



RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURE Outdoor Sport Fields

PART A: Inventory, Assessment & Analysis

September 2014



Prepared by Neighbourhood Facilities and Neighbourhood Community Development Staff

Acknowledgements

This report results from the input and cooperation of local Red Deer outdoor sport field groups, related provincial and national sporting associations and City of Red Deer Recreation, Parks and Culture department staff. The work and information outlined in this document, while being a snapshot in time, will be a valuable tool in the future development and planning of outdoor sport fields in Red Deer over the next 5 to 15 years.

We would like to specifically thank the following sport groups for their contributions:

Local Sport Organizations

- Central Alberta Slo-Pitch Association
- Red Deer City Soccer Association
- Red Deer Minor Baseball Association
- Red Deer Minor Football Association
- Red Deer Minor Softball Association
- Red Deer Titans Track & Field

Athletics, Baseball, Football, and Softball Provincial Sport Organizations

Slo-Pitch National

Special acknowledgment to Jeff Stokoe, Red Deer Advocate photographer, for the use of his photos featured on the title page and in various locations in the report.

Other photos provided by RPC staff.



Preface

In response to the volume of information gathered related to this project, two Outdoor Sport Fields Reports were created to capture the intent of the work and extent of content:

1. Part A: Inventory, Assessment & Analysis
2. Part B: Strategic Direction Report

These reports are complementary and cumulative with the Strategic Direction Report building on conclusions and highlights from the Inventory, Assessment & Analysis. Part A informs the recommendations and proposed actions found in the Strategic Direction.

Some of the topics Part B covers include:

- Strategic Direction Rationale
- Overview of Actions
- Governance & Processes
- Redevelopment & Enhancement Strategies
- Hosting & Tournament Site Development
- Special Development Considerations for Performance Fields
- Going Forward and Next Steps

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Acronyms & Definitions

The following acronyms and terms are used in this Report:

AC	Athletics Canada
AMSL	Alberta Major Soccer League
ASAA	Alberta School Athletics Association
CACA	Central Alberta Cricket Association
CANA	RPC Community Assets Needs Assessment
CASPA	Central Alberta Slo-Pitch Association
CORD	City of Red Deer
CS	Community Services
RPC	Recreation, Parks & Culture Department
CSA	Canadian Soccer Association
FIFA	Federation International Football Association
GCP	Great Chief Park
IAAF	International Athletics Association Federation
LSO	Local Sport Organization
NCD	Neighbourhood Community Development
NDPS	Neighbourhood Design & Planning Standards
NF	Neighbourhood Facilities
NSO	National Sport Organization
PSO	Provincial Sport Organization
RDC	Red Deer College
RDCSA	Red Deer City Soccer Association
RDMBA	Red Deer Minor Baseball Association
RDMFA	Red Deer Minor Football Association
RDMSA	Red Deer Minor Softball Association
SCoRD	Sport Council of Red Deer
SPN	Slo-Pitch National

Definitions are drawn from various sources such as Sport Canada, Coaching Association of Canada, Federal Sport Participation Reports, Wikipedia, Bing, and City of Red Deer internal documents.

Athletics	Athletics describe a sport comprising of various competitive athletic contests based on running, jumping, and throwing, sometimes referred to as Track and Field events. Facilities may include a stadium-type amenity with a 400m, 8 lane, oval running track around a grass field with permanent or temporary fencing and sand pit areas to accommodate the throwing and jumping aspects of the sport. Local examples include Titan Track & Field and Red Deer Schools.
Cluster(ing)	Clustering typically refers to a location with several similar-type fields, but it can be used to describe sites that may have different types of fields in the same location. For example, 6 ball diamonds, or 4 ball diamonds and 4 rectangle fields. Multi-field parks typically include other support amenities such as parking, concession stands and washrooms. They support the hosting of tournaments, sport tourism needs, but also parents to have participants at the same location at the same time.
CS4L	Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) is a movement to improve the quality of sport and physical activity in Canada. CS4L links sport, education, recreation and health and aligns local, provincial and national programming. More information can be found at www.canadiansportforlife.ca .
Developmental Sport/Sport Development	“Grass-root sports” or “Introduction sports,” such as T-Ball, are available in most sports and allow individuals to experience a modified version of the actual sport so that they have the opportunity to develop fundamental movement skills and basic sport-specific skills and understanding to foster success in the activity.
Diamonds	Ball diamonds, as they are typically called, can be fully grassed, or be grass with shale infields. They are used primarily for Softball, Baseball, Slo-Pitch and T-Ball activities.
Elite or Competitive Sport	A sport event that hosts elite athletes who, according to national and international standards has reached a level of excellence, either as an amateur or professional. It can include participation at the club, college or university, professional, or Olympic levels.
Competition	Competition is the process of trying to beat others: the process of trying to win or do better than others. Typically involves a contest or an activity in which people try to win something or do better than others.
Facilities & Open Spaces	Facilities can be indoor and outdoor areas and structures that are specifically developed to accommodate a given set of activities. Open spaces are areas without human-built structures such as parks and protected areas.

