



To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

Date: May 3, 2006

From: Dave Semple, Director of Parks and Public Works Operations

File: 06-2345-01/2006-Vol 01

Re: **Natural Grass Playing Fields Fee Program**

**Staff Recommendation**

1. That the Richmond Natural Grass Playing Field Fees Program, Option 1, as detailed in this report be approved for a phased implementation in 2007 with full implementation in 2008 and;
2. That staff be directed to include Natural Grass Playing Field pricing in a Parks Recreation and Cultural Services Fees bylaw.
3. That Field Facility usage agreements be developed with each of Richmond's field sport associations.
4. That a special subsidiary fund of the Sports Reserve Fund be established for the purpose of minor/major field capital as detailed in Table 1 of this report.

Dave Semple  
Director of Parks & Public Works  
(3350)

Att. 3

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY					
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>		<b>CONCURRENCE</b>		<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>	
Budgets .....		Y <input type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>		
Recreation & Cultural Services .....		Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>		YES	NO	<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	NO
					<input type="checkbox"/>

## Staff Report

### Origin

In November 2005 Council gave staff the following direction regarding natural grass field user fees:

***“That staff be directed to develop and bring forward a process and schedule for the implementation of natural turf playing field user fees in 2006.”***

The purpose of this report is in response to the above referral and to present a proposed phased approach over 2007 and 2008 for the implementation of a natural grass playing field fee program to Council based on significant public input from 25 community field sport associations feedback through public consultation, and endorsement from the Richmond Sports Council.

### Findings of Fact:

- Currently, the City does charge for the artificial turf fields and the revenue is redirected to offset maintenance and capital replacement of those fields, this program was approved by Council in 2002.
- In 2003, staff received direction from Council to prepare a phased process for implementation of outdoor sports field user fees for natural grass playing fields and that it be referred to the Richmond Sports Council prior to staff bringing the matter forward for consideration by Council.
- The current process of field allocation is by block booking and it is known that many fields are being overbooked beyond actual need.
- In 2005 during the proposal for development for increased artificial turf fields, the Richmond Soccer Alliance, in writing, proposed to Council that they would support user fees for fields if the revenues were redirected back to future field development, and at that time 13 associations supported the introduction of a natural grass field fee program. Council directed staff to develop a process and schedule for implementation of these fees.
- In 2005, Richmond Arenas Community Association brought forward their concerns to Council regarding fee inequity between ice facility users and field users.
- In February, 2006, staff advised Council of the initial community consultation feedback.
- All of the information in this report was presented to the Richmond Sports Council Society in April 2006.
- At the April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006 PRCS Committee meeting, an Ipsos- Reid Public Affairs Recreation & Physical Fitness survey was undertaken and presented. The survey indicated that 76% of Richmond’s residents strongly and somewhat support the implementation of user fees for recreational programs and services, the degree of accuracy is within +/-5.7%, 19 times out of 20.
- At the May 9<sup>th</sup>, Richmond Sports Council meeting, the following motion was approved:  
“After extensive discussion of the many sides of this long-standing issue, it was moved and seconded that:

- “Richmond Sports Council endorses the concept of outdoor field facility fees conditional upon:
- a. All sports being treated equitably;
  - b. Fees being used for further facility improvements; and
  - c. Partnership agreements being negotiated with each sports group to address their specific needs.”

The motion was carried without opposition (Attachment 1).

**Analysis**

***PRCS Fees Policy***

Currently there is no Council adopted Pricing Policy applied to fees and revenues for Parks Recreation and Cultural Services. Staff are working on the development of a comprehensive policy and this will be brought back to Council later in 2006. The principles and proposed fee schedule only apply to natural turf fields.

The current practice for revenues includes:

Artificial Turf Fees	60% of revenues designated for future field replacement 40% of revenues designated for operating and administration
Arena	100% of revenues towards operating, administration
Aquatics	100% of revenues towards operating, administration
Cultural/Heritage	100% of revenues towards operating, administration
Proposed Natural Turf Fees	100% of revenues designated for future field repair/replacement and development

***Public Consultation Process***

Staff have done considerable research on playing field maintenance costs, users, hours of use, field quality categories, subsidy levels and market value comparisons. Staff have prepared fee proposals , for discussion, based on the research and best practices. To test these proposed fees, staff have conducted several consultation meetings to gather feedback and input from Richmond field user groups and Richmond Sports Council.

In October 2002, Council adopted the initial phase of artificial turf sports playing field fees with the directed revenues to 60% for capital replacement and 40% of offset operating and administration.

