



# West Vancouver Field Hockey Club

*"The home of North Shore Field Hockey"*

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## THE HISTORY OF RUTLEDGE FIELD

1970s	Sports fields are developed at what is now Hugo Ray Park and are designated for what was then called grass hockey
1986	WVFHC fundraises to construct the Hugo Ray Park Pavilion, with support from DWV Council. Hugo Ray Park is considered a premier facility for field hockey in Greater Vancouver.
mid-80s	Water-based artificial turf becomes the standard for community-based field hockey, following the introduction of artificial turf at the Montreal Olympics in 1976. WVFHC proposes that an artificial turf for field hockey be installed at Hugo Ray Park. Initial funding is gathered from provincial and private sources. DWV Council turns down the proposal.
1994	WVFHC participate in discussions with WV District Parks which led to an independent survey of all West Vancouver recreational facilities in 1999.
2001	The 2001 Recreation Master Plan report to DWV Council calls for the urgent installation of 2 artificial turf fields plus 2 new grass fields to fulfill immediate 2001 demands. It recommended a third artificial turf field would be required in 2004 and a possible fourth field in 2006.
November 2004	WVFHC holds open houses to introduce neighbours to the Hugo Ray Park vision.
April to June 2005	WVFHC participate in the Sports and Recreation Facilities Planning Commission survey of user groups which recommends Hugo Ray Park remain the centre for field hockey and cricket.
December 2005	DWV Council gives approval in principle to the development of Hugo Ray Park as a Centre for Field Hockey and begins the neighbourhood consultation process.
July 2006	Following a public consultation process and Neighbourhood Open Houses, the DWV Council gives approval to fundraise for the development of Fields 1 and 2 at Hugo Ray Park for a Centre of Excellence for Field Hockey.
January 2007	The DWV Council gives approval to fundraise for the development of Fields 1,2 as well as grass fields 3,4 at Hugo Ray Park.
May 2007	The Hugo Ray Park Society launches a fundraising campaign for fields at Hugo Ray Park.

August 2007	The Hugo Ray Park Society meets its goal of \$2 million in pledges and donations to match proposed contributions by the Provincial and West Vancouver governments.
June 2008	DWV Council approves proceeding with costing and design of a scaled-down proposal for one turf field at Hugo Ray Park. This follows decision by Province not to fund the application in 2008
November 2008	Costing and design for one turf field at Hugo Ray Park partially completed. Municipal election results in changes on council and staff and decisions are postponed.
April 2009	DWV Council decides not to proceed with one turf field at Hugo Ray Park due to high costs. Instead, Council moves to investigate the possibility of placing an artificial turf for Field Hockey at Ambleside Park on Field A. Parks staff begin discussions to investigate this possibility and apply for Federal/Provincial infrastructure funding.
September 2009	DWV Council receives confirmation of a \$3 million grant from the Federal and Provincial governments for improvements to Ambleside sports facilities, including an artificial turf playing surface designed for field hockey and usable by soccer and other field sports.  Discussions begin with the Field Hockey and Soccer groups regarding location and details of the project. Initial plans include a parkade on Field A with the new turf on top of the parkade. This is rejected by Council in early spring of 2010 due to cost considerations.
June 2010	A Memorandum of Understanding between the WVFHC and WVSC is completed regarding the usage and development of sport fields and facilities.
June 14, 2010	A ground-breaking ceremony takes place on gravel Field A to officially start construction of the new field. The project includes a new artificial turf field on Field A designed for field hockey and usable by soccer and other field sports, a warm-up pad for soccer next to Field D, plus a renovated or new field house.  The WV Field Hockey Facilities Society contributes \$370,000 to the project and the WV Soccer Club contributes \$100,000. A 3-way agreement is signed between the DWV Council and the 2 sport groups regarding the project financing.
Sept 2010	Members of the West Van Field Hockey Facilities Society and the West Van Soccer Club present cheques to the District of West Vancouver totalling \$270,000 on Sept 30 (\$63,000 from WVSC and \$207,000 from WVFHFS). Due to time constraints placed on the grant, it is decided to proceed with a renovation of the existing fieldhouse instead of a rebuild.
March 2011	The deadline for the Federal - Provincial grant is extended to Oct 31, 2011. This allows construction to wait for appropriate weather conditions. Vancouver experiences one of the wettest and coldest springs in history, delaying field construction.

September  
2011

Rutledge Field is open! The first artificial turf field for field hockey on the North Shore is ready in time for the 2011 Orca Festival on Labour Day Weekend.

September  
10, 2011

Official Opening Ceremony for Rutledge Field is attended by thousands on Sept 10, 2011. The opening week WVFHC hosts the Canguroo Clash with 5 matches between the Australian and Canadian Mens Teams.