Football	<p>A form of gridiron football played in Canada in which two teams of 12 players each compete for territorial control of a field of play 110 yards (101 m) long and 65 yards (59 m) wide attempting to advance a ball into the opposing team's scoring area (end zone).</p> <p>Local examples include Senior Men's Football (Buccaneers), Red Deer Touch Football Association, Central Region Central Alberta Schools Athletic Association, Central Football League (Bantam) and Red Deer Minor Football (6 Atom and 2 Pee Wee teams).</p>
Long Term Athlete Development	<p>Long Term Athlete Development is a 7-stage Canadian framework for athlete development outlining training, competition and recovery needs to create relevant and effective athlete plans. It is based on developmental age rather than chronological age and focuses on athlete development with special reference to growth. Long-Term Athlete Development (LTAD) describes the things kids need to be doing at specific ages and stages in their development.</p>
Major events	<p>These are larger sporting events that are considered larger or more specialized than regular season practice and competitions. These events may include both amateur and professional sport clubs who host invitational tournaments, which may include local, regional, provincial, western, national or international events.</p>
Multiplier Effect	<p>An effect in economics in which an increase in spending produces an increase in income and consumption greater than the initial amount spent. For example, if a sport tournament occurs in a municipality it will directly impact restaurants, hotels, and other service industries. Typically referenced in (Sport) Tourism calculations and reporting.</p>
Natural Turf	<p>Natural turf or grass playing surfaces have been used successfully for many years and there is a wealth of scientific data documenting their effectiveness and safety. With proper turf management and balanced use, natural grass fields have been proven to accommodate multiple sports team usage. They are easy and cost effective to install in communities, but cannot stand wear and tear in inclement weather conditions. This is considered to be their downfall when fields are needed in areas of drastic climate, such as Alberta.</p>
Neighborhood Fields	<p>Neighborhood fields are fields located in residential neighborhoods or in school yards throughout the city and can be used for recreation spontaneous use and booked use. They range in size from regulation sizes to very small. Ball diamonds typically have a backstop, may have grass or shale infields and small players' benches. Rectangle fields may have goal posts and typically do not receive lining services, unless a user group has requested it. Operational costs are limited to mowing and maintenance to mitigate risks to users.</p>
Partnerships	<p>An arrangement in which parties agree to cooperate to advance their mutual interests.</p>

