

**TO:** MAYOR & COUNCILLORS  
**FROM:** GENERAL MANAGER PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE  
**SUBJECT:** **SU: SPORTS FIELD AED ANALYSIS**  
**PURPOSE:** To provide Council with a status update (SU) concerning Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at Burnaby's outdoor sports fields.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the report titled "SU: Sports Field AED Analysis" dated January 13, 2026, be received for information; and

**THAT** the report be forwarded to Ben Rohu, 7828 Stanley Street, Burnaby BC V5E 1V8.

## **1.0 POLICY SECTION**

This report supports the following Council-adopted policies, plans and strategies: City's Equity Policy (2020), Corporate Strategic Plan (2022), Social Sustainability Strategy (2016), Burnaby Community Safety Plan (2024), and Healthy Community Policy (1991).

## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

At a council meeting dated February 26, 2024, a public petition requested the provision of AEDs at Burnaby outdoor sports fields, suggesting the need for access during evenings and weekends when public buildings are closed. The petition (Attachment 1) included 199 signatures and letters of support from several health and sports organizations.

Following Council's referral, the Public Safety Committee explored the opportunities, challenges and costs associated with expanding AED access. This report summarizes the findings and the details of current AED availability.

## **3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **3.1 AVAILABILITY**

The Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) department manages 41 AED units across City-operated facilities, including community centres, ice arenas, pools, golf courses, cultural facilities, and outdoor sports fields.

Twenty-four units are available year-round, six are maintained as spares for redeployment if a unit goes out of service and eleven are made available seasonally when outdoor pools are operational and golf course activity levels increase (see Attachment 2).

Specific to facilities with outdoor sports fields, AEDs are available at Swangard Stadium and Burnaby Lake Sports Complex West as these are considered the two most active outdoor complexes with high volume bookings and staff supported operations.

Attachment three offers a visual representation of the geographic distribution of PRC managed AEDs across the city.

The Burnaby Fire Department is equipped with AED's and responds to medical emergencies with trained first responders. Average response times for medical emergencies are 5 minutes, 51 seconds.

### **3.2 CHALLENGES**

Outdoor AED applications present unique challenges that require specific infrastructure and operational supports. Examples include:

- Power Supply: Fixed-mount AEDs utilize a rechargeable battery and must be housed in a powered cabinet to ensure functionality.
- Security: Specialized cabinets are recommended to ensure high visibility and minimize opportunities for tampering and theft.
- Temperature Sensitivity: AEDs are temperature sensitive. In outdoor applications, climate-controlled storage cabinets are recommended.
- Inspections: AED visual inspections are recommended daily to confirm readiness.
- Maintenance: While requirements vary by manufacturer, typical expected maintenance tasks include:
  - Inspect monthly (staff)
  - Service annually (third party specialist)
  - Replace pads every 2 years (third party specialist)
  - Replace battery every 5 years (third party specialist)
- Records: Inspection and maintenance activities must be recorded and saved for future reference if required.
- Equity: Enhancing service levels to provide AEDs at sports fields may create perceived inequities versus sport courts, running tracks, skate parks, and trails.

### **3.3 COSTS**

Original installation costs are expected to range from \$10,000 to \$30,000 per unit depending on the specific location and application.

Annual maintenance costs (averaged over 5 years) are expected to be \$500 per unit. Note: This does not include repairs or replacements in response to theft or vandalism.

With sixty-four sports fields, installation costs may range from \$640,000 to \$2 million with minimum annual operating costs of \$30,000.

If expanded to all 136 outdoor facilities, installation costs may range from \$1,400,000 to \$4,000,000 with minimum annual operating costs of \$70,000.

### **3.4 OPPORTUNITIES**

In some cities, sport user groups are encouraged to obtain their own AEDs for use. Burnaby sport user groups interested in obtaining an AED may apply for grant funding opportunities such as those offered through the Canadian Red Cross Defibrillator Program. Additionally, user groups may apply for grant funding directly to the City of Burnaby through the Community Grant Program for cultural, athletic, and volunteer assistance groups.

Future technological advancements, product innovation, grant funding opportunities, and/or third-party partnerships may reduce barriers and improve the viability for AEDs in outdoor, public settings.

The St. John Ambulance Start Me Up BC program aims to increase awareness and accessibility to AED's as well as first aid and Naloxone kits by providing Community Defibrillator Stands. These stands may be strategically located at provincial parks, municipal beaches, transit hubs, and tourist hot spots.

### **3.5 ADDITIONAL CONTEXT**

PRC's inventory of 41 AED's strategically deployed in combination with medical emergency response services provided by the Burnaby Fire Department suggests an already enhanced service level.

The expansion of AEDs to unstaffed, publicly accessible sports fields presents challenges that are unable to be managed within existing operating and capital budgets.

The challenges, costs and opportunities identified in this report inform our approach to the provision of AEDs at this time. Staff will continue to monitor advancements in AED technology, funding opportunities, and usage trends across the region. Should operationally needs change or a viable implementation model emerge, this issue may be revisited.

#### **4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Staff recognize the public interest in this issue and acknowledge the feedback provided through the petition and supporting correspondence. The Public Safety Committee has reviewed the matter, and staff have considered perspectives shared by community sports groups and health organizations.

Staff will continue to engage directly with individuals and organizations for the purposes of promoting the city's already robust AED program and helping to identify grant funding opportunities for organizations that wish to provide this service for their members.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report. Existing AED units are managed within current departmental operating budgets. Should Council direct a change in service levels, staff will bring a more detailed budget request for council consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Morrison-Clark, General Manager Parks, Recreation and Culture

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 - Petition: Requesting AEDs for Burnaby Outdoor Sports Facilities

Attachment 2 - PRC Department AED Inventory by Facility Type

Attachment 3 - PRC AED Location Map

#### **REPORT CONTRIBUTORS**

This report was jointly prepared by Jill Porter, Manager Parks Operations; Andre Kolber, Manager Parks Operations; John Quach, Supervisor of Parks Plant Maintenance and Lucas Bjerke, Recreation Complex Supervisor; and reviewed by Brad Domaas, Director Parks.