



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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All-weather turf project nears completion at Bear Branch Sportsfields

THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS (March 8, 2013) – To meet the demands of thousands of recreational athletes in The Woodlands, the Board of Directors of The Woodlands Township increased sportsfield capacity by adding sportsfield lights in current parks, replacing natural grass with all-weather turf and providing funding to construct a new sportsfield complex.

To date, lights have been installed and are operational at the sportsfields at Creekwood and Harper's Landing Parks. Bear Branch Sportfields One, Three, Four and Six and Alden Bridge Sportspark Multipurpose Fields One and Two are currently being renovated to receive all weather turf, a synthetic surface manufactured to resemble natural grass. The materials used are UV (ultraviolet)-resistant, highly durable and can be used in all weather conditions.

Fields Four and Five at Bear Branch Sportsfields are substantially complete, and Fields One and Three should be complete by mid-March 2013, weather permitting. Alden Bridge Sportspark Fields One and Two are expected to be finished by early April 2013, weather permitting. Once both locations are complete, The Woodlands Township will have approximately 544,600 square feet of all-weather turf.

"We are experiencing a shortage of sportsfield availability with the continued growth of The Woodlands with the addition of young families," said The Woodlands Township Chairman Bruce Tough. "This new project and addition should ensure that we keep up with this growth and continue to serve the desires expressed by countless Woodlands' residents and their families to have available sportsfields that will continue to meet their needs."

Maintenance required for all-weather turf is minimal as compared to natural grass fields. Maintenance includes a bi-weekly grooming and a quarterly deeper cleaning. Rain water drains through the crumb rubber and sand infill and through the perforated drainage holes in the turf. The water then exits the field through an underground drainage system. While all-weather turf fields are not "maintenance free", they do not require other costs such as water, irrigation repair and field renovation.

Additionally, the implementation of all-weather turf aids significantly in water conservation, will reduce maintenance costs, eliminates the need for fertilization, and may last for up to 20 years.

The Board of Directors adopted new rules applying to the use of all-weather turf which can be found at www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/parkrules

For more information on sports fields in The Woodlands or about The Woodlands Township, please call 281-210-3800 or visit www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov.

PHOTO:

Workers installing all-weather turf at Bear Branch Sportsfields.



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