



Synthetic Turf Playing Fields
Planning & Environment Committee
February 3, 2009

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

Outline

- Sport Fields overview
- Sport Fields management
- Sport Fields Renewal Plan
- Meeting increasing demand
- Issues
- Discussion/Questions

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

Overview



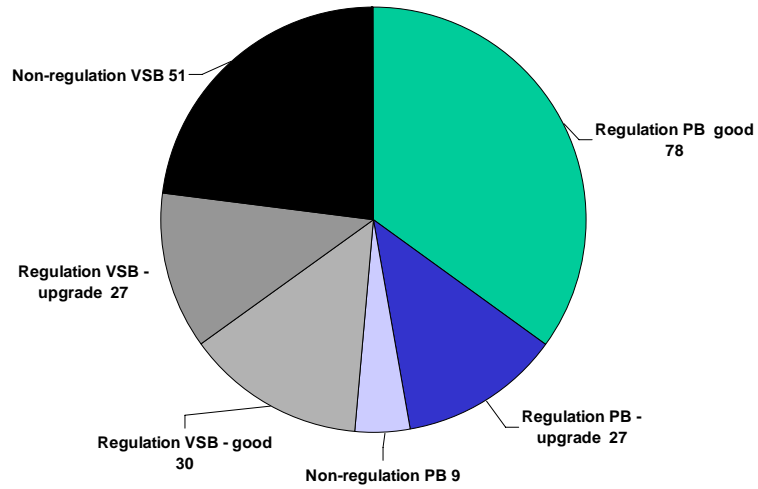
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

The Sport Field Inventory

- 3 Types:
 - Natural Turf (135 PB)
 - Lit All-weather (7 PB)
 - Synthetic turf (5 PB)
- Providers
 - Park Board
 - VSB
- Seasonal Configurations

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

Grass Playing Fields in Vancouver 2008

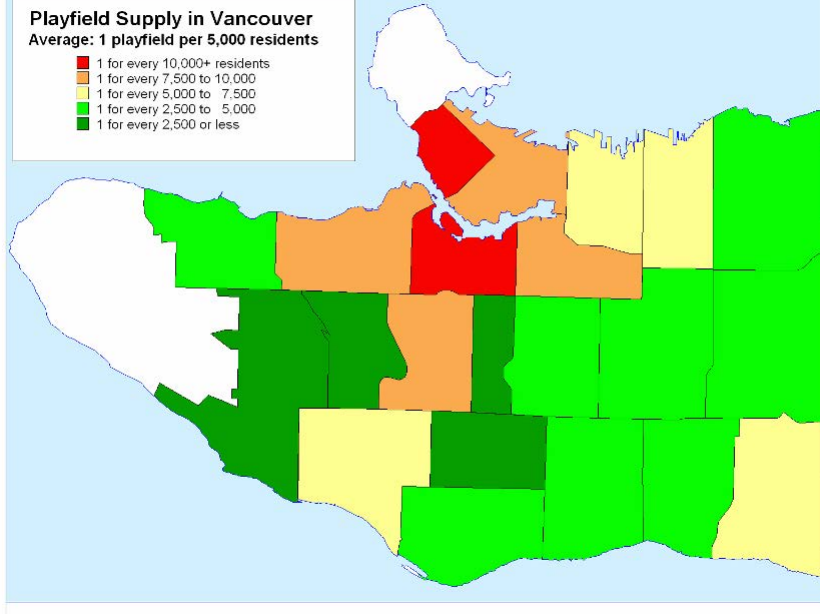


Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

Playfield Supply in Vancouver

Average: 1 playfield per 5,000 residents

- 1 for every 10,000+ residents
- 1 for every 7,500 to 10,000
- 1 for every 5,000 to 7,500
- 1 for every 2,500 to 5,000
- 1 for every 2,500 or less



