

<i>Costs</i>										
<i>Total</i>	48	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133	133

Project Component	Capital expenses \$000									
	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
<i>Install</i>	750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Total</i>	750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

A replacement cost needs to be factored in at year 10 i.e. 2018/19.

3. Project Outline

3.1 Background

The city sportsfields face a number of issues:

- There is limited flat land available for new sportsfield development in Wellington, due to topographical constraints, high land values and an established built environment
- Council soil fields are being used to their maximum sustainable usage, and many regularly suffer from poor grass coverage/density.
- A quarter of our sportsfields have been developed on closed landfills such as Ian Galloway and Southgate Parks. Although parks and open space is a good land use for closed landfills, the land still has costly ongoing subsidence and mitigation problems which require vigilant management and monitoring regimes.
- Many of the soil fields are predominantly clay, resulting in poor drainage.
- Wellington's climate creates a number of challenges. This was particularly highlighted during the winter of 2006.

Future demand for sportsfields is forecast to increase as a result of various factors including population growth, promotion campaigns and recruitment strategies by regional sports organisations, and an increase in events to Wellington, e.g. Golden Oldies rugby.

Artificial sports surfaces are increasingly being used around the world for football (soccer), rugby and other sports. Over 5000 artificial surfaces have been installed for football alone in Europe in recent years. It is expected that half of the matches in the 2010 Football World Cup will be played on artificial sports surfaces.

The new types of artificial turf now on the market are known as "third generation" (3G) surfaces. 3G surfaces provide significantly improved cushioning and have an appearance and feel much more like natural grass than conventional artificial turf surfaces. These new surfaces are able to be used for an increasing number of sports such as rugby and football.

Artificial surfaces generally last 10 years before requiring replacement. However, in some cases surfaces will last 12-15 years.

The Council currently has three sports facilities with artificial surfaces – the National Hockey Stadium, Hataitai Park, and Newtown Park. All of these facilities have been very successful. For example, the National Hockey Stadium (built in 1984) has led to many changes to the way hockey is now played in Wellington and there has been a considerable increase in hockey participation. Hockey has evolved to become a year round sport with a variety of summer and winter league competitions played both mid week and at week end. Games are rarely cancelled and the turf is utilised all day, 7 days per week.

Because of the levels of demand, many of our sportsfields such as Nairnville Park are over-utilised. This is causing the quality of turf to decrease (poor grass cover). Additionally, there is conflict between training and competition use - training lowers the quality of the fields for competition. Nairnville Park has been closed a number of times in the last couple of seasons to enable the turf to recover.

It is noted that the “Wadestown / Onslow / Wilton Community Planning Pilot” study in 2003 recommended creating an all-weather training and playing surface at Nairnville Park as a high priority.

3.2 Demographic information / Utilisation

3.2.1 Schools

Within a 2km drive of Nairnville Park there are 6 primary schools with a roll of 1,308 in 2006.

Within a 5km radius of Nairnville Park, there are 32 schools. 24 are primary, 2 intermediate and 4 secondary. The combined roll was 11,156 (39% of the total school roll in Wellington City) in 2006.

It is noted that local schools are currently a significant user of the Nairnville Recreation Centre, and it is anticipated that they would become a regular user of the new artificial surface.

3.2.2 Population

The population within a 5km radius of Nairnville Park was approximately 64,000 (36% of Wellington City population) according to 2006 census data. This represented an 11% increase between 2001 and 2006. The population is projected to increase by 5% to 2021 for the population aged 5-40 years.

3.2.3 Utilisation

In the winter of 2007 Nairnville Park was used for rugby and football. Training hours averaged at approximately 29 hours per week, and competition at approximately 22 hours per week.

In the summer of 2006/07 Nairnville Park was used for athletics, cricket and school sports days. Usage was up to 48 hours per week.

The recommended tolerance for a soil based surface such as Nairnville Park is 400 hours per annum. Nairnville Park currently exceed this. The installation of an artificial surface would provide the opportunity for in excess of 2000 hours per annum.

It is noted that the Onslow Junior Soccer club (based at Nairnville Park) has experienced strong growth in membership numbers over the last decade. Junior membership numbers were 797 in 2007 and a similar number of registrations are expected in 2008.

The indoor court at Nairnville Recreation Centre is at full capacity from March until early December. The development of an artificial surface adjacent to the Nairnville Recreation Centre would provide extra court/recreation area.

3.3 Project Benefits

The development of artificial surface at Nairnville Park would have a number of benefits:

- would provide a surface that meets sports user group expectation, i.e. consistent playing quality, even surface, etc...
- allow far greater use than the current soil-based turf. Studies have demonstrated that despite the high construction cost, artificial fields cost less to use per hour than natural fields. It is expected an artificial surface at Nairnville would increase use of the upper field by three to five times.
- provide reliability (availability of use) during inclement weather
- would boost the City's chance of hosting sports tournaments, and international sports teams (e.g. 2011 Rugby World Cup, Golden Oldies tournaments.)
- help protect the main (lower) fields at Nairnville Park
- would enable the Nairnville Recreation Centre to provide further recreation programmes and activities.

4. Conclusion

Wellington City sportsfields are not coping with existing use. Future demand forecasts will place the City sportsfields under further pressure. The installation of an artificial surface at Nairnville Park, and the future roll-out of a limited number of other artificial surfaces will produce a great number of benefits.

Research through the asset management planning process has established that Wellington only needs a limited number of artificial turfs to satisfy demand, providing that they are well located.