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Halifax Regional Council
August 2, 2005

TO: Mayor and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Peter Stickings, Acting Director of Real Property & Asset Management

DATE: July 6, 2005

SUBJECT: Servicing Plan for athletic Fields in HRM

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Request for a staff report originating from the July 8, 2003, Halifax Regional Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND

During discussions regarding the construction of the Mainland Common Ball field, Councillor Hetherington requested a report from staff listing all the playing fields in the municipality, their condition, and exactly what is required to bring all fields to an acceptable standard.

DISCUSSION

Parks was restructured in 2003 and aligned with Real Property and Asset Management. An operational plan was formulated and introduced to the operation to improve efficiencies, provide staff training, purchase specialized equipment, and focus the workforce on the delivery of quality customer service.

An integral part of this plan was to out source grass cutting to allow for HRM forces to concentrate on infrastructure improvements and service delivery based on service standards and field classifications.

RPAM began to research and develop strategies to improve upon the quality of turf. In 2003 RPAM introduced a rehabilitation program partially funded through Capital. The improvement in the quality of turf on fields was very impressive. To date RPAM has rehabilitated 40 fields at a cost of \$5,000.00 per field. This is significantly less than the budgeted cost of \$200,000.00 to re-sod a field.

The success of this program has had a direct, and positive impact on the current condition of sport fields. Fields assessed in the fall of 2004 indicate 48 as good, 36 as fair, and 20 as poor. This season we intend to rehabilitate another 25 of the fair and poor fields, while implementing sustainable turf maintenance programs on our good fields.

Meetings held with the soccer community in the fall of 2004 confirm the clients recognition of a steady improvement in field condition and service delivery. We will be meeting with HRM baseball clients in the fall of 2005 to encourage feed back on our efforts

As part of the ongoing improvement to our service delivery, RPAM Sportfields and Playground Division conduct regular facility inspections and assessments. From these assessments RPAM determines the Capital and Operational requirements to sustain and improve HRM sport facilities within the available resources

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES


None

ATTACHMENTS

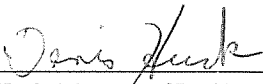
2004 HRM Sport Field Usage/Assessment

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by:


Peter Verge, Superintendent of Sportsfields, Playgrounds and Greenbelts 490-5819

Report Approved by:


Denis Huck, Manager of Real Property Operations 490-4673

2004 HRM Sport Field Usage per Week - by Classification

Sport Field	Class.	Avg. use per week	Assessment (2004)
Auburn High	A	13	Good
Beazley Complex - Beazley	A	15	Good
Graves Oakley - Rugby Pitch 2	A	4	Good
Lockview High (P3)	A	13	Good
North Common - Cricket	A	6	*Not Assessed
North Commons #13 (Touch Football)	A	47	Poor
North Commons #14 (Touch Football)	A	17	Poor
Tremont Park	A	25	Good
Wanderers Grounds * Fall Football/Rugby	A	3	Good
Ash Lee Jefferson	B	53	Fair
Basinview School	B	10	Poor
Bedford Junior High	B	14	Good
Bedford South Elementary	B	14	Fair
Brookside Jr. High	B	11	Fair
Brownlow Park	B	Closed '04	Good
Cavalier Drive	B	16	Fair
Clayton Park Junior High	B	Closed '04	Good
Eastern Passage Ed. Ctr. (P3)	B	6	Good
Eastern Passage Jr High - Seaside	B	19	*Not Assessed
Ecole Beaubassin	B	8	Poor
Ecole Bois Joli	B	19	Fair
Fairview Junior High	B	27	Good
Forest Hills Commons - Wagner	B	22	Poor
Graves Oakley - Rugby Pitch 1	B	6	Good
Ira Settle	B	28	Good
J. Albert Walker	B	31	Good
J.L. Ilesley High School	B	11	Good
Madeline Symonds Elementary	B	6	Good
Merv Sullivan	B	5	Fair
Metropolitan	B	9	Good
Mic Mac Park #1	B	19	Good
Mic Mac Park #2	B	18	Good