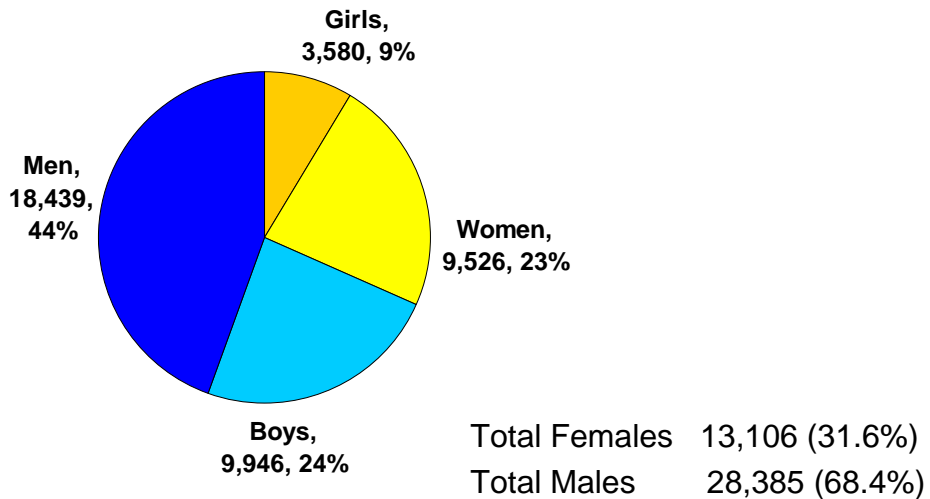
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

Field Sports – Usage

Sport	Season	# of Players*
Softball	Summer	11,000
Baseball, Cricket	Summer	4,000
Soccer	Winter	12,000
Football, Rugby	Winter	4,000
Field Hockey	All year	1,500
Ultimate	All year	3,000
Volleyball	Summer	5,500
Total (*in organized leagues)		41,000

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

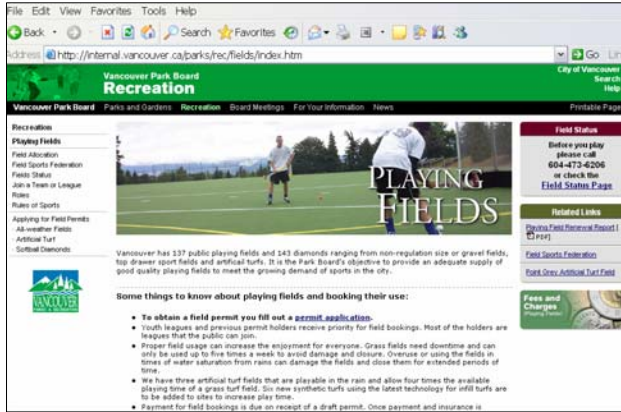
Organized Field Sports Members Participation By Age and Gender (2002)



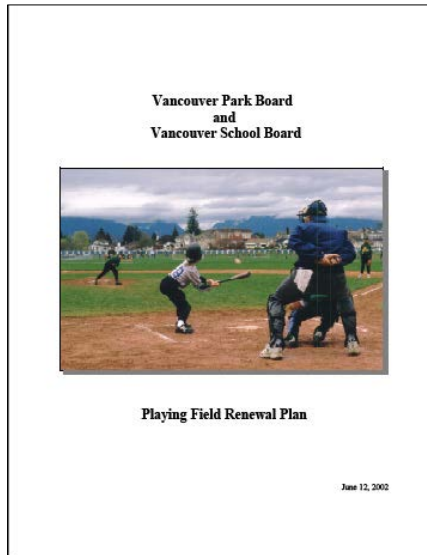
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

Sport Field Management

- Permitting Process
- Permit Fees and Payment
- Allocation
- Vancouver Field Sports Federation



Playing Field Renewal Plan



Playing Field Review 2000 – 2002

- Vancouver Park Board (VPB)
- Vancouver School Board (VSB)
- Vancouver Field Sports Federation (VFSF)

Objective

To ensure provision of an appropriate quantity and quality of playing fields in relation to current and future demands

Review Recommendations

- Integrate/co-ordinate field management (Park Board & School Board)
- Improve fields' condition
- Increase field inventory

Approved by Park Board July 8, 2002

Integrate/co-ordinate field management

Progress to date:

- Park Rangers monitor both Park Board and School Board Fields
- Consistent Fees and Charges
- Consistent approach for allocating types and sizes of fields for age and level of play
- Shared use of Artificial Turf sites

