



STA Facility Profile

South End Community Park • City of Guelph

Name, location of facility.

South End Community Park, 25 Poppy Drive, Guelph, Ontario.

General information regarding the facility (part of community centre, pool, library, etc.)

The South End Community Park Masterplan was approved by Guelph City Council in July 2001. The plan consists of a 55 acre site that was jointly designed in conjunction with the Wellington Catholic District School Board's Bishop MacDonnell Catholic High School and the City of Guelph's South End Community Park.

The park consists of 40 acres in total, 5 acres of which are non-developable open space greenlands. Within the park setting there

are currently 3 hardball diamonds, 3 temporary soccer fields, an accessible playground, change rooms, washrooms, parking lot, trails and storm water ponds. Future phases will add 1 softball diamond, basketball/multi-court, outdoor natural ice rink, double tennis court, picnic shelter and splash pad.

The ball diamonds were jointly developed with the assistance and donation of \$200,000 from the L.J. Pearson Foundation and are formally named the "Larry J. Pearson Baseball Complex" in July 2002. The first two diamonds opened in June 2003 and the third hardball diamond opened in June 2004. The fields include turf infields with clay base lines and are fully irrigated.

The park has been developed in multiple phases from 2001 to date and is estimated to cost \$5.1 million once complete.

What types of sports fields are on site?

- Class A hardball fields with clay infields, fully automatic irrigation and lights
- 3 temporary mini soccer fields (future location of Community Centre)
- 2 future tennis courts and 1 future softball diamond
- future basketball/multi-use courts

How many employees are involved with turf care at this facility?

One temporary seasonal employee (40 hours/week) is assigned permanently to the park for the operating season May to September. Various other full time and temporary seasonal employees assist in the maintenance of the park.

How many acres of turf are maintained at this facility?

How many acres of sports turf?

There are approximately 10 acres of turf maintained at the park with 8.2 acres of this being sports fields.

What percentage of this acreage is irrigated?

Only the three hardball fields are irrigated which accounts for about 60% of the total maintained turf area.

What is the primary type of turfgrass? Name of varieties.

- The ball diamonds were sodded with number one grade turfgrass nursery sod 40% Kentucky blue, 40% creeping red fescue and 20% perennial rye.

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- The soccer fields were seeded with a general turfgrass seed mixture.
- We installed the Permaline™ foul line system in one of the hardball diamonds as a trial to see how it performs.

Is yearly overseeding part of your sports turf maintenance program?

Yes. We usually try to overseed once in the fall at the same time we topdress with a blend 50% Elfin perennial rye, 25% Esquire perennial rye and 25% Inspire perennial rye.

How many times do you fertilize?

We try to fertilize at least twice a year and ideally four times a year at a rate and type based on soil samples.

Do you aerate? Topdress?

We aerate at least twice a year or as many times as labour and equipment will permit; we topdress at least once a year.

Has your municipality banned the use of pesticides? When? Comments.

There was a Council resolution adopted in 2000 that instructed us to work towards a gradual five-year reduction in pesticide use with 2005 being the last year we can use pesticides on public lands. This may be revisited in the future, especially for pesticide use on sport fields.

Are community user groups involved or have they been involved in the construction/maintenance of this facility?

In what manner?


- The park is located adjacent to the new Bishop MacDonell High School and was constructed in cooperation with the School Board.
- We are constantly working together with the user groups to improve the maintenance and functionality of the complex.
- A private interest donated \$200,000 that was used for upgrades to the hardball diamonds. (e.g. irrigation, scoreboard).

How many hours per year are the fields permitted? Who permits them? Are the fields ever closed during the season to give them a rest? How much input do you have in the amount and timing of use?

Like most of our sports fields throughout the City, the fields at this complex are used heavily. Sports groups book the fields through the City's Recreation Department and are generally available from 8 am to 11 pm seven days a week from May until mid-September. Hardball fields are booked for game use only. We do all of our maintenance during the day when the fields are not typically booked.

Who were the main players involved with the facility?

- Prime Consultant - Stantec Consulting
- Irrigation Consultant - AAA Watermaster Systems
- Lighting Consultant - Nadalin Electric Company
- Building Architect - L. Alan Grinham Architect Inc.
- Site Servicing/Grading - Braun Consulting Engineers
- General Contractor - Gateman-Milloy Inc.
- City of Guelph Project Manager - Dan Ritz, OAL ♦



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