

Field Hockey BC

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Vancouver Park Board Commissioners

March 13, 2023

Re: Proposal for a Second Synthetic Field Hockey Facility in the City of Vancouver

Dear Vancouver Park Board Commissioners,

I write in support of all registered and organized Field Hockey Clubs currently operating in the City of Vancouver and also on behalf of the Provincial Sports Organization Field Hockey BC, to advocate for Park Board support for a new synthetic sports field in South-East Vancouver. Organized Field Hockey continues to make an active contribution to the City of Vancouver Sports Field Strategy and the ask on behalf of the sport of Field Hockey is for consideration of a second dedicated field hockey synthetic facility to be included for development, in this case within the South-East area of the City of Vancouver.

The Sport of Field Hockey enjoys considerable use of the one primary field hockey synthetic turf at Eric Hamber Secondary School and actively hires other field hockey facilities across neighboring Municipalities as well as privately owned facilities in order to cater to City of Vancouver residents. The identified area of South-East Vancouver would make an ideal location with which to serve current residential members but also provide an opportunity for more City of Vancouver residents to enjoy the benefits of active participation within organized sport.

The installation of a synthetic field hockey turf in South-East Vancouver would provide numerous benefits to the underserved community in the area. Many residents in the area do not have access to private or public facilities that offer these amenities, and a synthetic field hockey turf could assist in bridging this gap. I am sure the Khalsa Diwan Society, soccer, field hockey and kabbadi communities would see such a sports field initiative as a huge asset.

There is also the potential question as to the demographic that utilizes such facility provision within the City. The sport of field hockey across British Columbia attracts a large percentage of female participation. The ratio of male to female participants is currently 1:5 and the opportunity to have an even greater presence of female residents within the City of Vancouver involved not only in the sport of field hockey, but on a facility able to provide for a safe and enjoyable environment, is one we would encourage for Vancouver Park Board Commission support.

Our collective thanks in advance for your consideration of support in this matter. Field Hockey BC and its membership within the City of Vancouver eagerly looks forward to following the progress of the City Sports Field Strategy and the potential for a new field hockey synthetic turf in South-East Vancouver.

Yours faithfully

Mark Saunders

Mark Saunders
Executive Director
Field Hockey BC

Dear Vancouver Park Board Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for the installation of a synthetic turf field in the South East Vancouver area - for example Moberly Park or Ross Park - which would greatly benefit the underserved community in the area. I believe that this project could have a positive impact on our lives in several ways. There is an inequality in the distribution of turf fields throughout the city. Adding a turf field to the Ross street area would be a great step towards fixing this imbalance.

Furthermore, I would like to strongly advocate for it to be a field hockey suitable turf. Field hockey is a popular sport that is 80% female in Canada. The sport has strong roots in Vancouver, represented by one of the oldest sport clubs in the country and with both men's and women's national teams based in the city. By making this turf suitable for field hockey the council would be showing a strong support for women and girls in Vancouver.

A synthetic field hockey turf would provide a safe and accessible space for physical activity and recreation for individuals of all ages and abilities. Many residents in the area do not have access to private or public facilities that offer these amenities, and a synthetic field hockey turf would fill this gap. The surface is durable, slip-resistant, and can withstand heavy use, which would allow it to be used frequently throughout the year. Furthermore, a synthetic field hockey turf would provide a low-maintenance and sustainable solution for the upkeep of the park.

Finally, a synthetic field hockey turf would promote community engagement and social cohesion by providing a gathering place for local residents to come together and participate in activities. This would help to foster a sense of community pride and identity, as well as promote healthy lifestyles and social connections among individuals. The Khalsa Diwan Society, soccer, field hockey and kabbadi communities would see this field as a huge asset.

In summary, I strongly believe that the installation of a synthetic field hockey turf in South East Vancouver would provide numerous benefits to the underserved community in the area. It would offer a safe, accessible, low-maintenance, and sustainable space for physical activity and recreation, promote community engagement, and help to enhance the overall quality of life for residents.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope that you will support this proposal.

