

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
Date: 12/11/2023 10:09:42 PM
Subject: Budget - additional information re ball field rental fees

Good evening Mayor and Council,

Following the previous 2 memos, we have one additional response to a budget related question as noted below regarding the rationale and impact of the sports fields fee increase.

Should you have any final questions please send to me or Patrice Impey.

Best,
Paul

Rationale:

Historically, Park Board staff have been receiving reports from user groups and potential new users stating that many organization are permitting fields and are not using them for practices or games. Therefore, one of the main reasons behind the increase in pricing is to discourage the hoarding of low cost facilities to the detriment of equity deserving and emerging sports in our community.

In 2019 Recreation staff conducted a summer and fall surveillance program, with the intent to understand how frequently permitted and unpermitted fields were being used. During these observations it was observed that of the permitted spaces only 57.5% of the permitted fields were in use – therefore 42.5% of spaces that had been assigned a permit were observed to be unused. For the different field types, diamonds had the lowest overall observed usage with only 49.6% of the permitted spaces observed as utilized during the surveillance program.

Impact to community:

Based on the impact test conducted by staff, with assumptions not tested with the user groups, the potential impact to an individual child or youth playing some form of recreational ball would be a fee increase of \$8.32 per person for the season.

During the Fees and Charges presentation to Park Board, one of the users speaking out against the fee increase cited that diamond fees represent a small portion of the sports groups overall budget expenses, estimating this at 20% of their costs.

Impact to Park Board budget:

The budget impact of the increased fees and charges for this is approximately \$30k.

The table below shows comparison to other municipalities where this information was readily available to the public. There are some municipalities missing in which that information was not available at the time of the report.

