



John B. Lewis Soccer Complex Turf Replacement



Posted 03/02/2016
Updated 03/17/2016

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 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.

Soccer fields in a flood plain

Question: The sports fields at the John B. Lewis Soccer Complex are located in a flood plain. Why is that?

Answer: The fields are adjacent to the Swannanoa River on property deemed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to be in a flood plain. In 2005, when the fields were constructed, suitable flat land for soccer fields was hard to find in the mountains. The City had purchased this property a few years earlier. The City deemed the site suitable for this purpose because no buildings can be constructed in the flood plain according to federal regulations.

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 utilized the JBL Soccer Complex will generate over 11,000 documents 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:

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