpredictable disruptions that prevent field access for weeks/months

4.3 ★★★★★ (24 👤)

Figure out a way to prevent flooding, rather than costly clean-up effort after the fact. Worth it to spend a lot to change the situation, than spending smaller amounts for each clean-up, resulting in higher costs over the course of years.

4.2 ★★★★★ (23 👤)

Cost to fix vs ongoing cost to remediate A school like Ridgewood should have high quality sports fields

4.2 ★★★★★ (21 👤)



Top Themes - Ordered by Relevance

1 Cost Considerations

Many responses highlighted the financial implications of the flooding issue. Participants expressed frustration over the recurring costs of repairing the fields after each flood event. They suggested that the district should consider long-term solutions, even if they are more expensive upfront, as they could potentially save money in the long run. Some participants also suggested exploring alternative funding sources to avoid increasing taxes.

Show thoughts

2 Environmental Impact

The environmental impact of the flooding and potential solutions was a common theme in the responses. Participants expressed concerns about the effects of climate change and overdevelopment on the flooding issue. They also raised concerns about the environmental impact of turf fields, suggesting that grass fields may be a more sustainable option. Some participants suggested that the district should consider ways to mitigate the environmental impact of the flooding, such as improving drainage or changing the path of the water.

Show thoughts

3 Athletic Needs

The needs of student athletes and the importance of sports programs were frequently mentioned. Participants emphasized the importance of having reliable, usable fields for sports practices and games. They expressed frustration over the disruptions caused by the flooding and the impact on students' athletic experiences. Some participants suggested that the district should consider alternative locations for the fields or find ways to ensure uninterrupted use of the fields.

Show thoughts



Top Themes - Ordered by Relevance

4 Safety Concerns

Safety concerns were raised in relation to both the flooding issue and potential solutions. Participants expressed concerns about the safety of turf fields, both in terms of potential injuries and environmental contamination. They also raised concerns about the safety of homes surrounding the fields and the potential impact of flood mitigation measures on these homes. Some participants suggested that the district should prioritize safety in their decision-making process.

Show thoughts

5 Community Impact

The impact of the flooding issue on the wider community was a common theme in the responses. Participants highlighted the importance of the fields for community use and the impact of the flooding on residents' enjoyment of the fields. They also expressed concerns about the potential impact of flood mitigation measures on neighboring homes. Some participants suggested that the district should consider the needs and perspectives of all community members in their decision-making process.