Sincerely,

Susan Ahrens

Susan Ahrens, Ph.D. (she, her, elle)

Chief Executive Officer | Chef de la Direction

Field Hockey Canada | Hockey Sur Gazon Canada

Phone: 604-441-1358 | Email: sahrens@fieldhockey.ca



Field Hockey Canada acknowledges that its office resides on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the x^wməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stz'uminus, Stó:lō and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Harjit S. Sajjan
Vancouver South

March 20, 2023

Dear Vancouver Parks Board Commissioners,

I am writing to you today in support of the installation of a synthetic turf field in Ross Park or Moberly Elementary School. Growing up in the neighbourhood and having the opportunity to play on these fields daily also reminds me of the upgrades that these two parks are in need of and having a synthetic turf field would benefit the community immensely. These two parks are utilized daily for many youth and senior activities.

Unlike natural grass, synthetic turf requires minimal maintenance. This means that park staff would spend less time mowing, watering and fertilizing the grass which would inevitably save time and money. Synthetic turf is designed to withstand heavy use, making it an ideal choice for high-traffic areas like parks. It is also resistant to weather conditions, which means that it can be used year-round in any climate. With natural grass, a significant amount of water is required to keep the grass healthy and green. Synthetic turf, on the other hand, does not require any water, which makes it a water-efficient alternative and does not require the use of pesticides or fertilizers, which can harm the environment.

A new synthetic turf field would serve as a valuable community space and an important investment of the future of our community, where there would be an increase in recreational activities, events and concerts with the high volume of individuals that currently utilize the parks for various activities. Residents will not have to go across town to participate in activities or watch their loved ones play. This provides them with a safe and accessible space for adults and children now and into the future.

I strongly support the installation of a synthetic turf field at Ross Park or Moberly Elementary School in order for our current and future residents of all ages to have a communal space to call theirs and strengthen the community ties.

Sincerely,

Hon. Harjit S. Sajjan
Member of Parliament
Vancouver South

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KHALSA DIWAN SOCIETY

GURDWARA SAHIB

(Established 1906)

8000 Ross Street, Vancouver BC V5X 4C5 • Tel: 604-322-5610 or 604-324-2010
Fax: 604-322-0504 • Email: kdsross@live.com



Dear park Board Commissioners

We, the Khalsa Diwan Society, are writing to express our support for the construction of a synthetic turf field in Ross Park or Moberly School. We believe that a turf field would be a valuable addition to our community, providing a safe and accessible space for children and adults alike to play sports, exercise, spectate and socialize. The Khalsa Diwan Society, Vancouver, a non-profit organization, was established in 1906 and has over 12,000 members. We are located in the vicinity of both Ross Park and Moberly School.

Our community is largely involved in sports, and the Khalsa Diwan Society hosts many fields hockey, soccer and Kabaddi tournaments. As you may know, the Ross community does not have a turf field in the area. This means that children who live in the area do not have access to a safe and high-quality space to play sports and engage in physical activity. We are also not able to host as many tournaments as we once did due to the transition of sports to modern synthetic fields. Most of our community held tournaments are migrating to other municipalities due to the lack of a turf field in our community. Additionally, many families in the area may not have the resources to travel to other areas with turf fields, meaning that their children miss out on the benefits of regular physical activity. A synthetic turf field would provide a solution to this problem, as it is durable, low-maintenance, and can be used year-round in all weather conditions. It would also provide a safe surface for children to play on, reducing the risk of injury and increasing the overall enjoyment of sports and physical activity. It would also allow the Khalsa Diwan society to hold more annual tournaments.

Furthermore, a turf field would also serve as a valuable community space, allowing residents of all ages to come together and participate in recreational activities. It would foster a sense of community and provide a safe space for children and families to gather and engage in healthy, positive activities. This is especially important for the elderly in our community. Our elderly are often not able to travel across the city to watch their grandchildren's games. A turf field here would give them a means to be spectators at their grandchildren's games. It would help families and the community to come together.

Youth violence is a major problem in our community. Our youth is at risk of becoming involved in violence due to the lack of access to positive activities and safe spaces where they can develop their skills and interests. This can lead them to become involved in gangs or other criminal activities, which can have long-term negative consequences for themselves and their communities. A turf field can help to address this problem by providing a safe and accessible space where young people can come together to play sports, socialize, and learn important life skills such as teamwork, leadership, and perseverance. By engaging in positive activities like sports, our youth can develop a sense of belonging and purpose, which can help to reduce their risk of becoming involved in violence.

