

Thumbs up: Soccer fans

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Ten years ago, soccer mom Kim Cross and several South Sound coaches had a vision of a soccer complex where dozens of teams could play. It would be a place where hundreds of out-of-town players and their families would fill local hotels and restaurants. After 10 years and more than \$1 million in contributions, the vision is about to become a reality at Blackhills Community Soccer Complex on 93rd Avenue Southwest. Dee Ragsdale, the group's treasurer, said the project, which is estimated to cost \$10 million, will be completed with donations, grants and "elbow grease and hard labor." Cross said a lot of blood, sweat and tears already have gone into the decade-old dream. The beauty is this is a private effort, not the working of taxpayer-supported park department. The complex will feature 10 grass soccer fields, two of which will be converted to all-weather turf at a later date; a trail; about 300 parking stalls; a concessions stand; restrooms; and bleachers. The group will operate and maintain the complex with revenue generated from the field rentals. Combat engineers from Fort Lewis graded the 40-acre site in 2006 to train for their deployment to Afghanistan. Hundreds of volunteers and businesses have contributed to the effort and all that hard work will come to fruition this fall when the littlest players take to the field for the first time.