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Ground broken for G. William Noble Athletic Complex redevelopment

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Construction has kicked off on a \$32 million redevelopment of G. William Noble Athletic Complex in Gardendale.

A recent groundbreaking launched the project that is expected to be finished by spring 2023. The finished complex will have nine baseball and softball fields, and a football and soccer field, all with synthetic turf. The finished complex will also have eight tennis courts, 11 pickleball courts, a beach volleyball court, a playground, a putting green and more.

The city of Gardendale has issued municipal bonds to fund the project.



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Construction started this spring on G. William Noble Athletic Complex in Gardendale. A groundbreaking was held at the site June 6.

Sports Facilities Companies, a Clearwater, Florida-based youth and amateur sports facility management company, will help the city of Gardendale operate the park's new facilities. SFC also manages the Hoover Met Complex. It plans to begin hiring for the venue in coming months according to a news release for the project, starting with a general manager position.

"It's a lot bigger than anything we've ever had before," Gardendale Mayor Stan Hogeland said. "We're going to have a lot more people in here, in this park, on a daily basis. We're going to be able to offer new recreational opportunities that we haven't been able to offer before, from things like adult kickball, to adult flag football, to men's softball, but the emphasis is on the youth play."

Plans are to allow local teams to use the facilities. The improved athletic complex will also be used to attract various official tournaments and sporting events. Hogeland said Perfect Game, USSSA and Dizzy Dean Baseball Inc. are the kinds of entities the new complex will draw.

Hogeland said athletic events at the facilities will likely benefit nearby restaurants, hotels and gas stations. He said both the city and SFC will both receive varying portions of direct proceeds from events on a case-by-case basis.

"On the weekends we will flip a switch, turning it into an economic development engine that will benefit our local businesses," Hogeland said.

LBYD Engineers is project coordinator. Williams Blackstock Architects, HNP Landscape Architecture and Stone Building Company are also working on the project.

The G. William Noble Athletic Complex houses the Gardendale youth baseball and football programs, parks maintenance offices and parks and recreation offices. It is located on the Northern end of Moncrief Road near U.S. Highway 31. It is named for former longtime Gardendale Mayor Bill Noble.

"It is absolutely a tool that's going to benefit us financially and enable us to grow our tax base to be able to take care of the local residents who live here," Hogeland said.

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