

Logan Park

Artificial turf development



Turf development

Funding approach

Design partnerships

Ownership and management structure

Setting

The artificial turf project at Logan Park in Dunedin was initiated after the city had the role of host venue for matches during the 2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup. A key objective for the city was to secure a lasting legacy from the event, and an opportunity emerged to obtain funding from FIFA to support the development of a new artificial turf facility. This initiative also responded to challenges experienced across the sports field network, including the deterioration of natural grass fields in poor weather and a shortage of floodlit playing capacity across the city.

Response

- 1. Scope:** 2 adjacent full-sized artificial turf fields with a cricket pitch in between. One field has dedicated football markings, and the second has dual football and rugby markings.
- 2. Certifications:** FIFA Quality standard; World Rugby
- 3. Cost:** \$4m
- 4. Funding mix:** initial **seed funding from FIFA** (FIFA Forward Programme) leveraged investment from **Dunedin City Council, grant funders** (including Lotteries – Community Facility and Significant Projects Funds, Otago Community Trust, The Lion Foundation, Alexander McMillan Trust, Aotearoa Gaming Trust, New Zealand Football Foundation), **philanthropy** (Edgar Family Foundation) and through **partnerships** (the Highlanders).
- 5. Opened:** 2019
- 6. Ownership and management:** Southern Football (formerly Football South) initiated the project and was the lead for securing funding. Once secured, Dunedin City Council oversaw project delivery, and when completed, the turf was transferred to Dunedin City Council ownership (asset ownership and maintenance). Although the turf is part of Council's field booking system, peak periods have been identified and Southern Football has an exclusive usage timetable that allows them to determine how to best utilise the turfs for local football.

Lessons learnt

- Base the turf on a neutral, centrally located site to increase accessibility and remove perceptions that it primarily benefits one club.
- Fully explore options and engage the community and prospective partners. The initial concept was for one turf but based on investigations and engagement this expanded to 2.
- Provision of an additional warm-up area would be advantageous to support scheduling/use and reduce contamination of the artificial turf.
- Ensure there is a sufficient number of changing rooms and toilets provided to meet use generated by the turf(s).
- Consider the potential impact on clubs and their clubrooms when activity is centralised.
- Provide suitable and well-located storage, including roll-off spaces for portable goals.
- A strong project lead and early seed funding are critical to generate project momentum.
- Allow flexibility to alter field sizes to accommodate different grade and format requirements.
- Direct field allocations to Southern Football enable more effective scheduling than a general booking system, as they understand seasonal requirements, training needs, competition formats, and can balance the needs of different clubs.

Impact

- Reduced damage and renovation works have increased quality across the field network.
- Provides certainty of play across the city when other grounds are unavailable.
- Economic return through tournament hosting – boosted by having 2 adjacent fields to use.
- Ability to host National League games.
- Supports fitness, rehabilitation and set move training for the Highlanders, football programming throughout the year, holiday programmes, cricket (some Friday evening games) and Volts training.