

CHEVERUS

April 8, 2025

Dear Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I am writing to you regarding LD1177, a bill aimed at establishing a 3-year Moratorium on the Installation or Reinstallation of Synthetic Turf and Requiring a Study of the Public Health and Environmental Risks of Synthetic Turf.

I am the President of Cheverus High School in Portland, and the School opposes this bill.

City denied waiver for use of pesticide

Since the City of Portland ordinance banning the use of pesticides went into effect in 2018, Cheverus has worked diligently to follow an organic regimen for maintaining our grass turf fields. However, when grub infestations on certain fields reached a point where the organic methods were no longer effective and the grub damage was jeopardizing the safety of our student-athletes, Cheverus sought a waiver to apply an effective pesticide to the field. The City denied this request on March 3, 2025.

City approved installation of an artificial turf field in 2022

The City of Portland approved the installation of an artificial turf field on November 16, 2022. Due to the high cost of installation, Cheverus aimed to raise funds before moving forward with the turf project. Now, after the City denied a waiver request to use pesticides, Cheverus has prioritized the installation of the turf field. Despite the premium cost (see attached), the School has chosen a PFAS-free product that contains no toxic chemicals or heavy metals. The School plans to start construction on this turf field project in Fall 2025.

Cheverus opposes LD1177

Cheverus opposes LD1177 because it could block the School's pre-approved installation plan of an artificial turf field, which would have significant implications for the School's athletic program, since the City of Portland limited the School's ability to create safe playing surfaces when it denied a request to use a pesticide to treat the grub infestation on the varsity playing field.

For Cheverus,



Fr. Robert J. Pecoraro, SJ
President



GeoSurfaces, a Tencate Company, develops, designs and constructs high performing artificial turf and running track products across the country. With manufacturing facilities on four continents, GeoSurfaces is a part of the largest sports manufacturing and construction company in the world. With our 20+ years of industry experience and multiple technological breakthroughs including numerous product and construction patents, GeoSurfaces transforms ordinary spaces into world class facilities.

Date: Friday March 7, 2025

Subject: Cheverus High School

Quote: Project Proposal for Field Replacement

Address: 267 Ocean Ave Portland, ME 04103

The following is a budget proposal presented by GeoSurfaces Northeast, a TenCate company. Upon acceptance of this proposal - GeoSurfaces will provide all materials, equipment, and labor as outlined below. We appreciate your trust in GeoSurfaces Northeast to take part in your project.

TenCate Pivot: 1.5 in 120 oz Non-Fill Turf Product

Pivot project pricing below includes the following:

Supply and install approx. 93,500 sq ft. of TenCate turf product.

Supply and install GeoFlo+ 20mm pad.

Supply and install sand for extra stability.

Provide client a 12 year manufacturers warranty.

Shop drawings.

Center field logo, football lines, and soccer lines.

Post Completion GMAX testing.

Annual GMAX testing for 12 year warranty period.

Pivot Scope of Work Total: \$ 771,278.00

TenCate IronTurf: 2 in 59 oz Woven Turf Product

IronTurf project pricing below includes the following:

Supply and install approx. 93,500 sq ft. of TenCate turf product.

Supply and install GeoFlo+ 20mm pad.

Supply and install sand / rubber infill combination.

Provide client a 10 year manufacturers warranty.

Shop drawings.

Center field logo, football lines, and soccer lines.

Post completion GMAX testing.

Annual GMAX testing for 10 year warranty period.

IronTurf Scope of Work Total: \$ 780,826.00

Notes:

Due to rising inflation, pricing is good for 14 days.

This project is tax exempt and based on Maine wage rates.

All turf colors to be chosen from our standard offerings. Custom colors will reflect an upcharge. Pivot colors can reflect an upcharge.

Pricing does not include bonding. GeoSurfaces is bondable at an additional cost.

Pricing does not include handling or hauling of any hazardous or regulated materials.

Utility disconnects are not included in the scope or pricing.

Rock or repair of unsuitable soil will be an extra charge.

Pricing does not include irrigation.

