

Case Study: RIM Park

Background:

The City of Waterloo's RIM Park sports fields feature two international-quality artificial turf fields and four natural turf fields. The facility attracts 1.7 million visitors per year to enjoy sports, community events and natural spaces.

As part of a commitment to demonstrating environmental leadership, the City of Waterloo wanted to install a leading-edge water conservation strategy at RIM Park. Since high volumes of water are needed to keep the fields in top shape for competitive purposes and for player safety, a rainwater catchment system was deemed to be an optimal solution.

The Region of Waterloo was consulted as a partner in the project to help fund the consultant design of a new system and to offset the water savings from any potential solution.

A final component of the project would be to educate the public on the system to encourage future water conservation projects.



Water Savings Solution:

A unique underground storm-water collection was installed under one of the artificial turf fields. A nearby sump is used to direct the captured water to the irrigation system. Excess water is filtered to a stormwater pond and the fields comes with soil moisture sensors to ensure optimum water management. The GreenLab educational program is onsite at the pavilion to educate the community on the benefits of the system.

Economic Benefits:

Over \$11,000 in annual water savings based on current water rates, which will increase incrementally over the next several years, further increasing savings. The payout of \$9,264.00 from the W.E.T. program for cost-share on consulting and water savings rebate provided additional economic benefits to the company.

Water Savings:

RIM Park now saves 10.7 m³ of water daily, based on savings of 31.8 m³ per summer period day.