



Play It Forward

The Somerset Elementary Field Campaign

Our Opportunity To Lead

Somerset Elementary has been a part of our community since the first building was erected in 1928, and remains a vital part of our neighborhood almost nine decades later. Generations of children have learned, played, and grown in this gem of an elementary school.

In 2005, when the school was rebuilt, the community and the Somerset Foundation came together to fund major capital upgrades not included in the county's construction budget. The result is the beautiful school building our children walk into every day.

There remains, however, unfinished business. The outdoor field at Somerset is largely unusable for its primary purpose: giving kids a place to play outside. After many failed attempts at re-seeding and sodding, the field remains a hard-packed, uneven, muddy surface that is in desperate need of improvement. Children are often unable to use it for recess and are restricted to small, paved places to play.

There is a straightforward and permanent solution to this persistent problem: installing synthetic turf with organic infill. Privately funding the cost is now within our reach, and MCPS fully supports this solution and will be our implementation partner. We envision a green expanse that requires no watering, no mowing, and no chemicals. We envision a neighborhood asset that could be used for recreation or exercise. And we envision a functional field that is always ready for schoolchildren to play on.

Whether you are a current parent, future parent, or an empty-nester, a strong and well-maintained local school has a critical impact on home values and quality of life. The "Play It Forward" field campaign is a one-time, year-long effort to raise funds for a new and improved field at Somerset. Supporting this incredible community asset will have an impact on our neighborhood and the children who live, learn and play here for years to come. Paying it forward is something that residents of this community have always done—now it's up to us to continue that tradition.