



## **City and Borough of Sitka**

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The City and Borough of Sitka has been working to complete the closure and capping of Kimsham landfill and subsequent development of the Kimsham Recreation Complex since last summer. After the landfill capping phase is complete, construction of the recreation complex with three ballfields and one multiuse soccer field will begin. A scorebooth with restrooms is also planned for the complex. Space in this building will be dedicated for use as a concession stand but due to limited funds, the interior will not be finished as a part of this project. All the baseball outfields and the soccer field will be covered with grass. Earlier, it was estimated that the project would be completed by 3/31/08, but the completion date was extended due to unavoidable circumstances detailed below.

S&S Construction has been working steadily on the project since mid-July 2007. To date, the contractor has completed demolition and clearing activities; hauled and spread thousands of cubic yards of fill, over the ten acre site to create the landfill cap. The entrance road, road to the back parking area and two parking areas have been covered with geotextile fabric and gravel. The screw jack foundation for the Kimsham scorebooth is also done. Water pipes, storm drains and electrical conduit trenches have been excavated and backfilled in the upper ballfield area. Hydrants have been placed on the upper and lower fields.

The project has had setbacks in the schedule due to problems with weather and the landfill capping materials. Freezing temperatures during the first week in December made work impossible for several weeks. Cold and deep snow at the beginning of February brought work to a halt during that month. Months of wet weather have slowed progress as well.

But the delays in the project are due mainly to the issues with the cap material. The landfill cap has to meet AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) specifications for drainage and impermeability. It has been a challenge to balance the cap specifications for impermeability with ballfield grade and drainage requirements. Most landfill caps are normally sloped to drain sharply but ballfields are nearly level.

The material specified for the cap, called "pit run", has been problematic since it hasn't been draining properly. Also, this material wasn't "setting up" due to prolonged wet weather, causing delays in the grading due to its unworkable state. A geotechnical survey was completed to analyze the pit run and generate recommendations for ways to improve drainage and harden the capping material.

After considering several options, engineers have determined a way forward. Another 12" layer of rock fill material along with a five inch layer of coarse sand will underlay the finished ball field surface. The outfields and soccer field will eventually be covered by topsoil then seeded for grass. A six inch layer of ballfield sand will be added to the infields. The week of May 12, this layer was added to the two lower or northern fields.

The recreational portion of the project will be complete by September 30, 2008 with the exception of the grass. The outfield turf in two fields will be seeded this season and ready to play on next year, if ready by 1 Aug 08. The remaining two fields will be seeded in 2009 and ready for play by 2010.

The Tree and Landscape Committee received a Community Forestry grant to purchase thirty red maple trees to plant along Furuhelm Street. This planting will be the annual Arbor Day planting project.

The Kimsham Recreational Complex project will transform the landfill into a tremendous public asset, fulfill a long-standing community goal, and finally meet the need for more ballfields.

For further information on the Kimsham Recreational Complex, you may contact Lynne McGowan, CBS Parks and Recreation Manager, at 747-1852.

## Kimsham Recreational Complex