Show thoughts



Key Differences in Opinions

Difference groups

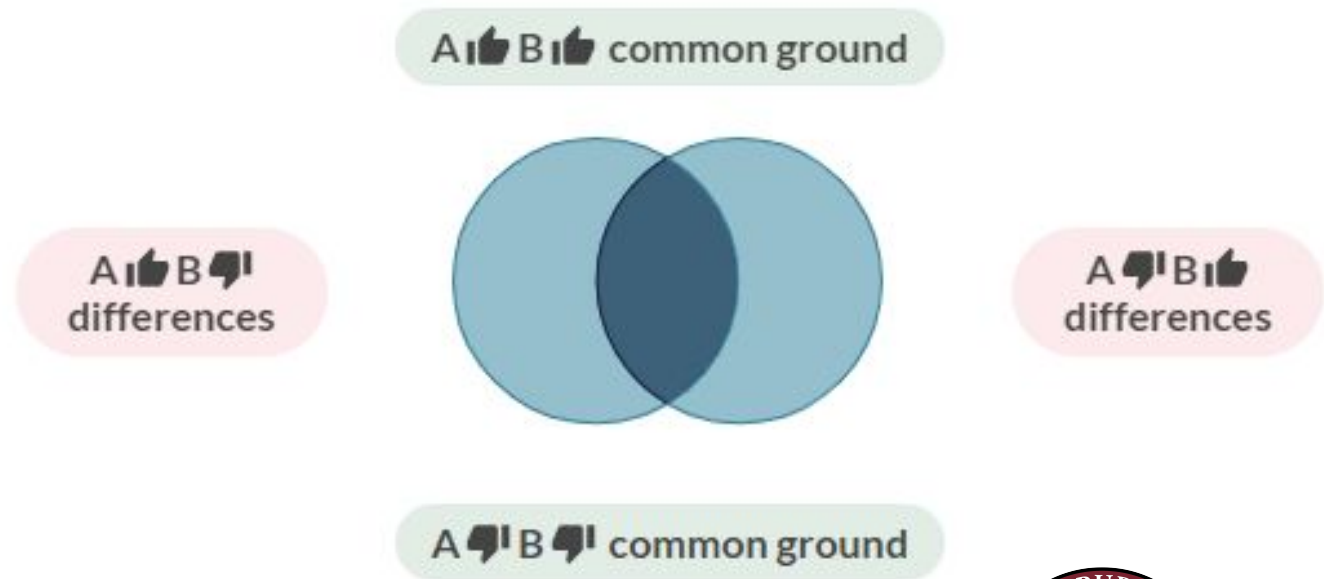
Side A group size

290

Side B group size

215

Venn diagram *Hover over elements to see details*



DIFFERENCES

👍👎 difference

A rated high, B rated low

AI SUMMARY

The responses suggest a preference for natural grass fields over artificial turf, citing reasons such as safety for athletes, cost-effectiveness, and environmental concerns. Some respondents believe that the focus on athletic fields is excessive and that resources could be better allocated towards improving education quality or other town needs. There is also a call for data-driven decisions, with reference to medical advice against artificial turf. A few respondents express a lack of concern over field flooding and question the investment in sports like football.

👎👍 difference

A rated low, B rated high


AI SUMMARY

The responses suggest that the district should consider several perspectives when evaluating the challenges surrounding the flooding and limited availability of RPS athletic fields. These include the necessity of turf fields due to their resistance to flooding and lower maintenance costs, the need for more field space to accommodate the high interest in sports and outdoor recreation, and the importance of athletics in children's development. The respondents also highlighted the potential benefits of turfing other fields to eliminate flooding issues and the need for flood prevention measures.






SIMILARITIES

 common ground

A and B rated high

AI SUMMARY

The responses emphasize the need for a long-term, sustainable solution to the recurring flooding issue affecting the RPS athletic fields. The district is urged to accept the frequency of flooding as the new norm and invest in engineering solutions that ensure the fields' resilience and sustained functionality. The respondents highlight the wastage of resources on repeated temporary remediation and the inconvenience caused to athletes due to cancellations of practices and games. They also raise concerns about the safety of users due to the degradation of the turf by flood inundation.

 common ground

A and B rated low

AI SUMMARY

The responses indicate a variety of perspectives on the challenges surrounding the flooding and limited availability of RPS athletic fields. Some respondents highlight the historical issue of flooding, suggesting that permanent solutions may be costly. Others express indifference, either due to non-use of the fields or a belief that the issue is not significant. A few suggest practical solutions such as cleaning the fields with a firehose. The district should also consider factors such as location and pricing in their evaluation.



AI Summary

The responses indicate a wide range of perspectives that the district should consider when evaluating the challenges surrounding the flooding and limited availability of RPS athletic fields.

These include the financial implications of repairing and maintaining the fields, the environmental impact of different field materials, the need for long-term solutions to prevent future flooding, the importance of the fields for student athletes and community members, and the potential health and safety risks associated with different field types.

Some respondents suggested relocating the fields, raising their elevation, or improving drainage systems. Others emphasized the need for a cost-benefit analysis, considering the ongoing costs of flood damage repair versus the initial cost of implementing a permanent solution.



Key Takeaways

- **Some community members are divided on the topic of artificial turf:**
 - Those who support artificial turf see its durability of use as a positive benefit to students
 - Others express concern about the environment, student and community member health, and cost. Some equate natural turf with better recovery from floods.
- **There is consensus** around achieving a long-term, sustainable solution that is responsive to the “new normal” of field flooding
- **February 8 Superintendent Coffee** outlined measures that remain relevant
 - #1 - Repair the existing fields for this Spring; file insurance claims; have contingency plans for flooding events
 - #2 - Research options for raising or reconfiguring fields; evaluate natural/alternative turf options
 - 3# - Consult Army Corp of Engineers for comprehensive solution

