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Nike Sports Complex Expansion Springs toward Completion

New facility is on target for 2011 organized youth sports and recreation

NAPERVILLE, Ill. (Dec. 27, 2010) – Snow may be blanketing the ground but thoughts are turning to warmer weather as the Naperville Park District’s Nike Sports Complex 20-acre expansion is now 60-percent complete.

“We are very pleased with the progress at Nike,” says Michael Piszynski, project manager. “Ideal fall weather, coupled with a motivated team, has really allowed the project to take shape. We are really excited for the many additional opportunities Nike will provide the community in just a few short months.”

The aggregate base for the new tennis and basketball courts and synthetic turf field is finished, and parking lots are installed. Lighting, concrete curbing and the new walkway are complete.

Perhaps most noticeable are the landscaped berm and park support building with pavilion. Interior work on the building is underway this winter. When complete, it will support the site’s maintenance and its users. Finishing touches will be added throughout the site in spring, including professional landscaping.

Several thousand people are expected to use the Nike Sports Complex expansion when it opens on the north side of town in early summer. The expanded facility at Mill Street and Diehl and Bauer Roads nearly doubles the size of the existing sports complex. Area youth athletic coaches say the added fields for play will get even more kids involved in the community’s record-winning teams.

Amenities include the district’s first lighted, synthetic turf field and multi-use fields for soccer, football and lacrosse. Other highlights include lighted courts for tennis, basketball and volleyball, as well as a playground, walking and bicycle trails, and one of two cricket pitches in Naperville.

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Nike Sports Complex Expansion//Add One

“This expansion is essential for furthering the district’s mission of providing the community with organized sport and play,” says Brad Wilson, director of recreation. “The addition of these fields on this side of town demonstrates the district’s commitment to meeting the needs of its residents and community athletic organizations.”

The Nike Sports Complex is named for its military heritage within the community and also for the Greek winged goddess Nike, or Nicé, a mythological spirit of victory in battle and peaceful competition.

“Nike is about competitive, fair play and team spirit,” says Eric Shutes, director of planning. “Thanks to the Naperville City Council, Plan Commission and the community’s support generations will learn these values on property that embodies this philosophy.”

The Nike Sports Complex expansion is based on resident feedback during the acquisition process, at several public meetings and from recommendations contained in the Open Space and Recreation Master Plan. Engineering plans were developed and the park site received a positive recommendation from Plan Commission in early 2010, followed by City Council approval in April. Groundbreaking occurred in late June.

For more information about the Nike Sports Complex expansion, as well as the Naperville Park District’s youth athletic programs and events, call 630-848-5000 or visit www.napervilleparks.org. The Web site features news updates, a site plan and frequently asked questions about the project. Please visit the Web site to also learn about Naperville Park District and its numerous public programs, seasonal events and services.

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About the Naperville Park District: *Created in 1966, the Naperville Park District is an independent, municipal agency serving the recreation needs of its residents. As a leader in providing leisure experiences that enhance the quality of life for the community, the District maintains and operates more than 2,500 acres with 130+ parks and facilities and provides more than 900 recreational, arts and environmental programs and special events annually. Included within the District’s operations are two championship golf courses, a multitude of courts and sports fields, two inline skating and skateboarding facilities, the Millennium Carillon, a paddle boat quarry, historic Centennial Beach, and the beautiful Riverwalk.*

Editors, please note: Please send your requests for digital photography to Sue Markgraf at 847-970-9160 or smarkgraf@greenmarkpr.com.