

Outdoor Sport Facility Strategy

Natural Heritage Action Committee
April 30, 2024



Agenda

Our goal today is to get feedback on what we should be including in our sportfield strategy as it relates to Guelph's Natural Environment. We're looking for input and feedback on things to consider to make development, operation and maintenance more environmentally friendly.

1. Sport Lighting
2. Fertilizer
3. Synthetic Turf
4. Stormwater Management
5. Discussion/Questions



Project Overview

The Outdoor Sport Facility Strategy is a 15+ year document to help guide:

- Development
- Management
- Maintenance

of sport fields (rectangular, diamonds) and courts (basketball, tennis, pickleball, volleyball).

Research, Comparator
Review, Engagement &
Analysis
2024

Draft Strategies
& Engagement
2025

Draft Sport
Facility Strategy
2025-2026

Presentation to
Council
2026

Sport Lighting

- Required to be bright to ensure player safety and uniform distribution
- LED retrofits
 - Energy efficient
 - Reduced light trespass
 - Glare and cut-off controlled
- Adding lighting can be a solution to reduce the need to build more sport facilities and extend use of existing facilities



Fertilizer & Maintenance

- Environmentally sustainable practices are imbedded in the philosophies that drive day-to-day operation
- There are maintenance activities that are essential to maintain the infrastructure and safety (e.g. mowing, aerating, fertilizing, etc.)
- Fertilizing turfgrasses assures recovery from wear
- It takes a lot of care and knowledge to make sure we're being as environmentally friendly as possible
 - Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifies electrification of maintenance



Stormwater Management

- Sport courts prevent water infiltration
- Premium sport fields require a lot of water to keep safe and properly maintained
 - Guelph regularly evaluates water usage used for irrigation
 - Improvements are made to improve the irrigation system's efficiency and exclusively use smart systems
 - Grass species are selected for drought resistance and ability to withstand high impact and use
- SWM Master Plan is planning for underground storage tanks in parks





Synthetic Turf

- Both synthetic turf and natural grass sport fields are net producers of GHGs
- No conclusive research to support that one surface is safer or that synthetic turf results in serious health risks
- Synthetic turf generates microplastics
 - Migration of microplastics can be mitigated by best practice capture systems
- Both synthetic turf and natural grass sport fields provide no biodiversity
- Synthetic turf field can accommodate approximately four times the usage of a natural surface field

Final comments

What should we consider as part of the strategy?

What emerging trends or practices should we consider to protect and enhance the natural environment?

What opportunities do we have with the sport field strategy to improve the natural environment?

What challenges will we need to consider for current or future development, operation, maintenance?



**Thank you for your
time and consideration**