The community has been waiting for a turf field since the early 90's and would welcome it with open arms. It is long overdue for this community to receive its first artificial turf. Residents have been consulted and would not be bothered by the excess of cars or lights on the field. They just want a turf for their children to play on.



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We believe that the construction of a synthetic turf field in Ross Park or Moberly School is an important investment in the future of our community. It would provide a safe and accessible space for children and adults to engage in physical activity, foster community spirit, and promote healthy family living habits. We believe that such a field can play an important role in helping to disengage youth from violence by providing a safe, positive environment for them to engage in sports and other physical activities. Khalsa Diwan Society urges the Park Board to consider our community for the next synthetic turf field in Vancouver since it has always been overlooked and underserved.

Sincerely,

Kuldip Singh Thandi
President
Khalsa Diwan Society

Punjabi Market Collective



Re: Turf Field at Ross Park

Dear Members of the Vancouver Park Board,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to advocate for the installation of a synthetic turf field in South Vancouver's Ross Park. I firmly believe that such a facility would not only enhance the overall appeal and utility of the park but also provide numerous social benefits to the local community, including the significant South Asian population residing in the area.

First, allow me to highlight the advantages of a synthetic turf field. Unlike natural grass, synthetic turf requires less maintenance and remains usable throughout the year, regardless of weather conditions. It eliminates the need for watering, mowing, and fertilization, thus reducing maintenance costs and environmental impact. Additionally, synthetic turf offers a consistent and safe playing surface, which reduces the risk of injuries and allows for greater accessibility to people of all ages and abilities.

Currently, the distribution of synthetic turf fields across Vancouver is not equitable, with a higher concentration of these facilities in more affluent neighbourhoods. South Vancouver, despite its growing population and diverse community, has been largely underserved in terms of recreational infrastructure. Investing in a synthetic turf field at Ross Park would help bridge this gap and demonstrate the Park Board's commitment to equitable distribution of resources throughout the city.

South Vancouver is home to a diverse, vibrant, and growing community, including a large South Asian population. The Khalsa Diwan Society, located nearby, serves as a community centre and a cultural hub for South Asian residents. By installing a synthetic turf field in Ross Park, the Park Board would be directly addressing the needs of this community and fostering closer connections between different cultural groups. Furthermore, the park's central location makes it easily accessible to other community centres in the area, such as the Sunset Community Centre and the South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, ensuring that a wide range of individuals can take advantage of the field.

The social benefits of approving a synthetic turf field for Ross Park are manifold. By providing a state-of-the-art facility for sports and recreation, the park would become a focal point for community events, tournaments, and gatherings. This would foster a greater sense of community spirit, pride, and camaraderie among the residents of

South Vancouver, including the South Asian community that frequents the Khalsa Diwan Society.

Furthermore, the improved field would encourage increased participation in sports and physical activities, leading to better health and wellbeing for community members. Regular exercise and outdoor activities have been proven to positively impact mental health, reducing stress and anxiety levels while promoting an overall sense of happiness and fulfillment.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the installation of a synthetic turf field in Ross Park, South Vancouver. The many benefits of such a facility, combined with the social impact it would have on the community and the need for equitable distribution of resources, make it a worthwhile and essential addition. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope that you will give this proposal the attention it deserves.

Sincerely,

Gulzar Nanda
Board Chair



STEVE RAI
DEPUTY CHIEF CONSTABLE
SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

VANCOUVER POLICE DEPARTMENT | *Beyond the Call*

Date: March 20, 2023

Dear Vancouver Park Board,

As a longtime Vancouver Police Officer including in my current role as a Deputy Chief Constable, I have extensive firsthand experience with our South Vancouver neighborhoods. I spent many years working as a front-line police officer in Southeast Vancouver including working closely with the South Asian community. In the height of the Vancouver gang conflict of the 1990's, youth were being recruited into criminal behavior. The Vancouver Police Department engaged with youth to interrupt and break the cycle of gang recruitment. A cornerstone of our strategy was supporting youth leadership and team sporting opportunities.

