## **Branch - Parks & Roads Services**

Program - Infrastructure Operations
Title - Turf Enhancement Strategy

New or Enhanced Service Unfunded Ongoing

## Results to be Achieved

To expand the Turf Health Care (THC) program to an additional 100 fields city wide. This increase in service will reduce the duration between service cycles, thereby vastly improving the quality and sustainability of our turf areas, including sports fields through out the city.

This will result in improving the condition of turf areas for greater citizen usage and reducing the volume of citizen inquiries related to turf and sports fields.

## Description

The Turf Maintenance Enhancement Program Report (CR\_5463) was presented October 17th, 2018. A motion was put forward requesting Option A and B to be presented for consideration during 2019-2022 budget deliberations. In Fall of 2018, Administration identified savings of \$1.5 million as a proposed efficiency initiative within the 2019-2022 proposed operating budget:

- 2019: \$0.5 million savings
- 2020: \$1 million savings

Option A proposes to maintain the Turf Maintenance Enhancement Program as delivered in 2018.

Option B proposes to re-invest the \$1.5 million in savings into the 2019 Turf Enhancement Program budget via the Turf Health Care program. The \$1.5 million would be allocated to support the expansion to an additional 100 fields. It will be disbursed in two phases:

- 2019: \$0.5 million
- 2020: \$1 million

Through the addition of specific equipment, administration will be able to increase THC service levels resulting in increasing the number of fields receiving THC treatment from 100 to 200 per season. This change will improve the quality of our Sport Field inventory and increase playtime and safety for users.

## Justification

THC is a highly mechanised activity using various equipment. Increasing THC equipment inventory has a direct impact on expanding our THC program to an additional 100 fields. This expansion will lead to better quality play surfaces on sports fields across Edmonton and will reduce the cycle time between care.

THC practices are the best way to ensure vitality and the long term sustainability of turfgrass by reducing susceptibility of turfgrass to health problems including diseases, weeds, pests and stress by improving the individual plant's health and vigor. This proactive approach to maintaining turf health through holistic cultural management and integrated treatments includes: Dethatching, aeration, topdressing, overseeding, fertilization and irrigation.

incremental	2019				2020				2021				2022			
(\$000)	Ехр	Rev	Net	FTEs	Ехр	Rev	Net	FTEs	Ехр	Rev	Net	FTEs	Ехр	Rev	Net	FTEs
Annualization	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Budget	\$500	-	\$500	-	\$1,000	-	\$1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$500	-	\$500	-	\$1,000	-	\$1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-