



APPROVED  
FEBRUARY 10, 2023  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

February 10, 2023

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Committee on Budget and Finance

**From:** Daniel Bollman *Daniel J. Bollman*  
Vice President for Strategic Infrastructure Planning and Facilities

**Subject:** Turfgrass Management Indoor Testing Facility – Approval of Construction and Gift Receipt

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Trustee Committee on Budget and Finance recommends that the Board of Trustees authorize the Administration (i) to enter into agreements for construction and financing of a turfgrass testing facility for turfgrass research and (ii) accept receipt of the gift of this facility at the completion of construction.

**RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University hereby authorizes the Administration to negotiate and execute agreements for construction of a turfgrass testing facility upon such other terms and conditions as may be acceptable to the Executive Vice President for Administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University hereby authorizes the Administration to accept the gift of this facility after completion of construction.

**BACKGROUND**

The turfgrass program at Michigan State University is rich in history, tradition and accolades. Research programs encompass golf courses, athletic fields, and home lawns, in all aspects including, construction, establishment and management. For over seven decades, this program has fostered students on campus in East Lansing, providing a world class education and opportunities, including design and installation of a temporary grass surface in the Pontiac Silverdome for the 1994 World Cup.



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The World Cup returns to North America in 2026. This will be the single largest sporting event ever held. Teams in the finals are expanding from 32 to 48, requiring more venues and practice facilities. Michigan State University and the University of Tennessee are tasked with providing appropriate natural grass playing surfaces for 16 North American stadia and their respective practice facilities. The work involves developing a turfgrass system that can be temporarily placed inside domed stadia (as well as outdoor stadia). The grass will have to remain playable and safe for up to 60 days after installation. A research house is the critical component for developing the management techniques for these turf systems.

The proposed building is on Farm Lane in the agricultural district. The project includes constructing an indoor testing facility substantially like buildings already in use by turfgrass management, including utility connections. The Fédération internationale de football association (FIFA) will construct and fund the building and all ancillary construction, including specialized lighting. The building will be available for MSU's use at the conclusion of the FIFA project.

Construction is expected to begin April 2023. The project will be substantially complete in June 2023.

cc: Board of Trustees, T. Woodruff, T. Jeitschko, N. Beauchamp, M. Woo, S. Fletcher, M. Zeig, B. Quinn, V. Gore, L. Frace, T. Glasmacher, K. Tobin, B. Kranz, M. McCabe, J. Mumma, L. Gremel, L. Adams, S. Troost, B. Darling, T. Rogers, G. Smith, K. Millenbah

