

Teams from Stouffville and King City prepared for their youth soccer game at the Stouffville District Secondary School fields Tuesday night. At the same time, council was buying the school fields, track and tennis courts from the public school board. The town wants to buy the high school, too.



STAFF PHOTO/JIM MASON

Town, board make deal for facilities

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four times a week," Tom Graham, director of leisure services, said.

There's also a summer soccer camp going on this week. The tennis courts are used by residents in their free time. Tennis lessons are given by the town and by the high school as part of its education program. Stouffville Secondary had use of the track and field facilities during the day; in the evening, they were open for public use.

Elementary and secondary school students have come to Stouffville from all over the region to take part in about 12 York Region track meets each year. Local schools use the track for their own meets. The fields are also available for community events such as the annual Rick Hansen Wheels in Motion fundraiser, Mr. Graham said.

The track is one of only two all-weather tracks in York Region.

The all-weather track is unique because it can be used safely, even when there's a light rain, Ross Virgo, York Region District School Board spokesperson, said.

Community track clubs use the facility for meets and practices.

To cover the price tag of slightly more than \$1-million, the town will pay just over \$750,000 over the next five years to the school board, without interest. In addition, it will provide 125 hours of non-prime time ice time and use of the track for the town's schools. That's valued at around \$201,250.

The town will also give the next five new schools built in the municipality a break on building permit fees - 35 cents per square foot for each permit issued, valued at around \$105,000.

Some of the funds for the purchase price of the track, tennis courts and soccer fields will come from the Park Trust reserve.

In future, as the town assesses the needs of its residents for leisure activities, improvements could be made to site. That could include such things as re-surfacing the track, building washrooms or putting in sprinkler systems to improve maintenance of the fields, Mr. Graham said.

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FAST TRACK FACTS

- ▶ Located west of Stouffville District Secondary School
- ▶ Size: 8.5 acres
- ▶ In addition to the running track, there are three tennis courts and two lit soccer fields
- ▶ The track is one of only two all-weather tracks in York Region
- ▶ About 12 York Region track meets held here each year
- ▶ Cost for town to purchase from York Region District School Board: \$125,000 per acre
- ▶ Replacement value of track, playing fields and tennis courts: around \$1 million, plus land costs.

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