Performance Field	Highest level of classification for a field or facility designed at a standard to accommodate hosting of higher competition levels. It may include such components as engineered construction, drainage, irrigation, seating, lighting and other support amenities and higher levels of maintenance and staff support.
Public Facility	Any building owned, controlled or maintained by The City including but not limited to: multi-purpose centres, tennis courts, swimming pools, coliseums, arenas, athletic playing fields, picnic shelters, washrooms, change rooms, golf courses, museums, performing arts theatres and community or activity shelters, and the property, grounds, and parking areas ancillary thereto. (City of Red Deer Parks and Public Facilities Bylaw)
Reciprocal Use Agreement	A formalized agreement reflecting the terms of mutual use of school and City community-service buildings and facilities between The City of Red Deer, The Red Deer Catholic Regional Division, The Red Deer Public School District and Greater North Central Education Region.
Rectangle fields	Rectangular fields are multipurpose grass fields that are lined to dimension primarily for Football, Flag Football, Soccer, and Field Lacrosse. For soccer these dimensions are outlined by ASAA, Alberta Soccer, Canadian Soccer Association and FIFA and for Football the dimensions are outlined by ASAA, Football Alberta and Football Canada.
Soccer	<p>A ball game using no hands: a game in which two teams of 11 players try to score by kicking or head butting a round ball into the net goals on either end of a rectangular field.</p> <p>Some of the soccer groups we have locally are Red Deer City Soccer Association (RDSCA), Red Deer College Kings/Queens, and Alberta Major Soccer League (AMSL)</p>
Slo-pitch	<p>Slo-pitch is a variant of baseball played with a larger, softer ball, on a larger field and considered a separate category under 'softball'. The ball is lobbed underhand without the use of a raised pitching mound.</p> <p>Local examples are Central Alberta Slo-Pitch Association, Red Deer Church League, and Hospital League.</p>
Softball	<p>Softball is a variant of baseball played with a larger ball on a smaller field. The ball is windmill-pitch without the use of a raised pitching mound.</p> <p>Local examples include Red Deer Minor Softball (female only) and Red Deer Ladies Fastball League.</p>
Specialized Fields	<p>Fields where there is currently only one located in Red Deer. There are only two specialized fields at this time in Red Deer. One is Cricket, which has an artificial turf pitch-strip and covers both Collicutt Soccer Fields East and West. The other is the Legion Track, which is situated at Lindsay Thurber Composite High School, and contains all Athletics venues.</p> <p>Locally these specialized fields are used by Titans Track and Field, Central Alberta Cricket Association (CACA).</p>

Sport	Sport is defined as an activity that requires a degree of physical exertion and skill and that typically involves competition with others and a set of rules, or as a physical activity undertaken to improve personal sporting performance (for example, training to reduce time or improve distance).
Sport Field Classification	Sport fields, including ball diamonds, soccer, and football classified by size, location, and sport requirements, available amenities and level of maintenance. In Red Deer, sport fields are classified as Performance, A, B, C, or Recreational Use. Corresponding service levels and fees related to classification are outlined in the Recreation, Parks & Culture User Fees Guide.
Sport Season	An approximate 10- 12 week period of play defined by The City of Red Deer, grouped by Spring/Summer and Summer/Fall seasons, traditional to each particular sport; however many sports now extend their training and competition activities throughout the year.
Sport Tourism	Any activity where people are attracted to and travel to a particular location because of sport. They can participate as a sport event participant, an event spectator a visitor to sport attractions or participant in sport-related business meetings. Sport tourism visitors will travel more than 100 km to reach the host community and/or stay overnight. Sport tourism is a fast growing sector of the global travel industry and equates to \$600 billion a year.
Standards of Play	Standards of play are based on the LTAD model and are determined for each specific sport by their respective provincial or national sport association and they outline the field requirements, numbers and requirements of games verses practices.
Synthetic Turf	Synthetic or artificial turf is a surface of synthetic fibers made to look like natural grass. It is most often used in arenas or sport fields for sports normally played on grass. Artificial turf stands up to heavy use, and requires no irrigation or trimming. Domed, covered, and partially covered stadiums may require artificial turf because of the difficulty to sustain natural turf. Increased usability in different weather events (rain, snow, hot dry sun) increase potential use and revenue, while reducing injury to the participant and damage to the field.
Tournament/Hosting Field Facility	A single venue or location where several competition-level games can be played simultaneously. They serve as being a catalyst for bringing major sports events to the city, contribute to the local sport groups' sustainability and growth, and can alleviate overuse of premium fields for league play.

Introduction

Purpose of Inventory and Assessment

In 2008, The City of Red Deer Recreation, Parks and Culture Community Assets Needs Assessment⁴³ outlined the need for a long-term Outdoor Sport Field Strategy and emphasized the importance of improving the use and quality of existing outdoor sport fields before developing new ones.

In response to that recommendation, this Inventory and Assessment is a comprehensive review of existing outdoor sport fields in the city and provides the basis to which the Strategic Direction outlines both short and long term strategies to insure maximized usability and to support active lifestyles for citizens.

Increased growth in the community and development of local sport organizations, along with changes to sport hosting requirements, are placing new and increasing demands on City facilities.

Also, with future neighbourhoods, high school and park sites being designed and developed, it is critical to complete this assessment to ensure that type and level(s) of sport field development is relevant and required.

Currently, Performance, Class A and B sport fields use in the existing inventory is guided by the RPC Sport Field Allocation Policy²⁰ and User Fee Guide.⁶⁶ Several sport groups, through agreements and past practices, have been granted the exclusive use of specific fields. These agreements outline the relationship, investment, liability and responsibilities between the two parties.

The vision of the Strategic Direction resulting from the Inventory Assessment and Analysis is that future planning and (re)development of sport fields will provide optimal accessibility, playability, and equitability of facilities, serving a continuum of needs from recreational to competitive use, maximizing existing and future resources. This would result in optimizing field bookings through effective allocation and strategically investing in sport fields going forward.

Project Outcomes

Prior to identifying the process to complete this report, the scope and anticipated outcomes were outlined. The following outcomes were identified in the Terms of Reference for this project:

Immediate

- Sport field user group needs and wants for current and future sport fields are understood.
- Sport field (re)development and resourcing is guided by current information on community needs and current sport standards.
- Strong relationships with sport field user groups are established.
- Sport field inventory is updated to include amenities and limitations that can be referenced for user group allocation and future planning.
- Programmable time at existing fields for City, community and sport groups' use is optimized.
- New knowledge and trends related to our service standards as well as host venue standards and requirements are integrated into City practices and decisions.*

** Outcome not originally anticipated, but a result of the process.*

Longer Term

- Ongoing maintenance needs for current and future sport fields are resourced to maintain quality amenities that meet the current and future needs and standards.
- Partnerships are identified and established to increase The City's capacity to provide sport fields through lease and land-use agreements.
- City of Red Deer's Sport Fields Allocation Policy is updated to include sport standards of play.
- Sport field (re)development supports a wide range of activities and sports to encourage active community life.
- City of Red Deer's GIS maps and website are updated to accurately reference sport field use and location of related amenities.

Process Overview

A project charter established the scope of the project as having a focus on outdoor sport fields, primarily ball diamonds and rectangular fields. Athletic fields (track and field) have also been included due to the inter-connectedness of rectangle fields.

It was acknowledged though that there may be other current or emerging needs for (re)development of other specialized outdoor sport groups, such as BMX, Field Lacrosse, Rugby, etc. Consideration of meeting these emerging needs should be given to site enhancement or development, where synergies and similar amenity needs exist. These opportunities are further explored in Part B: Strategic Direction Report.

This project consisted of two key phases:

1. Complete and update inventories of current facilities and their amenities and the needs of local sport organizations.
2. Complete an analysis and recommendations for future (re)development of sport fields over the next 5 – 15 years.

The following key elements to the process were identified:

- Assess and document current ball diamonds and rectangle fields, identifying support amenities, site benefits and limitations including creating a photo inventory of each site.
- Engage with local sport groups, including the high schools, through the use of an online survey completed in conjunction with one-on-one interviews, to determine current and future needs, challenges and opportunities.
- Review sport delivery and hosting requirements for local, provincial and national competitions to be completed through online research and interviews with relevant provincial and national sport organizations.
- Research other communities to identify and confirm current trends, strategies and plans.
- Converse with internal City staff, including those responsible for sport field bookings, sport field construction, maintenance and parks planning, and senior management.
- Update and align The City's sport field classifications for outdoor sport fields.
- Write a Strategic Directions report outlining, purpose, research findings, and recommendations.
- Present to department management, as required, once the project report and recommendations are finalized.

Benefits of Sport

Individual and Community

Research⁵⁵ indicates that sports in general provide many individual and community benefits, including:

- Creating or increasing a sense of belonging;
- Developing community identity;
- Deducing anti-social behaviour; and
- Improving active, healthy living.

Common Interests

It has the potential to bring community members together with a common interest, gathering at one place to share their passion for competition, recreation and skill development.

