

TO: MAYOR & COUNCILLORS
FROM: PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE COMMITTEE
SUBJECT: **BURNABY LAKE FIELD HOCKEY CLUB – REQUEST FOR WATER-BASED FIELD HOCKEY TURF FIELD**
PURPOSE: To seek Council direction for staff to investigate feasibility and advisability for a water-based field hockey program in Burnaby.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT staff be directed to work with the delegation’s representatives on the need for a water-based field hockey turf field, and report back to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is seeking Council to direct staff to investigate the feasibility and advisability on the need for a water-based field hockey program in Burnaby.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

This report is consistent with the Corporate Strategic Plan (2023) and the Social Sustainability Strategy (2011).

2.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

The Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee, at its meeting held on April 16, 2024, heard a delegation from Moira Colbourne and Adrian d’Andrade, President of Burnaby Lake Field Hockey Club, advocating for a field hockey preferred surface in Burnaby.

The delegation advised that currently there are four clubs with more than 350 registered players in Burnaby. Field hockey is an inclusive, affordable, and accessible sport, and over 30 members represented Canada and Burnaby at various levels.

The delegation noted that Burnaby has four fields for field hockey – Burnaby Lake West 2, 3, and 4, as well as Cariboo Secondary School. All of these fields are rubber-infill “field-turf” with long pile carpet, which is a preferred soccer surface, but currently there are no field hockey surfaces in Burnaby. Field turf provide inconsistent playing surface affecting gameplay, there are safety concerns due to unpredictability of the surface and many divisions in the league are not allowed to play on field turf.

The delegation advised that water-based turfs have been preferred surface for 50 years. They provide a consistent playing surface that offers safer, faster gameplay, better ball control, and the development of specific skills that are crucial to the modern style of the game.

It was noted that a water-based turf would have a positive impact to field hockey in Burnaby, such as:

- immediate and long-term increase in bookings;
- junior development;
- additional field time for other sports on fields currently used by field hockey;
- fields could be used for soccer, lacrosse, and other recreational uses;
- opportunity to host tournaments at various levels;
- boost local businesses through increased tourism and visitor spending;
- inspire future generations of local athletes as they have the opportunity to see sport played at the highest level.

3.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable at this time.

4.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable at this time.

On behalf of the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee,

Councillor Dhaliwal, Chair

Councillor Wang, Vice Chair

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable.

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

This report was prepared by Blanka Zeinabova, Sr. Manager Legislative Services, and reviewed by Carmen Gonzalez, Deputy General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture and Juli Halliwell, General Manager Corporate Services.