

REPORT

Parks, Culture & Recreation Department

To: Mayor and Council
Committee of the Whole

Date: June 14, 2010

From: G. Dean Gibson
Director of Parks, Culture & Recreation

Doc#: 136314

Subject: Artificial Sport Field Development Approach

RECOMMENDATION

THAT staff be directed to proceed with the planning for the development of a second artificial turf field in the manner as identified in this report.

ORIGIN/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to respond to direction from City Council to explore opportunities to develop additional artificial turf sport fields in the City and to make a recommendation regarding a preferred approach for moving forward.

SUMMARY

In response to Council's directive, staff has determined that it is feasible to proceed with the planning and construction of an additional artificial turf field in the 2010-2011 timeframe utilizing available funding included in the 2010 Financial Plan. This report recommends establishing a project budget of \$2,180,000 and outlines a process to engage community sport organizations in the planning process.

BACKGROUND

In June of 2009 staff presented Council with an information report that outlined the needs of the community and challenges facing the City related to the development of sport fields in New Westminster. In summary, the report described that the City's Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan identified the need to develop 5-6 artificial turf fields over the next 13-15 years and that an annual investment of between \$400,000 - \$500,000 per year is needed to support this program over the same term. The report identified that the City had made application to the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInC) Program (RInC) to assist with funding for a new artificial turf field. The City's 2010 approved capital program included funding for the City's share of a new artificial turf field project and anticipated additional third party funding from the Royal City Youth Soccer Club. The City's application for RInC grant funding was not approved.

In the spring of this year, in response to a presentation to Council by the Royal City Youth Soccer Club, Council directed staff to further explore opportunities to develop additional artificial turf sport fields. The Royal City Youth Soccer Club was subsequently invited to discuss the matter with staff and the Parks & Recreation Committee.

The Committee, in consultation with staff, recommends that the City move forward with the development on an additional artificial turf field in the 2010-2011 timeframe utilizing the available City and third party funding pending consultation with community field sport organizations regarding a preferred site and project scope.

EXISTING POLICY/PRACTICE

City Council has endorsed in principle the recommendations contained within the Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan and will consider specific recommendations as proposed in the City's Financial Plan and Department work plans.

ANALYSIS

The Parks & Recreation Committee, in consultation with staff, has considered the direction from Council to explore opportunities to develop additional artificial turf fields in the City and supports the principle of utilizing available city and third party funding to create an additional field as soon as possible. The Committee recognized that Royal City Youth Soccer is the largest organized group of field users but recommends that all organized sport field user groups be consulted in the planning process as related to the scope of the project and potential field locations.

Funding Strategy

The typical cost of constructing an artificial turf field with lights to accommodate sports such as soccer, field lacrosse, football and others is in the \$1.6 - \$2.2 million range. The approved 2010 capital budget contemplated funding for the conversion of the Queen’s Park South field to artificial turf to support typical field sports plus baseball and softball as follows:

City Reserves	940,000	
Third Party Funding		
<i>Royal City Youth Soccer</i>	300,000	
<i>Provincial Government Grant</i>	940,000	Directed from 2004 Centre for Community Achievement Grant
<i>RInC Program Grant</i>	<u>1,000,000</u>	
TOTAL BUDGETED FUNDING	<u>\$3,180,000</u>	

As a result of the denial of the RInC Grant application, the **total available funding has now been reduced to \$2,180,000**. This scope of funding should still be adequate to construct a typical artificial turf field with lights. The most significant variable in the overall construction budget is the condition of the sub-surface soils and the related extent of site preparation required to stabilize those soils. This variable can be better controlled once a preferred site(s) is identified and stability of the soil is tested.

Field Development Process

Assuming support for the preliminary \$2,180,000 project budget, it is proposed the field development process take place in the following manner:

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>PROPOSED TIMELINE</u>
Field User Group Consultation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determination of criteria to evaluate potential field sites • Identification of potential sites • Individual site evaluation 	September 2010
Technical analysis/testing at preferred sites (as may be required)	September-October 2010
Preferred site and project scope recommendation to City Council and subsequent project approval in principle	October 2010
Community consultation (as may be required)	November 2010
Final project approval by City Council	December 2010
Project detailed design	December 2010– February 2011
Construction tender	March 2011
Construction	April – August 2011
Project completion	September 2011

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

- **Financial Impact** – It is suggested that approved and available funding in the amount of \$2,180,000 be directed towards this proposed artificial turf field project. While some planning and preliminary design funding is needed in 2010, the bulk of the funding will be required in the 2011 fiscal year.

- **Social Impact** – Social impacts associated with sport field development and both organized and informal sport are numerous including the provision of positive recreation activities, improved individual and

community health, enhanced civic pride, economic stimulation, and sense of identity and team building through healthy competition and belonging to a community based sport group.

- **Environmental Impact** – As compared to natural grass fields, artificial turf fields do not require the consumption of water for irrigation and do not require pesticides or fertilizers (and the fossil fuel powered machinery required for their application). Artificial turf fields also use ground-up recycled tires for the rubber infill base. Artificial turf fields also result in more efficient use of land, able to accommodate approximately six times the activity capacity of natural turf fields.

OPTIONS

Available options for proceeding include:

1. Endorse the recommendation to proceed with the development of an additional artificial turf field in the manner outlined in this report.
2. Endorse the recommendation to proceed with the development of an additional artificial turf field in an alternate manner as determined by Council.
3. Do not proceed with an additional artificial turf field at this time.

Option #1 is recommended.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

It is envisioned that staff from Engineering, Electrical and Development Services Departments will be consulted in the planning for an additional artificial turf field.

CONCLUSION

The Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan clearly articulates the needs related to sport field development in New Westminster. The construction of artificial turf fields is the best strategy to address this need in a fiscally responsible manner. Despite the absence of Federal Government funding, it is

still possible to proceed with a more modest additional field development program using previously identified funding sources.

Approved for Presentation
to Council



G. Dean Gibson
Director of Parks, Culture &
Recreation



Paul Daminato
City Administrator