Recreational Use

In Red Deer, the majority of sport fields currently exist within neighbourhood park sites, which provide opportunities for both organized, developmental sport use, as well as recreational and spontaneous field use by neighbourhood residents. The availability of open green space and sports fields within our community is critical to ensure healthy residents now and in the future. Local neighbourhood sport fields provide individuals with the chance to engage with others from the neighbourhood in a positive way.

Personal Development

Sport also contributes to the development of personal skills in the areas of leadership, team work and self-discipline, while building a sense of belonging and identity. Sport is recognized for the significant number of volunteers engaged in the governance, fund development, officiating and coaching and while most voluntary organizations struggle to sustain their volunteer-base, sport groups often experience fewer challenges in volunteer recruitment, due to the large participation numbers of children and youth; securing higher parental involvement.



Healthy Living

In addition to improved strength, flexibility and overall cardiovascular health and healthy body weight, sport also provides individuals from similar or diverse backgrounds the opportunity to come together as a team or as a competitor. Through this they often develop relationships, networks and a sense of connectedness. The potential contribution to individual health and wellness is great when the “active for life” opportunities exist in the community.

Community Impact

Sport benefits extend beyond the individuals actually participating in the activity to those who may be involved as spectators, creating an opportunity to bring families and friends together, and unifying people into identifiable groups of supporters for a team or community.

Sports utilizing outdoor sport fields contribute to all of the aforementioned benefits, as well as the opportunity to participate and enjoy the outdoors.²

Sport benefits extend beyond the individuals actually participating in the activity to those who may be involved as spectators, creating an opportunity to bring families and friends together, and unifying people into identifiable groups of supporters for a team or community.

Economic Impact

It is also noted that sports and related amenities have economic benefits⁵⁵ associated with events, competitions and tournaments.

From the rental of the facilities to the multiplier effect resulting from hosting tournaments and promoting sport tourism, the community financially benefits from sport participation and infrastructure investment.

Community Profile

Red Deer and Region

The city of Red Deer is centrally located between the two major Alberta cities of Calgary and Edmonton and according to the 2014 Municipal Census⁵ has a population of 98,585.

As featured in The City’s “About Red Deer” document⁷, Red Deer has first class health and education facilities, beautiful parks and trails, abundant amenities and safe community make Red Deer a wonderful place to live or visit.

A growing manufacturing industry, a strong retail and wholesale service industry, agriculture, tourism, oil and petrochemical industries help ensure a diversified economy.

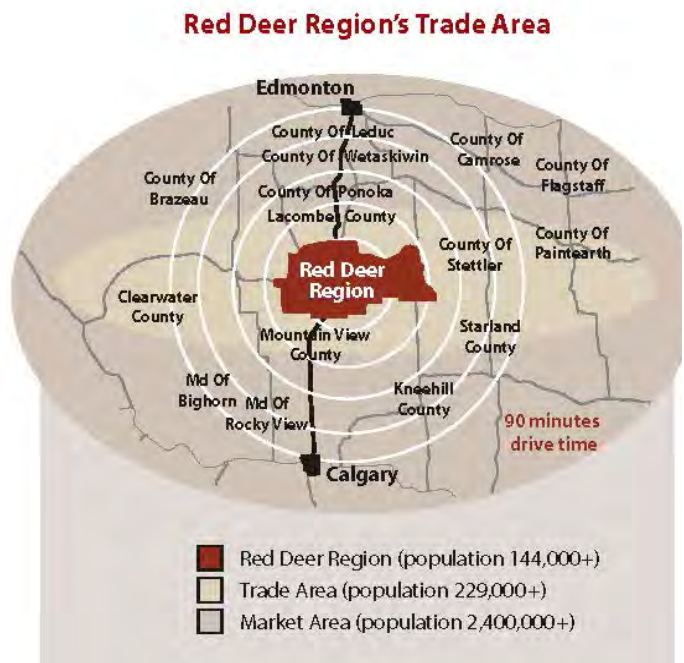
In the document, “Red Deer Corridor”⁴⁴ created in recent years by the Red Deer Regional Economic Development Alliance, it suggested that with an immediate trade area of more than 229,000 and market area of over 2.4 million, the area is unsurpassed in its recreational amenities.⁴⁴

Outdoor sport fields, including performance, specialty and multipurpose rectangular fields and diamonds, are a key component of The City of Red Deer’s infrastructure that supports sport, recreation, and leisure activities. These fields provide opportunities for groups of all ages and skill levels across a wide range of sports.