I support the installation of a synthetic turf field at Ross Park. A synthetic turf field would provide a safe and accessible space for physical activity and recreation for individuals of all ages and abilities. A synthetic turf field would promote community engagement and social cohesion by providing a gathering place for local residents to come together and participate in activities. Promoting healthy lifestyles and social connections among individuals will help strengthen community connections.

The South Asian community has one of the largest representations in Southeast Vancouver. The South Asian community is known to foster a sense of community pride and identity through its selfless service to the community. A synthetic turf field would further foster this community pride and assist in bridging the gap between its generations.

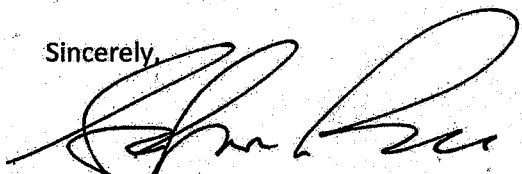
For the youth in Southeast Vancouver, a new synthetic turf field will assist in providing them with alternative pathways to stay out of being recruited into a gang associated lifestyle or finding themselves in negative peer groups. The turf field would give them a location to play sports and engage in physical activity, while developing a sense of belonging within the community.

Our country expects to welcome up to 500,000 new immigrants to Canada in 2025. Online statistics show that over 30% of those new immigrants will be of South Asian descent. Southeast Vancouver provides a rich culture and safe place for the majority of South Asian newcomers to B.C. Ross Park, with a new synthetic turf field will provide a location for newcomers to cultivate a sense of feeling at home, provide them the ability to make important community connections and ultimately help strengthen the foundation on which they will grow as visitors to Canada.

In summary, a new synthetic turf field at Ross Park will elevate the communities around it, inspire multiple generations and help provide a safe location for physical training while enhancing overall well-being and mental health.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope that you will support this proposal.

Sincerely,



Steve Rai, Deputy Chief Constable
Support Services Division
Vancouver Police Department



Dear Vancouver Park Board Commissioners,

In my role as President of the Vancouver Women's Field Hockey Association, I am writing to express my strong support for the installation of a synthetic turf field in the South East Vancouver area - for example Moberly Park or Ross Park - which would greatly benefit the underserved community in the area. I believe that this project could have a positive impact on our lives in several ways. There is an inequality in the distribution of turf fields throughout the city. Adding a turf field to the Ross Street area would be a great step towards fixing this imbalance.

Furthermore, I would like to strongly advocate for it to be a field hockey suitable turf. Field hockey is a popular sport that is 80% female in Canada. The sport has strong roots in Vancouver, represented by one of the oldest sport clubs in the country and with both men's and women's national teams based in the city. By making this turf suitable for field hockey the council will be showing strong support for women and girls in Vancouver. The Vancouver Women's Field Hockey Association has a playing membership of more than 1200, not including all our coaches and umpires. We have a diverse age range of playing members with our youngest player being 13 years old and our oldest player 78 years young.

A synthetic field hockey turf would provide a safe and accessible space for physical activity and recreation for individuals of all ages and abilities. Many residents in the area do not have access to private or public facilities that offer these amenities, and a synthetic field hockey turf would fill this gap. The surface is durable, slip-resistant, and can withstand heavy use, which would allow it to be used frequently throughout the year. Furthermore, a synthetic field hockey turf would provide a low-maintenance and sustainable solution for the upkeep of the park.

Finally, a synthetic field hockey turf would promote community engagement and social cohesion by providing a gathering place for local residents to come together and participate in activities. This would help to foster a sense of community pride and identity, as well as promote healthy lifestyles and social connections among individuals.

In summary, I strongly believe that the installation of a synthetic field hockey turf in South East Vancouver would provide numerous benefits to the underserved community in the area. It would offer a safe, accessible, low-maintenance, and sustainable space for physical activity and recreation, promote community engagement, and help to enhance the overall quality of life for residents.

Thank you for your consideration, and I hope that you will support this proposal.

Sincerely,

Ceri Cornwall

VWFHA President

