

Re: ADDITIONAL SPORTS FIELD AT RIVERWAY SPORTS COMPLEX

Following is a report from the Parks and Recreation Administrator regarding the utilization of Riverway Sport fields.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the report of the Parks and Recreation Administrator be received for information purposes.

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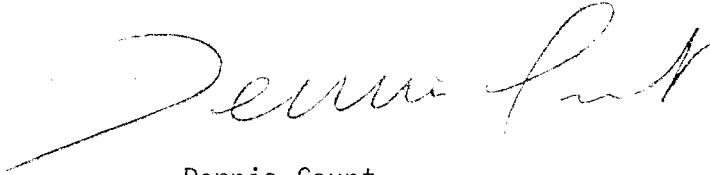
TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1981 February 04
FROM: PARKS & RECREATION ADMINISTRATOR
RE: ADDITIONAL SPORTS FIELDS AT RIVERWAY SPORTS COMPLEX

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT this report be received for information.

REPORT

In response to a question raised at the Council's C.I.P. meeting, the attached report was submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission at its meeting of 1981 January 21. The Commission adopted the recommendation that the report be forwarded to Council for information.



Dennis Gaunt,
ADMINISTRATOR.

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attachment

RE: ADDITIONAL SPORT FIELDS AT RIVERWAY SPORTS COMPLEX

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be forwarded to Council for information.

ITEM 9
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 11
COUNCIL MEETING 1981 02 09

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REPORT

The Commission has included in its 1981 C.I.P. \$203,000 for the pre-loading of two additional fields at Riverway Sports Complex. Council, at its C.I.P. meeting, questioned the need for this item. This questioning was based on an observation that the present fields are not effectively utilized.

This information report will identify that the present fields at Riverway are optimally allotted and that the preparation for new fields is required now.

A comparison of use has been made between Riverway Sport fields and Burnaby Lake Sports Fields. Currently, all fields at both sites are fully allotted. There is 25-30 hours per week of allotments currently in effect. This is an optimal use level for organized sport use of turf fields.

The use pattern shifts throughout the year depending on the sport season and weather conditions.

Fall-Winter: The two soccer pitches are fully allotted. Weekday evenings are utilized by the South Burnaby Men's Club and Burnaby Senior Soccer and Burnaby District Youth Soccer. Special tournaments and games are also periodically allotted.

Spring-Summer: The two softball diamonds at Riverway are the most requested of any of Burnaby's softball diamonds. Their high quality and large size make them ideal for adult softball. Weekday evenings are allotted to the 12 team Parks and Recreation Slo Pitch League and a men's fastball league. Weekend use is also used by these two organizations. This site is a prime adult tournament location and in 1980, five weekend tournaments were held.

Several circumstances frequently develop that prevent the fields from being used. During the period December 15-January 30 all grass fields are closed to prevent damage during adverse weather and field conditions. Past experience has shown that a great deal of damage occurs during this time period if the fields are used. At other times the two Riverway fields may be closed due to heavy rainfall, frost or snow. The proximity of the population does not result in a high frequency of unorganized activities such as pick-up games, jogging, etc.

Projected increases in population and demand for field space, particularly by adults, indicates that more sport fields will be required.

Using a standard ratio of 1 soccer field per 2,500 population, 81 fields (grass and all weather) would be required by 1986. This is an addition of 4 fields from the present complement of 77. Four additional, large, district fields will be needed to accommodate the trend to increased adult soccer, and adult softball.

The Riverway Sports Complex is an ideal location for the addition of one large soccer field and one large softball diamond.

Several years are needed to develop a quality sports field. By commencing the groundwork in 1981, a field at Riverway would not be available for use until the summer or fall of 1983.

The present rate of growing demand for fields, additional fields will have to be on stream by this time otherwise the over-use of grass fields will become unmanageable. Over-use creates serious problems between user groups and serious deterioration of the grass playing surface.