Since 2002, 60% of the fees collected from the artificial turf fields in Richmond have been placed in the Sports Reserve Fund as sustaining and new capital, and 40% has been directed to field operating costs and administration.

This same approach was proposed to the 25 Richmond Community sports groups in response to the Council direction to develop a process for natural grass playing field fees. Feedback from 21 out of the 25 community groups, and the Richmond Sports Council was that their support for the introduction of a natural grass fee program was to direct 100% of the fees towards sustaining capital and new facility development.

Each major user group has had discussions on the philosophy and rationale for field user fees, how fee proposals were determined, what are the proposed fees, what is the process for establishing fees, revenue options, and how can groups express concerns, endorse or comment on the proposed options for consideration.

**Maintenance Vs. Capital- Richmond Sports Fields**

Today, field operating maintenance primarily includes the cost of grass cutting, field over seeding, aerating, drain-line maintenance, goal-post set-up and take down, lighting electrical costs, and minor backstop maintenance. Capital includes a range of work including new facility development to minor capital such as replacement of goal posts and irrigation. The table below defines the difference.

**Table 1**

<b>Operations and Maintenance</b>	<b>Sustaining Capital /New Facility Development</b>
Gang Mowing	New facility construction/Field Upgrading
Turf Repair	Amenity acquisition
Thatch Control	Replacement of backstops
Aerating	Installation of new and failed drainage systems
Top Dressing	Installation of new artificial turf fields
Over seeding and fertilizing	Track & field amenity installation/replacement
Irrigation set-up and maintenance	Conversion of clay fields to sand fields
Field Lining and Salting	Installation of site washrooms, and change room field houses
Goal Post set-up & Take Down	Parking Lot construction
Safety Inspections/pre-season inspections	Lighting Installation/Electrical installation
Fencing set-up and take down/backstop repair	Installation of major site signage
Lighting/electrical	Acquisition of goal posts
Vandalism Control/Sign repair	Acquisition of bleachers
Gyro and soil delivery	Installation of new irrigation or modern irrigation systems
Portable outfield fence line trimming	Replacement of /or conversion to artificial turf carpet
Bleacher delivery	
Administration	

**Current Reality- Financial**

Currently, the City operating expenses for playing fields is \$666,000 including maintenance plus administration and coordination, (1.5 full time equivalent staffing). Some associations, particularly baseball and softball undertake “added value” maintenance to improve the facilities they are allocated to enhance player experience.

At present, a \$250,000 capital contribution to the existing Sports Reserve Fund is the only annual funding source for new sports field facility development subject to approval in the annual capital budget. In addition to the annual operating costs, annual capital requests always exceed available capital.

Based on feedback from the majority of Richmond’s community field sport groups, a willingness to participate in a natural grass field fee program was directly linked to the opportunity to have associations work together to leverage capital to develop and enhance improved field sport playing field facilities in Richmond for current and future generations.

The proposed revenue from natural grass field rentals is approximately \$160,000 per year. All of which is to be directed to a special subsidiary fund under the Sports Reserve Fund. As agreed with the sport groups, none is recommended to be directed to offset operating and administration costs.

### **Feedback Received**

Included in Attachment 2 is a summary and answers to the Frequently Asked Questions during the field sport group consultation regarding natural grass field fees.

Staff have met and consulted extensively with representatives of all of Richmond's 25 field sports groups. The responses/positions are as follows with 21 associations in support, and 4 opposed. These represent

approximately 6,000-6,500 participants from a typical annual, 28 week winter, and 10 week summer program:

#### **Richmond Kajaks Track and Field**

- Agree with paying natural grass/track fees if it results in better maintenance of the track and field facilities at Minoru Park.

**Richmond Soccer Alliance:** (Richmond Youth Soccer, Richmond Girls Soccer, Richmond Women's Soccer, Richmond Senior Soccer League, Richmond OldTimers Soccer, Richmond Vancouver Metro Teams, B.C. Christian Soccer League, Richmond Recreational Soccer, Richmond Regional Soccer, West Richmond Soccer, North Richmond Soccer, South Arm Soccer, Central Soccer.)

**The Alliance represents 13 associations, and 3,800 fall/winter players and 1,400 Spring Summer Players, or approximately 4,000 registered participants.**

- Reconfirmed their commitment to pay field fees up to the level that they had earlier agreed to in their Artificial Turf Field Sport Proposal (Youth \$30.00/player and Adults \$45.00/player for the Fall/Winter Season; and Youth \$10.00/player and Adults \$15.00/player for the Spring/Summer season). The Richmond Soccer Alliance want to see all the money collected from field fees used to upgrade existing fields or develop new field sport facilities in Richmond.

#### **Richmond Rugby Club**

- Agree with paying field fees if the money goes into a Capital fund to be used to for field development projects such as building a new permanent home for the sport of rugby in Richmond. They expected field fees would be coming because they are being charged field user fees by most other municipalities.

#### **Richmond Cricket Club**

- Agree with paying field fees "because they understand that a user fee will only help to enhance our field and playing conditions in the long run."

#### **Richmond Field Lacrosse**

- Already pay field fees for use of the artificial turf field at Minoru Park. They no longer play on natural turf fields.

### **Richmond Football Club**

- Support field fees to improve a capital fund for football related field development projects. Also suggested contributing additional capital over and above proposed fees to help advance projects.

### **Richmond Adult Baseball Association**

- Supported field fees if the money was used to do additional pre-season maintenance work on the diamonds, and also post season, so the diamonds require less work in the Spring.

### **Richmond Senior Mixed Slow Pitch**

- Supported field fees if the money was spent on improving playing conditions on all ball diamonds in Richmond, not just the premier diamonds.

### **Richmond Senior Men's Fast Pitch**

- Supported field fees if the money is used for additional pre-season maintenance.

### **ARMS League**

- Supported field fees if the money was used for preparing the diamonds so that they are in good condition for the start of the season.

Opposed to proposed field fees program: 4 associations representing 1,500 participants for a typical 12-16 week season.

### **Richmond Baseball Association**

- Opposed to field fees as they feel that it will result in less kids being able to afford to play their sport.

### **West Richmond Minor Baseball**

- Opposed to field fees unless the money was used to improve maintenance of existing diamonds.

### **Richmond Girls Softball**

- Opposed to field fees. They already have all the diamonds they need, therefore, maintenance of their existing diamonds is a priority. They feel that they have contributed huge amounts of cash and sweat equity into the ball diamonds they use in Richmond and therefore they should not have to pay field fees.

### **Richmond Boys Fastball Association**

- Opposed to field fees as they feel that it will result in fewer kids being able to afford to play sports in Richmond. They also feel that they have contributed huge amounts of cash and sweat equity into the ball diamonds they use in Richmond and therefore they should not have to pay field fees.

### ***Phased Implementation Process and Draft Fee Schedules:***

Three options were presented to Richmond's Field Sport and track and field groups for consideration.

#### **Option 1 – the Richmond “Everyone Can Play” Model- Recommended**

In developing fees for use of natural turf fields and diamonds in Richmond, staff chose to develop a fees and charges structure that best reflects the unique characteristics of Richmond's field sport groups.

This fee structure relates directly to the benefit based approach to pricing recreation services which simply stated is that: *those who benefit from a good or service should pay in proportion to the benefit they receive.* In this model, groups who use the most expensive facilities to maintain should pay a higher fee than those who use less costly fields.

Fees are typically collected as a fee per hour based upon a mathematical formula of total annual costs divided by the available hours of use per year, this equals a fee per hour. This is the method that most municipalities in BC have adopted for charging field fees.

In this fee structure, staff proposes implementing subsidized hourly fees for youth and adult non-profit field sport groups, and much higher rates for private renters, commercial renters and non-resident groups. The proposed fees are shown in (Attachment 3). The components of this fee structure are as follows:

- Fees are proposed to be phased in over a 2 year period in 2007 and 2008 to give Richmond sports groups time to revise their operating budgets.
- Youth groups will be charged an hourly rental fee. These fees are based upon the hourly operating costs for the different quality of fields or diamonds used.
- Richmond based youth non-profit community sports groups will be subsidized 75% of the hourly operating costs in 2007 and 65% in 2008. The reason for this subsidization is to recognize the benefit these groups provide to the community by providing sport activities for youth in Richmond, and to offset any field closures caused by inclement weather.
- Youth groups will be not charged a fee for use of natural turf fields of diamonds for tournaments, however, youth groups will be charged for additional costs for City services requested for hosting these events (e.g. added grounds maintenance, garbage removal, washroom maintenance etc.).
- Richmond based adult non-profit community sports groups will be charged fees/hour. These fees are based upon the hourly operating costs for the different quality of fields or diamonds used.
- Adult non-profit community sports groups will be subsidized 25% of the hourly operating costs. which will offset downtime due to field closures caused by inclement weather.
- Funds collected from diamond users will go into a special Diamond Improvement Fund to be used to upgrade existing diamonds and to do increased pre-season diamond maintenance work.
- Funds collected from field users (i.e. football, soccer, rugby, cricket, field lacrosse and field hockey) will go into a special subsidiary fund of the existing Sports Reserve Fund to be used for upgrading existing fields and building new sports field facilities in Richmond.

- Commercial field users (such as private soccer schools) will be required to pay 125% of hourly field operating costs.
- Non-resident teams/leagues and private renters (such as commercial leagues and other renters that are not open to the general public) will be charged 100% of hourly operating costs.

The advantages of this fee structure are:

- The potential for generation of new capital revenue that can be used for improving service levels or for capital facility construction
- Ensuring equity between the field sport groups as opposed to flat rate/person fees.
- Increased efficiency of facility use because groups will typically only book the hours they are willing to pay for and actually need. This frees up space for other groups needing field/diamond time, including casual users and general neighbourhood park use.
- Various levels of subsidy can be easily applied to different types of users. For example, children's sport field users may receive a greater level of subsidy of the hourly field operating costs than adult non-profit groups, private renters, commercial renters and non-resident groups.

Administrative Implications:

The proposed field fee program will require initial staff time to enter the hourly fee in to the City's registration system, however once coded it will become automatic similar to the existing fees for artificial turf.

**Option 2– A flat rate/person/season structure- Not Recommended.**

In this fee structure, all field sport groups would be charged the same rate per season, regardless of the quality and the maintenance operating costs of the field they play on. Kamloops appears to be the only municipality in BC that uses this type of fee structure. Discussions with City of Kamloops staff indicate that they are in the process of converting to a fee/hour fee structure (Option 1) in the near future.

The advantages of this fee structure are:

- it is the easiest and least costly to administer because fees can be collected once a year based on player registration numbers, and there is no need to calculate hours of use or issue refunds for field closures, rain outs etc.
- it generates new revenue that can be used for offsetting operating costs, improving service levels or for building new fields.
- various levels of % subsidy can be easily applied to different types of users. For example, children's sport field users may be charged a lower flat rate/ person/season than adult non-profit groups, private renters, commercial renters and non-resident groups.

The disadvantages of this fee structure are:

- it is not an equitable system because groups will pay the same fee for a variety of different quality playing conditions. The groups allotted the poorest fields may feel cheated.



- it can result in inefficient use of field time because some groups book more time than they need and do not release it for other groups to use. The result is unused field time, while other groups cannot get fields to play on.

### **Option #3 -Status Quo – Not Recommended**

The third option is to continue the current practise of not charging any fees. This option may be well supported by some of our current field users, however, it will not help address the current need for more and better quality playing fields that are being demanded by Richmond field users. It also does not address the future field sport facility needs of a rapidly growing population.

The result of choosing this option is that Richmond will continue to have many poor quality overused fields and groups unable to get spaces to play field sports in Richmond.

The status quo does not address the inequity that currently exists between sports groups in the community that pay user fees (such as gym, pool and ice users) and those that do not (field sports groups).

### **Recommended Option/Summary:**

Based on the community feedback received to date, in answering the November 2005 Council direction: *“That staff be directed to develop and bring forward a process and schedule for the implementation of natural turf playing field user fees in 2006.”* staff recommend a phased implementation of Option 1- the Richmond Everyone Can Play Model over the 2007 and full implementation in 2008.

### **Field Strategy and Barrier Free Participation- Everyone Can Play:**

At the PRCS meeting on Oct 25, 2005 and approved at Council on Nov 14, 2005, staff were given the following referral:

“That the draft Field Strategy - Strategic Goals, Objectives- Our Playbook for Action and framework as detailed in this report be endorsed and utilized for the development of the 2005-2015 Outdoor Field Sport Strategy.”

Since this time, staff have been working to develop the five year action plan and will be working with the Richmond Sports Council and the field sport community to refine and develop the 5 year action plan- or workplan to achieve the vision, goals and objectives of the field sport strategy. The Council approved vision for field sport is to create an environment where: **“Everyone can play.”**

In pursuit of the Everyone Can Play vision, staff will be recommending an enhanced leisure counselling and fee subsidy program for Field sport in Richmond.

A similar program has existed for many years for the Community Recreation services. In the case of field user fees, programs such as the Canadian Tire JumpStart, and the KidsSport program will be explored and exhausted prior to waiving any association fees. As this process is confidential and needs to be dealt with dignity, each situation will be coordinated with the field sport groups and City staff when required.

It should be noted that the Richmond Youth and Girls soccer have made steps towards the Everyone Can Play vision distributing vouchers for participation and reaching out to the community in a recent pilot program, also collecting and distributing shin guards and soccer boots. Over 50 Richmond youth with some barriers to participation were provided access to soccer as part of this pilot initiative.

The pilot program started in the spring of 2006 is scheduled to expand later this year.

### **Sports Field Facility Agreements Program**

A recurring theme during public consultation with Richmond's field sport groups and the Richmond Sports Council was the need to develop individual facility agreements with each of the 25 field sport groups.

The intended purpose of these agreements would be to:

- Ensure that field sport group usage of the facilities complies with City of Richmond policies, and standards
- Ensure that the accountabilities of the field sport groups and the City are included in the agreement, including the following, but not limited to:
  - levels of service for facility maintenance by the City
  - levels of support for tournaments
  - code of conduct for players, parents, and spectators
  - requirements for facility usage insurance
  - requirements for accessibility and barrier free access to Richmond residents
  - a three year allocation of facilities to the sports groups, reducing the need for annual allocation of field facilities with opportunities to review due to changes in participation
  - designation of field facility sites as home fields where possible
  - other facility operating issues including access to concession stands, washrooms, storage, site advertising, sponsorship
  - detail a clear process for community sports field group initiated capital projects

These agreements would synthesize the many forms, meetings, ad-hoc discussions and facility usage issues that are present today. The agreements would also ensure that each field sport group was accountable for their usage of the facilities, and that the City levels of service would be clearly understood by all. Most importantly, the agreements would create equity in the delivery of services to each of Richmond's field sport groups.

### **Next Steps**

If approved, in order to advance the proposed Natural Grass Field Facility charges program, staff would prepare a consolidated sports field fee bylaw for approval by Council. This Bylaw will include the established fees as well as a process for periodic review of the bylaw. An agreement template for the field groups would be developed for completion and execution by the end of 2006.

### **Financial Impact**

The implementation of field fees is expected to generate additional revenue over time that will be used towards the future development and upgrade of field sport facilities in Richmond. Projected annual revenue to a Natural Grass Field Fund is estimated to be approximately \$160,000 per annum. Actual amounts would not be realised until after a full year of the program.

Staff recommend that the diamond and field funds be held as separate subsidiary funds under the Sports Reserve fund and disbursement of the funds be undertaken in consultation with Richmond's field sport groups and as part of the annual capital budget process to be approved by Council.

## Conclusion

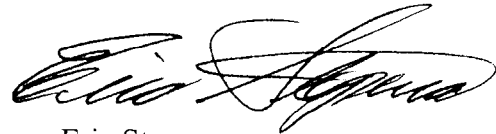
The issue of fees and charges for Richmond's natural grass playing field facilities has been under discussion for many years. This report details the results of a comprehensive consultation process and presents a potential opportunity that is supported by the Richmond Sports Council and the majority of Richmond's field sport associations.

The proposed Natural Grass Field fee program can generate additional revenue for improving Richmond's field sport facilities in the future. Today, many community field sport groups request and undertake community initiated capital projects.

This proposed program would serve to channel the many requests from community groups, target capital to areas of highest community need for field sport, and establish a legacy for the future. Also included is the proposed development of field facility agreements with the field sport associations in Richmond. These agreements will provide structure and increased accountability for all parties, particularly in the area of facility usage. If approved, Staff will prepare a fees and Charges Bylaw for approval by Council and initiate the process of facility agreement development for Richmond's field sport groups.



Mike Redpath  
Manager, Parks - Programs, Planning & Design  
(1275)



Eric Stepura  
Manager- Parks Special Projects

ATTACHMENT 1

**Richmond Sports Council: Minutes of May 2006 Meeting**

May 9<sup>th</sup> 2006 at Richmond City Hall

Present: Jim Lamond (Chair), Roger Barnes, Serj Sangara, Gary Rosval, Cheryl Taunton, Bill Donaldson, Bob Jackson, Bill Merrell, Penny Talbot, Roy Oostergo, Ed Arnold, Frank Claassen, Cllr Bill McNulty, Don Fennel and Parks Department staff: Dave Semple and Mike Redpath.

Regrets received from; George Agnew, Martin Gilder, Aiman El-Ramly, Rick Alder, Pat Weatherill, Donna Marsland, Jennifer Galloway.

Meeting called to order at 7.30 pm

1. Minutes of April meeting.  
Approved as circulated. Business Arising: None
2. Cllr. Bill McNulty welcomes requests to represent City at community group AGMs, etc., advises that Special Olympics have asked for volunteer help, and will be requesting staff to review how Council Chambers can be made affordable for community group AGMs.
3. Fields Update. Recommendations following tenders for Boyd AT to be presented to General Purposes Committee on May 15. Preliminary Boyd AT perimeter work (not affecting diamond) to start May 22, Blundell diamond construction underway and Steves diamond work to start end-June. Boyd AT target completion date is September.
4. Garden City Lands (GCL) Thanks extended to the many sports groups who attended and spoke at ALC April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting or sent written submissions. Next steps and timeline uncertain; Dave Semple to follow up.
5. Grass Field User Fees  
After extensive discussion of the many sides of this long-standing issue, it was moved and seconded that:  
  
"Richmond Sports Council endorses the concept of outdoor field facility fees conditional upon:  
d. All sports being treated equitably;  
e. Fees being used for further facility improvements; and  
f. Partnership agreements being negotiated with each sports group to address their specific needs."

The motion was carried without opposition.

The Chair had reminded Dave Semple that income from the Riverport property acquired for sports fields use is being used as general revenue rather than being 'set aside for future development' as per Council resolution, and that the staff report on user fees should include addressing remedying that.

6. New Business.

- a. **Trust Fund** Committee to meet shortly.
- b. **Chinese national track and field team** visiting later in May.
- c. **Rugby** provincials at Hugh Boyd May 13/14.
- d. **Richmond Schools** track meet reinstated.
- e. 7<sup>th</sup> Annual **Richmond Sports Awards** to be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Council Chambers.

7. Motion to adjourn at 9.40 pm.

Next Meeting June 13<sup>th</sup> 2006 at Richmond City Hall, 7.30 pm sharp, the last meeting before the summer break.

## Frequently Asked Questions: Proposed Natural Grass Field Fee Program

As part of the consultation process, several key questions were asked by the community groups and persons providing feedback. These questions and answers have been summarised in the frequently asked question list below:

**Q. Where would the money go?**

- Funds collected from diamond users would go into a special subsidiary fund of the Sports Reserve Fund to be used to upgrade existing diamonds and to do increased pre-season diamond maintenance work.
- Funds collected from field users (i.e. football, soccer, rugby, cricket, field lacrosse and field hockey) would go into a sub fund of the existing Sports Reserve Fund to be used for upgrading existing fields and building new sports field facilities in Richmond.
- These funds are not proposed to be put into the city's general revenue.

**Q. Is this a double tax?**

- No. This is a method of getting those who benefit the most from use of Richmond sports fields to contribute towards field sport facility improvements. Revenue collected will go into a field sport facility improvement fund(s) that will supplement the City's annual monies allocated towards field maintenance, upgrading and development.

**Q. We already do the maintenance, why should we have to pay?**

- The proposed fees are based on the City's current base level of field maintenance service only. Groups that choose to upgrade their allotted fields above this level of service, do so at their own expense.

**Q. Youth will not be able to afford to play field sports if we raise our fees.**

- Raising registration fees is only one of a number of ways that sport groups can use to fund field user fees. Direct Access Program Grants provide funding that can be used to pay for facility rental fees.
- The City has also initiated a registration fee subsidy program called Everyone Can Play, which will subsidize registration fees for children with financial barriers to participating in field sport activities. The Sport BC KidSport fund and Canadian Tire's Jump Start Fund also provide funding to pay registration fees for children with financial hardship.

**Q. How do you calculate the fees to ensure equity?**

- The proposed fees are based upon a mathematical formula in which the annual operating costs of various field types are divided by the annual operating hours to establish a rental fee per hour. Groups who play on fields/diamonds that cost more to maintain will pay more than those who play on poorer quality fields/diamonds? This is more equitable than a flat rate per person.

**Q. How will this effect our ability to host tournaments?**

- The City of Richmond values the efforts that field sport groups make in bringing out-of town visitors to Richmond. For youth groups, there will be no charge for use of fields or diamonds which involve out-of town teams. Adult groups will be charged a flat rate per field or diamond per day that is based on 8 hours of field rental at regular hourly rental rates. All groups will be

charged for extra City services requested for tournaments e.g. delivery of materials, equipment or extraordinary maintenance or cleanup.

**Q. How will rainouts and cancellations be handled?**

- The proposed fees have a 25% built in reduction in lieu of expected field closures. If more than 25% of field booking times are used due to inclement weather, then groups will be given a choice of a refund or credit for the unused time beyond the 25%.

**Q. What would happen if the fees are not implemented?**

- If field user fees are not implemented, then Richmond will continue to have many poor quality overused fields and groups unable to get spaces to play field sports in Richmond. Without additional funding, field sport facility improvements will not keep up with the growing demands for more and better quality playing fields/diamonds. This option also does not address the future field sport facility needs of a rapidly growing population.

**Q. Will adult groups get preferred booking status because they are willing to pay more?**

- No because the City of Richmond field allocation policy gives first priority to Richmond youth field sports groups and to the historical users of the field. Therefore Richmond youth groups get first priority for the use of the same fields they were allocated year after year.

**Q. What are the benefits of users fees to Richmond field sport groups?**

- Field improvements will occur sooner.
- Past practise has been that capital projects with community contributions have a greater opportunity of leveraging other capital and donations.
- It results in increased efficiency of facility use because groups will typically only book the hours they are willing to pay for. This frees up space for other groups needing field/diamond time.

**Q. Can the revenue collected from field users and diamonds users be used to address different facility improvements?**

- Yes. Field users have indicated that they'd like to see the money they pay go towards building new fields and upgrading existing fields. Diamonds users have indicated that they'd like to see their money go towards the City doing more pre-season diamond maintenance. Two separate sport facility reserve accounts can be established so that the money is used to address different facility improvement priorities.

**Q. Why an hourly rate rather than a flat fee?**

- Hourly rates are more equitable than flat rate/person fees because flat rate fees do not take into account the different quality of playing fields/diamonds that exist in Richmond. With a flat rate/person fees, the groups playing on the better fields/diamonds get better value for their money than those playing on poor quality fields. With hourly rates, the groups who play on the better quality fields/diamonds pay more than those who play on poor quality fields.
- Flat rate/person fees do not address the overbooking of field/diamond time that preventing some groups in the community from getting fields on which to play. With hourly rates, groups will typically only book the hours they are willing to pay for. This frees up space for other groups needing field/diamond time.

**Q. What will school groups be charged?**

- The City of Richmond has a reciprocal agreement with the School District that provides gymnasiums to community sports groups free of charge, therefore the recommendation will be that school groups will not be charged field user fees.

**Q. Will commercial groups, non-residents and private groups pay the same as Richmond based groups?**

- No. Richmond based groups rates will be subsidized. The rates for private groups and non-residents are based on recovering 100% of the hourly field operating costs. Commercial renters will be charged 125% of the hourly operating costs.

**Q. What would adult groups gain from natural grass field user fees?**

- Adult groups would benefit from getting access to better quality playing fields that result from new field development and increased capacity from more efficient scheduling.

**Q. How much more will it cost per person to play a season of field sports in 2007 and 2008 if field user fees are approved?**

- Based upon a typical season of games and practices played by an individual player on the natural turf fields/diamonds, the cost/season/player are approximately:

Fall/Winter Field Sports e.g. Soccer	Field Usage Type	2006 (Artificial Turf Fees currently in effect)	2007	2008
Youth	Games and practices on natural turf	0	\$12.40	\$16.95
Youth	Games on grass, practise on Artificial Turf	\$20.58	\$25.92	31.25
Youth	Practise and Games on Artificial Turf	\$41.92	\$41.92	\$41.92
Adult	Games and practices on natural turf	0	\$20.00	\$30.25
Adult	Games on grass, practise on artificial turf	\$24.00	\$33.00	\$44.67
Adult	Practise and Games on Artificial Turf	\$69.33	\$69.33	\$69.33
Spring/Summer Field Sports eg. Soccer	Field Usage Type	2006	2007	2008
Youth	Games and practices on natural turf	0	\$5.00	\$7.25
Youth	Games on grass, practise on Artificial Turf	\$12.66	\$15.66	\$16.86
Youth	Practise and Games on Artificial Turf	\$25.33	\$25.33	\$25.33
Adult	Games and practices on natural turf	0	\$10.33	\$15.50
Adult	Games on grass, practise on artificial turf	\$21.33	\$29.66	\$33.83
Adult	Practise and Games on Artificial Turf	\$42.66	\$42.66	\$42.66

**Spring/Summer Baseball/Softball (based on 105 hrs/season):**

	2006	2007	2008
Youth (soil diamonds)	\$0	\$4.44	\$7.78
Youth (lit sand diamonds)	\$0	\$14.74	\$20.56
Adult (soil diamond)	\$0	\$8.75	\$11.20
Adult (lit sand diamonds)	\$0	\$25.37	\$38.15



<b>Natural Turf Field Fees and Charges Schedule 2006-2008</b>		Richmond (2006 Rate)	Richmond (Proposed 2007)
<b>Ball Diamonds</b>			
<b>A. Regular Use</b>			
<b>Sand Turf (With Lights)</b>			
Commercial (all ages)	\$0.00	\$18.15/hr	
Private or Non-resident (all ages)	\$0.00	\$14.50/hr	
Non-profit youth	\$0.00	\$3.65/hr	
Non profit adults	\$0.00	\$7.25/hr	
<b>Sand Turf (No Lights)</b>			
Commercial (all ages)	\$0.00	\$19.80	
Private or Non-resident (all ages)	\$0.00	\$15.85	
Non-profit youth	\$0.00	\$4.00/hr	
Non profit adults	\$0.00	\$7.95/hr	
<b>Soil Turf (No lights)</b>			
Commercial (all ages)	\$0.00	\$5.30/hr	
Private or Non-resident (all ages)	\$0.00	\$4.25/hr	
Non-profit youth	\$0.00	\$1.10/hr	
Non profit adults	\$0.00	\$2.10/hr	
<b>B. Tournaments</b>			
Youth Non-profit Field Sport Tournaments	(2006 Rate)	(Proposed 2007)	
	\$0.00	N/C only extra service costs	
Adult Non-profit Field Sport Tournaments	\$0.00	\$50.00/field or diamond/day	
Parks, Rec & Cultural Services Field Sport Tournaments	\$0.00	\$0.00	
School District Field Sports Tournaments	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Commercial Field Sport Tournaments	\$0.00	\$200.00/field or diamond/day	
Private or Non-resident Field Sport Tournaments	\$0.00	\$160.00/field or diamond/day	

Attachment 3- (Page 2 of 3)

**Artificial & Natural Turf Field Fees and Charges Schedule 2006-2008**

Fields	Richmond (2006 Rate)	Richmond
<b>Artificial Turf (With Lights)</b>		
Private or Commercial	\$45.00	
Adult	\$32.00	
Non-profit youth	\$19.00	
<b>Artificial Turf (No Lights)</b>		
Private or Commercial	\$37.00	
Adult	\$27.00	
Non-profit youth	\$16.00	
<b>A. Regular Use</b>	<b>(2006 Rate)</b>	<b>(Proposed 2007)</b>
<b>Sand Turf (With Lights)</b>		
Commercial (all ages)	\$0.00	\$31.25/hr
Private or Non-resident (all ages)	\$0.00	\$25.00/hr
Non-profit youth	\$0.00	\$6.25/hr
Non profit adults	\$0.00	\$12.50/hr
<b>Sand Turf (No Lights)</b>		
Commercial (all ages)	\$0.00	\$22.50/hr
Private or Non-resident (all ages)	\$0.00	\$18.00/hr
Non-profit youth	\$0.00	\$4.50/hr
Non profit adults	\$0.00	\$9.00/hr
<b>Soil Turf (No lights)</b>		
Commercial (all ages)	\$0.00	\$7.50/hr
Private or Non-resident (all ages)	\$0.00	\$6.00/hr
Non-profit youth	\$0.00	\$1.50/hr
Non profit adults	\$0.00	\$3.00/hr
<b>B. Tournaments</b>	<b>(2006 Rate)</b>	<b>(Proposed 2007)</b>
Youth Non-profit Field Sport Tournaments	\$0.00	N/C only extra service costs
Adult Non-profit Field Sport Tournaments	\$0.00	\$50.00/field or diamond/day
Parks, Rec & Cultural Services Field Sport Tournaments	\$0.00	\$0.00
School District Field Sports Tournaments	\$0.00	\$0.00
Commercial Field Sport Tournaments	\$0.00	\$200.00/field or diamond/day
Private or Non-resident Field Sport Tournaments	\$0.00	\$160.00/field or diamond/day

**Proposed Track and Field Fees and Charges**

<b>Track and Field</b>	<b>Field Usage Type</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Training fee –All ages	Track and Field Club	\$0	\$660.00/year	\$660.00/year
Youth Meets	Track and Field Club	\$0	\$120.00/meet	\$120.00/meet
Adult Meets	Track and Field Club	\$0	\$190.00/meet	\$190.00/meet
Private Group Meets	Meets/day	\$0	\$480.00/day	\$480.00/day