



City of  
**Peterborough**

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**To:** Members of the General Committee

**From:** Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

**Meeting Date:** February 26, 2018

**Subject:** Report CSRS18-003  
All Weather vs. Natural Turf Field Maintenance

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## **Purpose**

A report to provide information on the annual maintenance cost of the all weather sport fields compared to that of natural turf fields.

## **Recommendation**

That Council approve the recommendation outlined in Report CSRS18-003 dated February 26, 2018, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

That Report CSRS18-003 be received for information.

## **Budget and Financial Implication**

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendation of report CSRS18-003.

## **Background**

Council requested that Staff provide a report on the comparative maintenance costs of the all weather sport fields vs. that of the natural turf fields.

In 2013, the City entered two separate agreements to create three all-weather sport fields within the City. One agreement was with Fleming College to create two all-

weather sport fields on the College campus. The second agreement was with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR) to create a single all-weather sport field at Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School (TASS), in partnership with the Kinsmen Minor Football League.

The first full season of operation for all three fields was 2014. As per the legal agreements, the College and KPR conduct the maintenance of the sport fields situated on their respective properties. The City books the fields for community use and collects all field rental revenue, with a reconciliation of revenues and expenses occurring at year end.

In 2016, two new natural turf fields (one diamond and one rectangular) were created on the Trent University campus, in partnership with the University, Peterborough Baseball Association, and the Peterborough Recreational Baseball Assoc. The City conducts the maintenance of both fields, books the fields for community use and collects all field rental revenue, with a reconciliation of revenues and expenses occurring at year end.

For the purpose of comparing maintenance costs of similar size facilities, the costs of the two all-weather fields at the Fleming campus are being compared to that of the two natural turf fields at the Trent University campus. The comparison does not include revenues or expenses related to field lighting, as those would be consistent regardless of the type of field surface material.

#### All-weather Fields at Fleming College

	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Maintenance Expenses</b>	\$21,351	\$24,978	\$21,861	\$28,658
<b>Revenue</b>	\$43,820	\$51,157	\$49,412	\$54,182
<b>Net Cost</b>	<b>-\$22,469</b>	<b>-\$26,179</b>	<b>-\$27,551</b>	<b>-\$25,524</b>

Note\* In addition to the above maintenance expenses, \$20,000 is transferred annually into a capital reserve account for future replacement of the turf.

#### Natural Turf Fields at Trent University

	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Expenses</b>	N/A	N/A	\$19,113	\$22,062
<b>Revenue</b>			\$1,414	\$5,337
<b>Net Cost</b>			<b>\$17,699</b>	<b>\$16,725</b>

Note\* Revenue rates for the natural turf fields at Trent are approximately 50% lower than that of the all-weather Turf fields. There is no charge for practice time on the natural turf, whereas a fee is applied to all time booked on the all-weather fields.

## Summary

The cost to maintain the all-weather fields is approximately 29% higher than the maintenance cost of a similar size natural turf facility. However, the ability to generate revenue that exceeds the expenses is better achieved on the all-weather facilities, due to the variance in the approved hourly permitting rates, and no fee applied for practice time on the natural turf fields.

Submitted by,

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