



CITY OF RALEIGH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

## ***News Release***

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### **City of Raleigh to Dedicate Two Synthetic Fields at WRAL Soccer Center August 18**

The City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department invites the public to the dedication of the new synthetic soccer fields at the WRAL Soccer Center, 7700 Perry Creek Road on Sunday, August 18 at 3:00 p.m. The dedication is being held in conjunction with the Capital Area Soccer League Kick-off sponsored by WakeMed.

The Raleigh City Council voted unanimously in April to approve a \$1.16 million contract with Ballard Construction Inc. to install two synthetic multipurpose fields at the WRAL Soccer Center. The synthetic fields replace grass fields. Both new fields have lights to accommodate nighttime activities. Capital Area Soccer League owns the facility and has an agreement which allows for City use of the fields.

The improvements were made to accommodate more play, provide a state-of-the-art soccer center and offer opportunities for a destination location for city league, inter-scholastic, inter-collegiate match and tournament play in addition to drop-in play and instructional class space for the residents of the community. Synthetic fields offer extended play and minimal maintenance versus playing on natural grass. Grass fields need to be mowed, watered, and kept in a healthy condition. Synthetic fields require occasional raking of the rubber infill. Because the fields allow water to drain very quickly matches are not cancelled and tournaments can be run with greater efficiency. The synthetic fields will be lighted which extends the hours available for play and complements the synthetic field's durability and ability to handle a larger number of players.

After the ribbon cutting, activities will continue until 6:00 p.m. and include:

- Small-sized fields set up for kids;
- Lectures/discussion from medical staff;
- Distribution of team packets and uniforms;
- Sponsor/vendor exhibits; and,
- CASL Connection – a town-hall type meeting to inform the membership about the latest CASL developments and updates.

The City of Raleigh used two-thirds general obligation bonds to fund its portion of the two synthetic multipurpose fields. Two-thirds general obligation bonds are a long-term financing option available to local governments in North Carolina. The bond total can be up to two-thirds of the amount by which the municipality reduced its outstanding general obligation indebtedness in the preceding fiscal year. Last spring, the City Council voted to issue up to \$9 million in two-thirds general obligations. Part of the funds was designated for the soccer field upgrades.