



## **Wilton Athletic & Recreation Foundation Announces Support for Allen's Meadows Community Turf Project With \$60,000 Commitment to Town of Wilton and Launches Petition**

WILTON, CT, March 7, 2023.

The Wilton Athletic and Recreation Foundation ("WARF") has announced its support for a new, state-of-the-art, organic-fill turf space for athletic, recreational and community use, with lights and a seasonal bubble at Allen's Meadows in Wilton, CT.

To provide the community a means to show its support for this opportunity, WARF has launched a petition ([Support Wilton's Next Great Community Asset: Organic Fill Turf and Bubble Facility at Allen's Meadows](#)) for all to consider.

In partnership with the Town of Wilton, WARF has committed up to \$60,000 for preliminary design and scoping work for the Allen's Meadows Community Organic-Fill Turf Project. WARF's commitment follows the [announcement](#) by the Town of Wilton about a new lease agreement at Allen's Meadows allowing for turf, lighting and seasonal bubble uses on the property.

WARF volunteer President and long time resident of Wilton, JR Sherman, said "Wilton has been presented a once-in-a-generation opportunity to elevate our athletic and recreational profile among Fairfield and Westchester counties. A modern, safe and always accessible facility will catapult Wilton to the top for families seeking a hometown that offers the very best in athletics and recreation infrastructure. The time to rally around this opportunity is now."

WARF's presentation with respect to its mission and the Allen's Meadows Community Organic-Fill Turf Project is available on WARF's website at [www.warfwarriors.com](http://www.warfwarriors.com). Additional information is also below.

## **More About the Allen's Meadows Community Organic-Fill Turf Project:**

With thousands of participants (and growing) in Wilton's youth and high school sports programs, and increasing demand from youth and adult recreational programs and users, Wilton is in need of additional capacity for year-round play.

Wilton's two existing turf fields (Fujitani Stadium and Lilly Field) primarily support the needs of Wilton High School's athletic teams in prime seasons, but afford very little consistently available time for Wilton's youth programming or broader community use. This results in overuse of our limited grass fields, and forces Wilton's youth organizations and residents to leave Wilton and drive long distances to find available, quality field/turf space and programs that meet their needs in other towns.

The addition of a new organic-fill turf field with modern, targeted LED lighting plus a seasonal bubble, would expand the usable hours of play for the Wilton community by at least 3x relative to the existing grass field creating a year round, low-maintenance asset for youth athletes and the recreational community, as well as new revenue opportunities for Wilton. Based on conservative assumptions, the facility is expected to be economically self-sustaining.

The grass fields of Wilton are finite in number, diverse in size and difficult to maintain. They lack lighting for evening play in core seasons (especially challenging in daylight savings periods when daylight is short), are subjected to rough, unpredictable and more severe area weather that shortens seasons, and suffer from overuse that compromises safety and playability, and increases maintenance costs for the Town. These grass fields are also closed throughout the winter months.

Wilton's turf fields are built with organic-fill that maintains low temperature and bonded artificial grass fibers. The field surfaces are engineered for user safety with concussion pads and shock absorbent subsurfaces. Relative to existing natural grass, organic-fill turf eliminates significant water use for irrigation of grass, eliminates the need for and use of chemical fertilizer treatments to maintain grass, and dramatically reduces carbon emissions caused by weekly mowing of grass and the extra driving of miles by Wilton families to distant facilities, among numerous other net positive benefits.

## **About the Wilton Athletic and Recreation Foundation ("WARF")**

WARF is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to build and help fund the execution of a shared community vision for the future of Wilton's multi-sport fields, facilities, and recreational play spaces, for the benefit of all Wilton residents including generations to come. WARF stands for equal opportunities in sport and recreation for all. Our collective efforts will help build and improve the infrastructure in Wilton to promote healthy lifestyles, new relationships and fun, shared experiences through free play and organized athletic participation. [www.warfwarriors.com](http://www.warfwarriors.com).