

Artificial Turf Facilities

Program: Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) Program in Ontario

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In 2009 and 2010, Richmond Hill used a portion of its Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) Program in Ontario funding to rehabilitate aging soccer fields at two key facilities.

Richmond Green is the largest park in Richmond Hill, and was built to accommodate sports enthusiasts and park visitors from the Town and well beyond its borders. Crosby Park is a community park that was recently reconstructed to be fully accessible. Both of these parks provide important outdoor sports facilities, including soccer fields, to the community. However, over time the popularity and extensive use of these two facilities resulted in the existing soccer fields having high down times and maintenance requirements.

The main component of this rehabilitation is the conversion of the existing soccer fields to artificial turf. The rehabilitation to artificial turf has extended the playing season from 21 to 38 weeks. Artificial turf has virtually eliminated field loss due to weather, removed the need of downtime for maintenance, and reduced municipal maintenance costs on these fields. It has also increased the Town's ability to host tournaments and regional soccer events in cooperation with its partner clubs, increasing local tourism.

Project Highlights:

Shared federal, provincial, and municipal investment in renewing outdoor recreational facilities

Upgrades include:

- The conversion of aging soccer fields to artificial turf

Project benefits include:

- Extension of annual operating season to 38 weeks
- Improvements in field accessibility
- Reduction in maintenance costs



Richmond Hill, where people come together to build our community.

PROJECT FACTS



Government of Canada Commitment:	\$1 184 000
Government of Ontario Commitment:	\$1 184 000
Richmond Hill Commitment:	\$1 284 000
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:	\$3 652 000
COMPLETION DATE:	October 2010

PROJECT BENEFITS

The installation of artificial turf at the Richmond Green and Crosby Park soccer fields has had many benefits to the residents of Richmond Hill, consistent with the objectives of the Town’s 2009 Strategic Plan:

Greater Public Use

Upgrading these facilities to artificial turf effectively doubles the amount of time the facility may be used by the public by extending the playing season from 21 to 38 weeks, and eliminating rest time and down time for maintenance. By extending available program time, the project has also had a positive impact on public participation in physical activities.



Reduced Maintenance Costs

Artificial turf facilities have a life expectancy of up to ten years, compared to natural turf where major shutdown and re-seeding are needed annually.

Environmental Benefits

The use of artificial turf reduces the need for irrigation, thereby reducing water consumption. Artificial turf also reduces the need for fertilizers which have the potential to runoff and impact water bodies.

Accessibility

Artificial turf provides a more consistent and reliable surface to play on increasing the ability for those with disabilities to play and reducing the likelihood of injuries.

In addition to the long-term benefits realized by this project, the installation of artificial turf at Richmond Green and Crosby Park provided short-term stimulus to Richmond Hill’s economy by creating construction activity.



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