Price assumes access to job site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Freight pricing is FOB jobsite.

Acceptance on behalf of Cheverus High School:

(Printed) Name

Signature

Date

Payment Terms: 25% Payment down. Remainder to be paid on progress payments submitted by Contractor on the 20th of each month. Progress payments to be due no more than 30 days after Contractor submission. Retainage should not be withheld from payment applications.

Respectfully submitted,

John Huard and Lauren Doneski

Thank you for allowing GeoSurfaces Northeast the opportunity to provide you with this proposal for your project. We specialize in solutions for athletic facilities and surfacing while delivering extensive expertise, comprehensive project management and excellence in service to our customers. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us anytime.

John Huard, VP of Operations: 617-201-2839 / J.huard@geosurfaces.com

Lauren Doneski, Director of Business Development: 781-296-1587 / L.doneski@geosurfaces.com

GeoSurfaces Northeast self preforms all turf installations. We have an ASBA certified field builder and track builder on staff. GeoSport Lighting is used for all LED sports lighting solutions. Field recycling is done through TenCate Turf Recycling Solutions partnership with Exxon Mobile and Cyclyx. All TenCate turf products are PFAS free and contain no toxic chemicals or heavy metals. All products are recyclable.

For billing purposes please use:

"GeoSurfaces Southeast Inc." 150 River Park Road Mooresville, NC 28117. Phone: 704-660-3000. Fax: 704-660-3001

Updated: 2025.



**All products are
manufactured in the USA.**

#PlayingForKeeps



February 5, 2024

Executive Summary: Grub Infestation/Response, Cheverus High School Athletics Fields

After: 1) years of strict compliance with the Landcare Management Advisory Committee applicable ordinances that require organic management practices (with respect to the application of fertilizers, pesticides, and weed control), 2) increasing our staff investment to 1.5 positions to provide proper mowing, grooming, and watering, and 3) engaging a professional firm (Sports Fields of Monmouth, ME) experienced in organic land management practices with many school clients across the State, **we reached a critical life-safety event this past fall that places our student athletes, coaches, officials, and student athletes of visiting schools at significant risk of injury due to grub infestation of the playing field within Boulos Stadium, 267 Ocean Avenue.**

The conclusion of our engaged (Sports Fields) and other consulted professionals specializing in the turf management care industry was that the grub infestation was severe, not being mitigated by the use of organic methods, and had compromised over 20%+ of the playing surface of the stadium field due to not only the infestation, but the additional, collateral damage caused by birds and animals feeding off of the grubs and causing extensive damage.

After nearly having to move a home soccer playoff game to an alternate site due to safety concerns, we filed a Landcare Ordinance Waiver Application on December 3, 2024, complete with photos of grubs, their eggs, turf damage created by the grubs and their natural predators, and live video of a failed tensile strength test conducted by Sports Fields. The test measures the ability of grass turf to not tear away under the stress of footwear applied by student athletes during competition.

The Application seeks to apply Acelepryn, a pesticide known to be successful to mitigate grubs by a licensed professional applicator (Sports Fields) during the last two weeks of May which is believed to be the best window of time to be successful against the infestation per the opinion of the professionals we have consulted. The pesticide has been deemed on its approved label as not harmful to humans. Missing the May application window will mean missing the opportunity to mitigate the grubs due to their life span patterns and contributing environmental variables and risking more extensive field damage.

After the next scheduled meeting of the Landcare Management Advisory Committee on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, to review and hopefully approve this specific matter, we hope to have the matter reviewed and approved at the City Council's Sustainability and Transportation Committee on February 12, 2025, and then approved at the City Council on March 3, 2025.

Our school has 349 students enrolled in grades 9-12, boys and girls, with 113 students who are residents of the City of Portland in addition to the city residents enrolled at both Deering and Portland High School who visit our campus to participate in the sports of football, soccer, lacrosse, and track.

Feedback from concerned Portland resident parents **prior to the February 12, 2025**, meeting will be communicated to sustainabilityoffice@portlandmaine.gov