



Corporate Report

NO: R255

COUNCIL DATE: November 7,

2005

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: November 1,
2005

FROM: General Manager, Planning and Development
General Manager, Parks,
Recreation and Culture FILE: 5920-01

SUBJECT: Proposed Location and Design of Artificial Turf Fields

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Authorize staff to proceed with design and construction of an artificial turf field at each of:
 - (a) Tom Binnie Park;
 - (b) Cloverdale Athletic Park; and
 - (c) Tamanawis Park.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to seek Council authorization to proceed with the design and construction of three new artificial turf fields, for which funds have been previously approved by Council.

BACKGROUND

In July of 2005, Council approved the phasing of a soccer complex to be located at Tom Binnie Park in North Surrey, with the first phase of the project being the construction of an artificial turf field at the Park.

On July 21, 2005, Council received and approved the 2005 mid-year financial report (Corporate Report No. R195) and approved the construction of additional capital projects to be funded from projected surplus in the 2005 budget, based on the mid-year financial projections. One of these additional projects was the construction of an additional artificial turf field. No location was specified at that time.

As part of the 2005 capital budget and the 2005/2006 component of the five-year financial plan, Council approved the design and construction of two artificial turf fields, one of which has been constructed in the South Surrey Athletic Park and was officially opened on October 28, 2005. The second field has not yet been constructed.

DISCUSSION

Based on the above approvals by Council and on an assessment of the demands at the various parks throughout the City, staff is proposing to proceed with the design and construction of three artificial turf field projects at the following locations:

Tom Binnie Park

One new field will be located in Tom Binnie Park (see Appendix I). This field will be identical to the artificial turf field that was recently opened at the South Surrey Athletic Park. It will have a "rubber infill" synthetic surface and be lined to accommodate soccer, field hockey and field lacrosse. In addition, the project will include lights for evening use, washrooms and additional parking.

This field will provide a much-needed game and practice facility for Whalley-based soccer players, as well as participants of other field sports. The activity generated by this facility will also contribute positively towards the rejuvenation of Surrey City Centre as identified in the Whalley Enhancement Strategy.

Cloverdale Athletic Park

The Cloverdale community has grown significantly in the past two years. As a result of this population growth, participation in field sports such as soccer and football has also grown. To keep pace with this demand, the construction of a second synthetic turf field at the Cloverdale Athletic Park is considered appropriate. The existing artificial turf field is fully occupied with youth football programs and soccer programs and demand competes for available field time.

The proposed artificial turf field at Cloverdale Athletic Park will be a "rubber infill" synthetic turf field and would be located where the existing gravel all-weather field No. 1 is currently located (see Appendix II).

Tamanawis Park

For many years, Surrey residents that played the sport of field hockey have had to commute to Vancouver to play on the "tufted nylon" synthetic turf fields at Eric Hamber Park, Andy Livingstone Park and at UBC. These "carpet-like" synthetic turf fields are more desirable for the sport of field hockey, as the synthetic strands that make up the turf on these fields are significantly shorter than the synthetic strands associated with the

"rubber in-fill" synthetic turf fields. The shorter synthetic strands allow for the field hockey ball to roll faster and more evenly across the field and thus make for a better playing surface for this sport.

With the number of "rubber in-fill" synthetic turf fields available for soccer in the City, including those proposed to be completed at Tom Binnie Park and the Cloverdale Athletic Park in 2006, it is an opportune time to address the need for a specialized artificial turf surface for field hockey in Surrey. The construction of a "tufted nylon" artificial turf field will:

- improve skill development for field hockey players that are accustomed to playing the majority of their games on this type of synthetic surface;
- enhance the opportunity for Surrey field hockey players to advance to higher levels of competition at the regional, provincial and national levels;
- allow more scheduled games to be played in Surrey, due to the requirement for many age groups to play their games on "tufted nylon" artificial turf; and
- provide the opportunity for high-level tournaments and international field hockey games to be played in Surrey further enhancing the City's image.

Many of Surrey's field hockey players live in the Newton area and, as such, a synthetic turf field at Tamanawis Park would be convenient. As such, staff proposes to proceed with the design and construction of a "tufted nylon" synthetic turf field at the location of the existing all-weather gravel field in Tamanawis Park, which already has lights for evening use (see Appendix III). Although the new synthetic turf field will be more suitable for field hockey than the other artificial turf fields in the City, this field will also be available for soccer.

Design and Construction Timeline

Staff is in the process of retaining appropriate consultants to commence the design of the subject fields in the next couple of weeks, with a view to tendering the projects in early 2006. It is anticipated that an early 2006 tender will result in the most favourable construction prices that are available during 2006. If the projects are awarded in the first quarter of 2006, the fields should be completed during the summer of 2006 and be available for use in the fall of 2006.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council authorize staff to proceed with design and construction of an artificial turf field at each of:

- (a) Tom Binnie Park;
- (b) Cloverdale Athletic Park; and
- (c) Tamanawis Park.



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Attachments:

- Appendix I Air photo of Tom Binnie Park
- Appendix II Air photo of Cloverdale Athletic Park
- Appendix III Air photo of Tamanawis Park

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Appendix I



Appendix II



Appendix III



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