

Spectrum Community Project



**A place for children and the
community to get active**

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Partners





What is the Spectrum Community Project?

Territorial Acknowledgment

The Spectrum Community Project wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, our project takes place

Overview

This project is a stakeholder-driven effort to transform the sports fields at Spectrum Community School into **a modern, floodlit and safe place for kids and members of the community**. The structural changes, pitch resurfacing, construction of a new field house and other improvements will cost a total of \$2.7m.

Upgrading these community facilities has been identified as an important and urgent initiative from groups across the island.

A broad collective of stakeholders, from the Spectrum Community School and the Vancouver Island Soccer League to McElhanney Engineering and Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, have been involved for several years to try and make this vision a reality.

The fields need to be improved for safety reasons, environmental reasons, and to ensure **sustainability into the future**.

Covid stopped the project and as we now emerge from the pandemic costs have risen, and there is an even more pressing need than ever to **complete the project as soon as possible**.



\$2.7m project

Philanthropic project will be a major community investment



5 years of work

Multi-faceted team have been committed since 2017



94% approval

Mass local and public support from stakeholders

Our children and the wider community really deserves a space they can safely play

Why it matters

Right now, the fields are uneven and unsafe to play on. During the winter months, they become so muddy that children are unable to use them and it's not uncommon to see huge numbers of geese making the pitch their home for the season. Full of holes and other irregularities, this has unfortunately led to a long list of injuries – for kids, adults and seniors using the facilities.

For many sports, including soccer and field hockey, **the field is simply not an option.**

Obesity rates among children and youth in Canada have nearly tripled in the last 30 years, with approximately 25% now overweight. The COVID pandemic has exacerbated this, particularly among 5-11 year-olds. Our project aims to get kids out of the house and away from screens, providing them with the **opportunity to get the exercise and joy** that comes from recreational sport. Canadian kids currently score a **D grade for overall physical activity**, often due to a lack of opportunity - we want to change that.

Greater Victoria suffers from a crippling lack of playing space, especially in evenings. Local **First Nations** groups Esquimalt and Songhees have **almost no access** to athletic fields. In addition, community soccer and football clubs are frequently forced to play in dangerous conditions due to limited alternatives

We see the development of a turf field at Spectrum as an amazing asset for Greater Victoria, particularly in light of the leadership group's commitment to inclusive and financially accessible options for the community.

Jill Shaw, Greater Victoria KidSport



Land-Right Holders



Songhees



Esquimalt

Project Stakeholders



McElhanney





The plan

Upgrading the field to a brand new artificial turf

The proposal is to transform the existing fields into a modern, multi-sport turf facility. This will include a new playing surface, complete with intelligent lighting that keeps the pitch illuminated during the dark. Plans also include the construction of changing rooms and safe access to the fields, plus a number of other improvements to the venue.

Giving back Community benefits

The Spectrum project is designed to benefit thousands of children and members of the Greater Victoria community

Getting kids playing outdoors more often is a big goal for the project. We hope to create a fertile environment for collaboration with our Spectrum Athletic Leadership program looking to partner with **KidSport Greater Victoria** to run cost-recovery programming for those most vulnerable in our society. Due to this, the project has the potential to be transformative project that can

change the lives of kids living in the lower Vancouver Island area. The project is also partnering with a variety of non-profit organizations to encourage physical activity for people of all ages and backgrounds, spanning everything from youth football academies to over-49s soccer matches. Our aim is to influence the health and wellbeing of thousands of people in the wider community.



Active kids

Getting children moving

Creating a space for young people of all abilities to spend time outdoors and play sports throughout the year without the risk of injury



Fewer injuries and significantly more time spent outdoors playing



510%

Increase in field time availability



760%

More community usage



14+

Non-profit organizations benefitting



Reconciliation

First Nations advocacy

Addressing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action, specifically 88 and 89 by providing field and facility access



