



# John B. Lewis Soccer Complex Turf Replacement



Posted 03/02/2016  
Updated 03/16/2016

## Timeline

### 2016 MARCH 14

Presentation to [Recreation Board](#)  
at 12:30 p.m.

### 2016 MARCH 28

Presentation to  
[Public Safety Committee](#)  
at 3:30 p.m

2016 MAY - Contract awarded.

2016 NOVEMBER - Project  
completion.

Want more information?

Read this story on Asheville  
City Source:

[New turf coming to John B. Lewis  
Soccer Complex](#)

## What's happening now?

The turf at the John B. Lewis Soccer Complex (JBL) in east Asheville's Azalea Park needs to be replaced.

The City is working in partnership with the Asheville Buncombe Youth Soccer Association (ABYSA) to swap out the turf on the four-field facility in a way that minimizes disruption of play for the nearly 5,000 children who participate in ABYSA programs and other groups that use the fields.

The City will work with sports facility engineering consultant this spring to select a turf that provides a safe and reliable play environment.

## Why it's happening

The turf at the JBL Soccer Complex is more than 10 years old and at the end of its life.

In October, the Tourism Product Development Fund Committee (TPDF) voted to approve \$1.1 million in funding requested by ABYSA for the soccer fields' turf replacement.

The \$1.1 million grant awarded to ABYSA by the TPDF was based on the hotel nights that soccer tournaments and other events produce. Sports tourism events utilizing the JBL Soccer Complex will generate over 11,000 documented hotel room night stays this year alone.

The City of Asheville will partner with ABYSA and a sports facility engineering consultant to make sure any material we use on the fields, above all, is safe. The City will access the best data available nationwide before we make a turf replacement decision, researching the latest best practices for safe turf replacement that take evolving technology into consideration.

Summer is the ideal window for replacing the turf. While the project is slated for completion by November, the City and ABYSA hope replacement could start the second week of May and be done by the mid-August.

Comments and questions about the turf replacement project may be submitted to:

**Phone**  
(828) 259-5808

**Email**  
<mailto:rsimmons@ashevillenc.gov>

**Mail**  
Roderick Simmons  
Director, Asheville Parks & Recreation  
City of Asheville  
PO Box 7148  
Asheville, NC 28802