



PRESS RELEASE

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Fountain Bluff to be First Public Baseball/Softball Turf Facility in Kansas City Area

LIBERTY Mo. – At its meeting on Aug. 12, the Liberty City Council approved a contract with AstroTurf Corporation to convert the Fountain Bluff Sports Complex’s baseball and softball fields to synthetic turf.

When completed, Fountain Bluff will be the first public baseball/softball facility in the Kansas City metropolitan area to offer nine turf fields. The complex is already a popular venue for local, regional and even national baseball and softball tournaments, hosting events every weekend during the tournament season. The turf fields are expected to bring even more tournaments and teams to Liberty.

The nearly \$4 million project, which will begin in September, involves turfing the infields and outfields of Fields 1-5 and the infields of Fields 6-9, which includes a high school regulation sized field.

Coming off a year that required rescheduling more than 50 league games and cancellation of several tournaments due to rain or snow, having synthetic turf playing surfaces will appeal to teams and tournament and league organizers alike.

“With all of the money that families spend to travel to baseball and softball tournaments, they want assurances that they won’t lose games due to weather,” said BJ Staab, director of Liberty Parks & Rec. “With synthetic turf playing surfaces, we will see fewer cancellations due to wet fields and will be able to extend the playing season by at least two months.”

(more)

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On the maintenance side, turfed fields can be utilized for more hours each day with no field recovery time required. In addition, having synthetic turf fields will offer savings associated with reductions in staff hours, mowing, watering, herbicides, pesticides and seeding.

Beyond the anticipated savings, turfing the fields will also have tangential benefits in the community from additional tournaments that generate additional hotel room nights and retail and restaurant purchases.

The project will be funded through a special obligation bond, which will be paid through tournament fees, user fees and partnerships. Weather permitting, the project will get underway in September with completion expected before league and tournament seasons begin in 2020.

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