



Rural Development • Rural Business Program • REDLG
Wall, SD School District's New Athletic Complex

Wall's School District's athletic facilities were inadequate and in poor condition. The track was so bad the students had to run in the street and the football stadium was on the opposite side of town as the school, a huge inconvenience for all of the support elements involved in the game.

USDA Rural Development was there to help. Using the Rural Economic Development Loan Program and working with West River Electric Association, the district received a \$720,000 loan to build a new athletic complex near the school.

As a result, things are much better. This new facility includes a synthetic turf field to accommodate football practice and home games, where the Eagles get to take to the field within sight of their school, as well as an all-weather track for track practice and to host competition meets.

The school intends to continue to promote a healthy lifestyle by incorporating the use of the new facility for physical education classes and school sponsored functions, as well as community based activities such as youth football, cheerleading, AAU wrestling, youth gymnastics and girls scouts.

The Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program provides zero interest loans and grants to local utilities that lend funds to local businesses for projects to create and retain employment in rural areas. These revolving loan funds broaden the reach of the REDLG program and creates a multiplier effect for its impact. This project helped save 75 jobs.

The Wall School serves approximately 1,300 square miles of territory and has 259 students. The school provides a vital service to educate the community's students. This athletic complex is a huge asset to the school and community as a whole.



In the photo above is the Wall Athletic complex revealing the new beautiful artificial turf and field. Photo courtesy of West River Electric Association, Inc.

Obligation Amount: \$720,000 Rural Economic Development Loan

Date of Obligation: March 25, 2015

Congressional District: At Large, Senator Thune, Senator Rounds, and Congresswoman Noem

Partners: West River Electric Association, Inc., Wall School District, and USDA Rural Development

Demographics: Wall is home to 800 residents who experience small town, rural living with endless possibilities. Residents enjoy being surrounded by a rich agricultural community, exceptional school system, the famous Wall Drug Store, expansive prairies of the Buffalo Gap National Grassland, and breathtaking views of the Badlands National Park, for which Wall was named as the "wall" of the Badlands.

Impact: Promotes a healthy lifestyle by incorporating the use of the new facility for physical education classes and school sponsored functions, as well as community based activities such as youth football, cheerleading, AAU wrestling, youth gymnastics and girls scouts.