



NOTICE of MOTION

Submitted at the Regular Board meeting held on March 6, 2023

Field Maintenance and Permitting

Submitted by: Commissioner Viridi

WHEREAS

1. In June 2022, the Park Board announced that the 2023-2026 capital plan would reduce [investment in sports fields by 67%](#), a loss of \$7M in capital funding;
2. An addition \$10M allocated in the 2019-2022 capital plan for new construction of sports fields went unused and wasn't carried forward;
3. This under investment means the city has been unable to keep up with increased demand for playing fields, driven by several factors, including a shift in preference for outdoor sports and activities;
4. The city has 153 playing fields, ranging from regulation-size grass fields and synthetic turf to gravel fields and 125 Ball Diamonds; most are at capacity which results in user groups forced to find fields in other municipalities;
5. Numerous user groups representing, softball, cricket, field hockey, soccer, ultimate and rugby, have expressed desire for additional capacity to play on;
6. To add capacity to the sports fields system, the Park Board can maximize the use of the assets, including, but not limited to, shortening rest periods, adjusting the timing of the sports seasons and decoupling rectangular grass fields, cricket ovals and ball diamonds, such as at Connaught Park, Jericho, Brockton Oval, Strathcona, John Hendry and Rupert Park;
7. Under VanPlay, the Park Board's role is to facilitate community building and to actively look to remove barriers that hinder such opportunities; and
8. Furthermore, the [Equity](#) goal encompassed by the VanPlay Master Plan guides the Park Board, with its limited resources, so that it must prioritize effort where it will make the biggest difference to the community.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. THAT the Board of Parks and Recreation direct staff to initiate a pilot that adjusts rest period and season timing to maximize the best use of the following sports fields:
 1. Connaught Park,
 2. Jericho,

3. Brockton Oval,
 4. Strathcona,
 5. John Hendry, and
 6. Rupert Park.
- B. FURTHER THAT, staff are to allow permitting for the grass fields at Connaught park and Jericho until the end of March 2023, and to allow permitting at John Hendry, Jericho, Rupert Park and Brockton Oval until the end of April 2023;
- C. FURTHER THAT staff to identify additional pilot fields to reduce rest periods between sports and user groups, and;
- D. FURTHER THAT a report back at the end of summer to review the impact the shortened rest period has on fields and user groups, and with other pilot opportunities to maximize community use and benefit.