Improve Sport Fields' Condition

Care and Maintenance of Grass Turfs

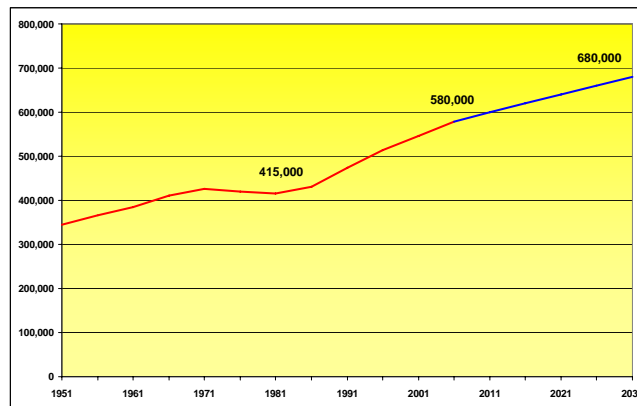
- Challenged by weather and overuse.
- \$360,000 in 09-11 Capital Plan for deep-tining and top dressing.
- \$1.39M in 09-11 Capital Plan for rebuilds.
- Investment paying off



Increase Field Inventory

- Population growth
- Increasing participation in emerging sports like volleyball and ultimate
- Increasing participation by girls and women
- Outreach programs like MoreSports

Field sport demand increase factors



In the next 20 – 25 years, Vancouver's population will increase at a rate of approximately 5000 per year.

Field sport demand increase factors

Increasing participation in emerging sports like volleyball and ultimate



Field sport demand increase factors

Increasing participation by girls and women



Field sport demand increase factors

Outreach programs like MoreSports



Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

Increasing field inventory – options

- Convert more park space and school grounds into playing fields
- Purchase land for new fields
- Develop lit synthetic turf fields

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

Synthetic Turf



POINT GREY HIGH SCHOOL

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

Comparing Synthetic to Grass

Synthetic Turf:

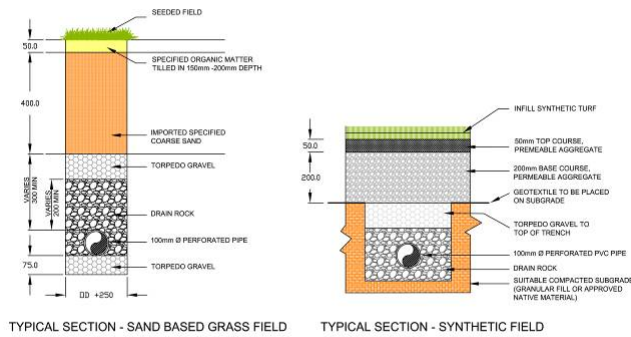
- Continuous & unlimited play
- 4-5x the capacity of grass (at least)
- About \$2M to build, with turf replacement every 10 -12 years
- Optimum annual maintenance = \$

Grass Turf:

- Must be rested between games
- Often extended closures
- About \$2M to build five; need rebuilding after 20 years
- Annual maintenance (4 fields) = \$

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

- Comparing Field Types



Growth of Synthetic Turf Inventory

- Total synthetic turfs prior to 2002 = 3
- Total after 2009-2011 Capital Plan = 9 (one carpet; eight in-fill):
 - Eric Hamber (carpet)
 - Andy Livingstone (2)
 - Point Grey
 - VanTech
 - Trillium Site (2)
 - 2 sites to be determined
- Equivalent capacity to 36+ regulation grass fields

Synthetic Turf development considerations

- Ground stability is CRITICAL
- Turf costs more competitive; Engineering costs trending up
- Development permit required for lights
- Running track locations present unique challenges
- Extended public consultation has paid off

Synthetic Turf installation steps

- Identify & secure site: Technical assessment; public consultation; Board, Council (and possibly VSB) approvals
- Development Permit for lighting
- Design Tender (Board approval)
- Construction Tender (Board approval)
- Construction

Issues

- Neighbourhood Impact
- Sustainability
- Health & Safety



Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

Questions?



Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca