



Parents will have to wait for months to find out if new soccer fields will be built in Calgary.

Turf war over soccer funding

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The city has delayed funding to build a new artificial turf soccer field and upgrade four others.

The Calgary Soccer Federation is hoping to build artificial fields at the soccer centre in southeast Calgary.

The artificial turf would more than double the playing use. The number of hours an artificial field can be used is about 13 hundred hours a year. That compares to just 550 hours for a natural field.

The cost to upgrade the fields would be about 11 million dollars.

The soccer federation is hoping to pick up one-quarter of the tab with the city, province, and federal government providing the rest.

But right now, the money isn't in the city's budget and there are no assurances of funding from Ottawa.

Calgary is trailing the rest of the country when it comes to artificial fields.

Vancouver and the Lower Mainland have 54 fields. Edmonton has six fields and is building another four. Saskatoon has three artificial fields.

Ward 13 Alderman Diane Colley-Urquhart says the city should commit to the funding right away.

Mayor Dave Bronconnier says he hopes to have the issue settled before the spring.

He wants to wait and see how much money the federal government will give to Calgary for infrastructure projects.

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