Sports access

Local teams joint usage

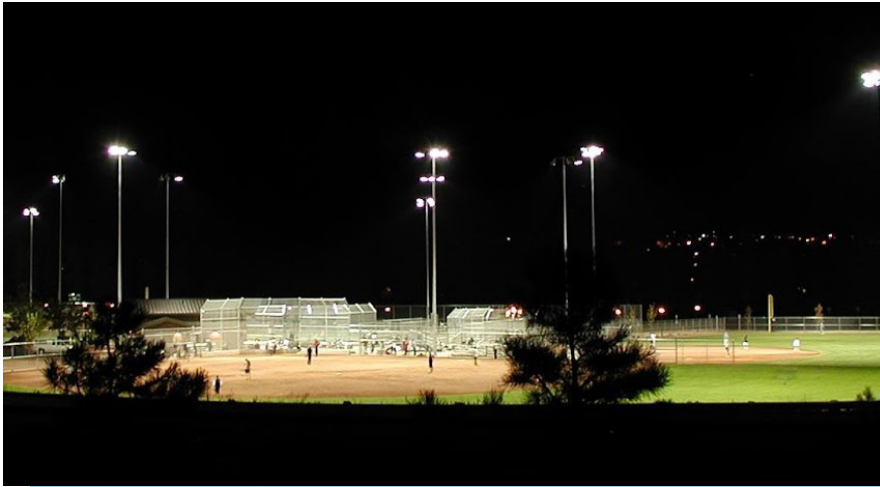
Partnership with organizations to offer desperately-needed space for a variety of initiatives, including supporting activities and events for seniors



Community

Sustainable, for everyone

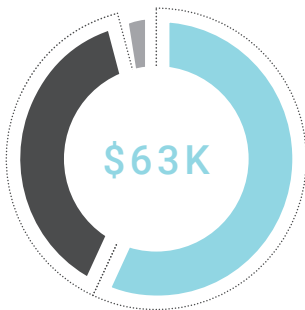
A robust financial plan means that the turf is sustainable in the long term, generating an asset for the wider community that can be used by all members



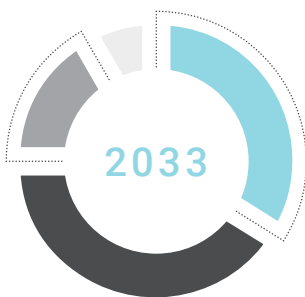
ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE

1. Despite offering thousands more hours of playing time per year, infrastructure upgrades mean **no impact on traffic**
2. Floodlights produce **less light pollution** than current temporary lighting system
3. **Reduced carbon** and less water usage. Turf is 98% recyclable and rubber pellets are entirely recovered - and prevented from interfering with local ecosystem

FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE



Annual income from field for regenerative usage



Future maintenance and resurfacing included in plan

Plan for investment

Ground work

\$1.05m

The area needs significant work in preparing it for a safe, flat playing surface. Contractors are doing this work at cost

Resurfacing

\$200k

The grass will be replaced with artificial, modern artificial grass so that the field can be used year-round with minimal groundskeeping

Buildings

\$500k

A clubhouse will be constructed to provide changing facilities and washrooms for players and support personnel

Planning / operations and contingency

\$700k

Current parking options will be expanded to support additional surface usage, keeping residential areas free from additional cars

Illumination

\$250k

Smart lighting to be installed, designed to support safe winter and night illumination with almost no impact on local community

Total: \$2,700,000



Call to Action #88

Supporting long-term growth of Aboriginal athlete development and Indigenous games hosting opportunities

The turf's steering committee will support and make turf time available for:

- € Any sport hosting applications/opportunities put forward by the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations
- € Local, regional, and provincial indigenous sports tournaments like the provincial wide, annual indigenous soccer tournament held in Victoria
- € Provincial and national indigenous team's preparation for international tournaments like the Native Indian Football Association's (NIFA) Indigenous World Cups training camp

Call to Action #89

Promote physical activity as a fundamental element of health and well-being, reduce barriers to sports participation, increase the pursuit of excellence in sport, and ensure systems are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples.

- The turf's steering committee will support and provide turf time for the Songhees and Esquimalt Nation's sports and activity programming
- Spectrum Community School's Athletic Leadership Program and Athletic Program initiatives will provide free or cost-recovery access to different sporting community programs for the Songhees & Esquimalt Nations

Your Donation Helps

- Those most vulnerable in our community
- Generations of children thrive
- Building positive relationships with the Songhees & Esquimalt Nations
- Physical activity for all ages in our community

We Need You

**We need your support.
Kids need your support.
Our community needs your support.**

Please take a moment to visit our website - reach out and connect with any one of the partners - drop us an email or call one of our Campaign Champions. Thank you.



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