



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Committee

Date: May 7, 2015

From: Mike Redpath
Senior Manager, Parks

File: 06-2345-20-
KGEO1/Vol 01

Re: King George Park Rugby Field Upgrades

Staff Recommendation

That the City's 5 Year Financial Plan (2015-2019), as outlined in the staff report titled "King George Park Rugby Field Upgrades," dated May 7, 2015, from the Senior Manager, Parks, be amended to include \$115,000 for rugby field improvements at King George Park to be funded from the Capital Building Infrastructure Reserve.

Mike Redpath
Senior Manager, Parks
(604-247-4942)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Finance Division Recreation Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: 	APPROVED BY CAO

Staff Report

Origin

The sand based field at King George Park primarily used by the Richmond Rugby Football Club is in need of improvements to ensure the best possible playing environment for the fall season. See Attachment 1 for a map of the field location.

A trial of a new synthetic weave technology with the commercial name Fibrelok occurred on the field over the 2014/15 season and has proven successful in the area that it was tested. Staff recommend that the field be resurfaced at this time and that the Fibrelok be added to the field at the same time and make other field improvements in advance of the 2015/16 season.

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with background information and to recommend that \$115,000 be transferred from the Natural Turf Field Reserve fund to support these improvements in 2015.

Analysis

The Richmond Rugby Football Club (the "Club") has been playing in Richmond since approximately 1957 at various locations. The Club presently has 200 active members who take part in programs that range in age from adolescent to senior adult. Its membership continues to grow particularly with girls and young women. The Club also supports Rugby programs in the three secondary schools in Richmond by providing volunteer coaches.

The Club has trained and competed at King George Park since 2008 when it moved from Sea Island. A temporary change room facility was installed in early 2009 at King George Park to accommodate the Club. Since relocating to King George Park, staff and Club representatives have worked to ensure the field conditions are suitable for the type and quantity of play required by the Club and its members.

However, field conditions have deteriorated over time. The sand based field at King George Park was installed in the late 1990s and is nearing the end of its useable life as a result of a build-up of organics in the sand base. The sand fields at McMath, McNair and South Arm parks have each been resurfaced in the last 15 years because of organic build up. In addition, Minoru 3 and Minoru Oval were both resurfaced prior to being converted to artificial turf.

In 2014, Club representatives proposed that the City investigate using a product called Fibrelok as a way of strengthening the natural turf. Fibrelok is a filament material that is added to the sand base field directly below the turf layer to help strengthen the turf's natural root system. In July of 2014, staff researched the material and installed a test section approximately 800 square feet to see how it worked compared to the existing field turf.

Based on a site inspection completed by staff this spring that included core samples, staff have concluded that the Fibrelok product has allowed the field to successfully withstand use by rugby over the past fall and winter seasons of 2014/15. The product has helped keep the natural turf intact by enhancing the stability of the turfs natural root zone.

As a result of this trial, both the Club and staff are in agreement that this product should be added to the entire field in 2015 pending Council approval. At the same time field allocation policies will be reviewed to ensure long-term management of the playing surface in the future.

At their Tuesday, May 12, 2015 meeting, Richmond Sports Council endorsed the use of the natural turf field reserve to fund this project. Staff will work with the Club on coordinating the improvements which may result in the Club having to adjust their fall rugby season schedule.

Financial Impact

Revenue collected from natural turf fields is deposited into the Special Sports Reserve sub-fund, within the Capital Building and Infrastructure Reserve to fund future upgrades to the sports facilities. There is funding available in this account for the \$115,000 required for this field upgrade at King George Park. There is no operating budget impact.

Conclusion

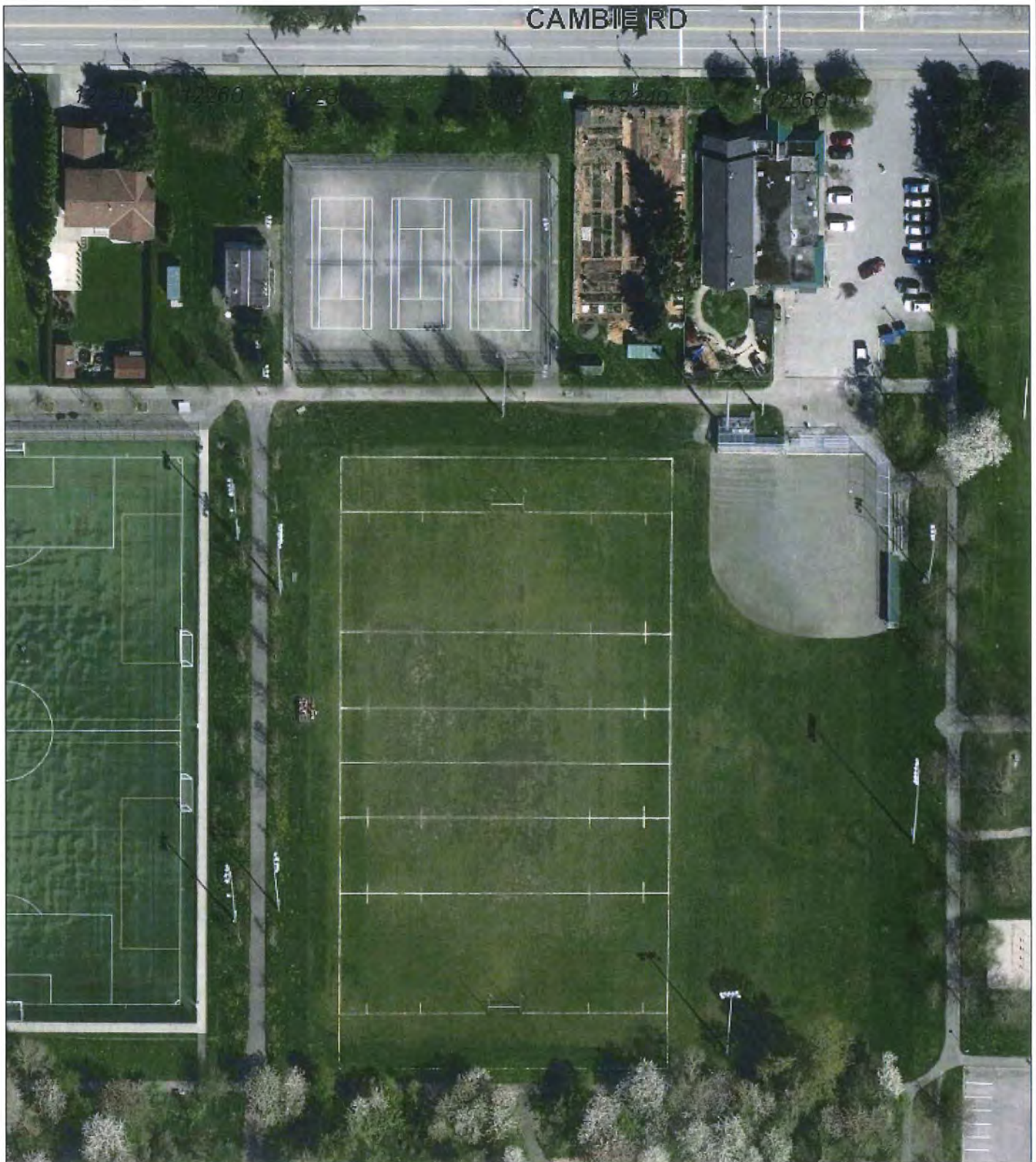
Rugby has a long history in Richmond as a sport with a strong membership at each of the various age and levels of competition. The rebuilding of the field along with the installation of the Fibrelok product will assist in ensuring that the primary rugby competition field in Richmond is maintained to ensure that the Club can continue to grow, along with hosting other teams from around BC.



Gregg Wheeler
Manager, Community Services Division
Sport and Events Services
(604-244-1274)

Att. 1: Map: King George Park – Field Location for Improvements

City of Richmond Interactive Map



47.2 0 23.62 47.2 Meters

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

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