

July 21, 2015

Construction of Robron all-weather field begins in August

Construction is set to begin in August to build an all-weather field at Robron Park. Council approved contracts to build the facility at its July 20 meeting.

“The all-weather field at Robron Park is an important investment for youth, families and recreation in Campbell River, with the added benefit of attracting more tournaments to our community,” says Mayor Andy Adams. *“This project requires no borrowing and will be entirely funded by the Community Works Fund (through the Federal Gas Tax) and previously accumulated City Parks Parcel Tax funding.”*

To address health concerns, the City requested that bidders on the project provide a range of available products. Staff have reviewed options and more than 50 independent studies from across Canada, the U.S. and Europe, and all indicate that the newer generation of synthetic turf systems have no known health or environmental risks.

“This is further supported by Island Health’s April 2015 response to North Cowichan’s inquiry before they chose to proceed with the installation of their turf field,” the Mayor adds.

“Campbell River will install the same product and similar field site preparation that was put in place at Vanier School in Courtney. This is consistent with what is installed in the majority of Vancouver Island communities and throughout Western Canada,” says Ross Milnthorp, the City’s general manager of parks, recreation and culture.

“As long as the weather cooperates, construction should be complete by mid-November, giving local sports groups much more play time at this facility,” Milnthorp adds.

Highlights to note for Robron Park visitors:

- Construction will be underway Monday to Friday from approximately 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- The playground, lacrosse box and tennis courts will remain open.
- Drop-in activity can take place on the adjacent field.
- The trail that runs along the South Birch Street side of the park will remain open.
- Local traffic will be able to access the parking lots off Merecroft Rd and South Birch St. Flagger will assist motorists, cyclists and pedestrians around the work site.
- Signs and temporary fencing will be installed for the construction and work areas.
- To book fields and other sporting facilities in Campbell River, please call the Sportsplex at 250-923-7911.

For more information, including an extensive question and answer document with more details about this project, visit: www.campbellriver.ca/allweatherfield or email: capitalprojects@campbellriver.ca

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(Background information on next page)

Background:

- A 2008 referendum question on borrowing approximately \$20 million to build an events centre and the entire Robron Park project was defeated.
- In 2010, Council endorsed a master plan for Robron Park, developed by HB Lanarc Consultants.
- Planning for Robron Park included an extensive public input process, with outreach to numerous user groups and review of a variety of park options.
- The report recommended upgrades to Robron Park in five distinct phases, according to funding availability.
- The first phase, which included a new lacrosse box and refurbished tennis courts, was completed in partnership with the Campbell River Minor Lacrosse Society in 2011.
- During the 2015 Capital Budget deliberations, Council endorsed the installation of a new all-weather field, complete with sport lighting system and improvements to the site access and pathway system. Funding available for the project is \$2,620,873.
- At the July 20 Council meeting, construction of civil works was awarded to Upland Contracting Ltd. for \$1,091,985; the supply and installation of a synthetic turf field was awarded to AstroTurf West Distributors for \$475,000; and the supply and delivery of sports lighting at Robron Park was awarded to Musco Sports Lighting LLC at a total cost of \$140,170.