Sport Field	Class.	Avg. use per week	Assessment (2004)
Montebello	B	14	Good
O'Connell Drive Elementary	B	7	Good
Oceanview School	B	20	*Not Assessed
Park West School (P3)	B	Closed '04	*Not Assessed
Portland Estates Elementary (P3)	B	7	Good
Range Park	B	30	Fair
Ridgecliffe Elementary (P3)	B	8	Good
Rockingstone Heights Elementary	B	18	Good
Ross Road School	B	8	Good
Sackville Heights Elementary (P3)	B	4	Good
Sackville Heights Junior High	B	18	Fair
Sir John A. MacDonald High	B	14	Good
South Commons #16	B	Closed '04	Fair
St. Francis	B	26	Fair
St. Margaret's Elementary (P3)	B	6	Fair
Stanley Park	B	16	Good
Tallahassee Centre	B	41	Good
Tantallon Elementary	B	12	Poor
A. J. Smeltzer Junior High	C	4	Poor
Astral Drive Junior High	C	13	*Not Assessed
Beaverbank-Kinsac Elementary	C	1.5	Good
Bell Annex	C	15	Fair
Chain Lake	C	14	Poor
Charles P. Allen	C	24	Good
Cole Harbour District High	C	45	Fair
Eastern Shore District High	C	0.5	Good
Ellenvale Junior High	C	16	Fair
Eric Graves Junior High	C	12	*Not Assessed
Fleming Tower School	C	11	Poor
Gaetz Brook Junior High	C	5	Good
George P. Vanier	C	16	Good
Glenbourne	C	19	Poor

Sport Field	Class.	Avg. use per week	Assessment (2004)
Graham Creighton Junior High	C	11	Good
Graves Oakley - Sport Field	C	15	Good
Hammonds Plains Consolidated	C	6	Poor
Harold T. Barrett Junior High	C	5	Good
Harry R. Hamilton Elementary	C	9	Fair
Herring Cove Junior High	C	6	Good
Holland Road Elementary	C	13	Fair
Millwood High	C	18	Good
Monarch Drive Elementary	C	8	Good
North Commons #12	C	14	Poor
Prince Arthur Jr High (green space)	C	17	Good
Prospect Road Elementary	C	9	*Not Assessed
Purl E. Gilby Park	C	6	Fair
Sackville High	C	14	Fair
Sir Robert Borden Junior High	C	13	Good
Springvale Elementary	C	2	*Not Assessed
St. Agnes Junior High	C	22	Fair
St. Catherine's	C	Closed '04	Good
St. Stephen's School	C	7	Poor
Tantallon Junior High	C	14	Good
Timberlea Jr. High	C	17	*Not Assessed
W.D. Piercy	C	11	*Not Assessed
Westmount #1	C	11	Fair
Atlantic View - <i>not scheduled '04</i>	D		*Not Assessed
BLT Junior High School	D	4	Fair
Bel Ayr - <i>not scheduled '04</i>	D	2	Fair
Bell Park	D		*Not Assessed
Chebucto Road School	D	11	Poor
Colby Village Elementary School	D	6	Fair
Conrose Park #1	D	14	Good
Craigbourne Estates	D	13	Fair
Duncan MacMillan High - <i>not scheduled '04</i>	D		*Not Assessed

Sport Field	Class.	Avg. use per week	Assessment (2004)
Eaglewood Elementary	D	5	*Not Assessed
Eric Curry	D	17	Good
Forest Hills Common - Scotia	D	47	Poor
George Bissett - <i>not scheduled '04</i>	D		*Not Assessed
George Dixon Centre	D	10	Fair
Grosvenor Wentworth School	D	7	*Not Assessed
Harbourview School	D	8	Fair
Highland Park	D	5	Good
Joseph Giles Elementary	D	8	*Not Assessed
L.C. Skerry	D	8	Fair
LeMerchant St. Thomas School	D	18	Fair
Leslie Thomas Junior High	D	29	Fair
Millwood Elementary	D	25	Poor
Portland Estates Mini Field	D	8	Poor
Ryan Rossen Park	D	Closed '04	Poor
Sambro Elementary	D	10	Poor
Sheffield in the Park	D	11	Fair
Sycamore Lane (Diamond)	D	4	Poor
Terrance Bay Elem. - Atl. Memorial	D	5	Good
Westmount #2	D	12	*Not Assessed
Westwood - <i>not scheduled '04</i>	D		*Not Assessed
HRM Sport Fields (Partnership & Management Agreements)			
Musquodoboit Rural High	C		
Weir Property	AA		

- Total # of Sport Fields - 120
- 7 Sport Fields were closed in 2004 and not included in total # of hours used per week
- 49 Sport Fields used 10 hours or less per week
- 28 Sport Fields used 11 to 15 hours per week
- 18 Sport Fields used 16 to 20 hours per week
- 16 Sport Fields used 21 or more hours per week
- Sport Fields used approximately 104 hours per week

*To be Assessed in the fall of 2005