

# Money for SoccerPlex expansion gets approved

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The Montgomery County Council approved more than \$1 million in funding on Tuesday that will allow construction of three artificial-turf fields and lights at the SoccerPlex to get underway.

About \$387,000 will go towards parking lots and other infrastructure at the new fields, and the remainder will go towards relocating a softball field to the other side

of Schaeffer Road.

The softball field needs to be removed from the north side of Schaeffer and rebuilt on the south side to accommodate two of the new soccer fields.

Artificial-turf fields are expected to bring \$750,000 in new revenue to the complex each year since the synthetic material can be used nearly year-round and without rest. Lights will also extend the play opportunities.

The SoccerPlex is a public-private

venture located on county land at the South Germantown Recreational Park in Boyds. The nonprofit Maryland Soccer Foundation owns the facility.

The foundation will use a \$2.53 million grant it received last year to pay for the artificial-turf, estimated to cost about \$800,000 per field.

Synthetic fields will cost about \$10,000 a year each to maintain, compared with grass fields which cost about \$25,000 each.