Local Demographics

2014 Municipal Census

The results of the 2014 Municipal Census revealed that Red Deer’s total population is 98, 585, with the city being home to 1,476 new residents – an increase of 1.5 per cent over 2013. The average age of Red Deerians is 31 with a 48.3% female population and 48.7% male population.



Source: Red Deer Corridor, Red Deer Regional Economic Development

The City of Red Deer Social Planning FCSS document “2011 Census Findings⁴⁹” identified the following populations and demographic trends:

- In 2011, the working-age population (those aged 15 to 64) represented 71.3% of Red Deer’s population. Among the working-age population, 25.7% were in the age group 45to 64 years.
- Married and common-law couples remained the predominant family structure (82.6%) with the rest 17.4% being lone-parent families. Two thirds of lone-parent families were females in 2011.
- The number of children aged 4 and under accounts for 6.9 % of Red Deer’s total population. While the children population between ages 5 to 14 years constituted 11.4% of the municipality’s total population.

Other 2011 Federal Census Highlights

The following Census highlights⁴ connect to the key drivers of sport participation being age, gender, household composition, household income and educational attainment further explored on page 34.

Red Deer growth rate and population	Up 7,411 or 8.9% from the 2006 Census to 90,565 in 2011
Family structure	82.6% couple families, 17.4% lone parent families
Couple families with children at home	10,180
Employment rate	68.8%
Average household income before tax	\$87,033
Average family income before tax	\$100,179
Average Individual income before tax	\$46,012
Education attainment	76.3% have High School and higher education

Population Projections

As suggested on The City’s website, according to “The City of Red Deer Population Project Update 2007-2031,” completed by Schollie Research and Consulting, Red Deer will continue to experience strong growth.⁶⁰

Report Highlights

- Average population growth rate for 2007-2012 is anticipated to be similar to what has been experienced over the past five years, which is approximately 3-4%. This assumes that the economic growth in the past years will sustain population growth levels for this period.
- Over the next 25 years for 2006 to 2031, The City of Red Deer is expected to grow at an average rate of 2.43 per cent annually. The slower growth rate used over the longer term in the population projection is reflective of an aging population and lower birth rate.

The complete population projection report projects population trends based on low, baseline and high growth scenarios. The baseline projection is considered the 'most likely' scenario.

Projected Population Growth - 2007 to 2031⁶⁰

Scenario	2007-2011 Average Annual Growth	2011 Projection	2012-2026 Average Annual Growth	2026 Projection	2027-2031 Average Annual Growth	2031 Projection	Projection Period Average Growth
Low Growth	3.55 %	98,774	1.38 %	121,241	2.40 %	136,502	2.02 %
Baseline	4.00 %	100,941	1.76 %	131,049	2.90 %	151,182	2.43 %
High Growth	5.00 %	105,888	2.56 %	154,599	3.65 %	184,945	3.26 %

Baseline projections in this report note the following assumptions:

- As per provincial and national trends, Red Deer fertility rates will generally decline and death rates will increase slowly.
- Migration rates will be influenced by economic growth.

According to the “Alberta Population Projection Highlights 2013 – 2041” document⁹, expansion of Alberta’s population will continue – average annual growth rate of 1.5%. By 2041, Alberta’s population is projected to be around 6 million. By 2041, almost eight out of ten Albertans are expected to live within two hours of Red Deer in the Calgary-Edmonton Corridor, one of three strongest growth areas over the projection period.

In this document, the Red Deer Census Division (CD 8) which includes Red Deer County, Lacombe County and Ponoka County and municipalities within, has a 2041 Projected Population (medium growth scenario) of 325,905, which will equal about 5.4% of the province’s population.

Municipal Influences and Priorities

External Documents

Scanning the provincial and national policies is a vital part of the Strategic Directions since our users relate to these documents as guiding principles in the delivery of their respective sports.

Municipal governments are outlined as a key player related to the provision and or support of sport facilities, programs and services.

Canadian Sport Policy

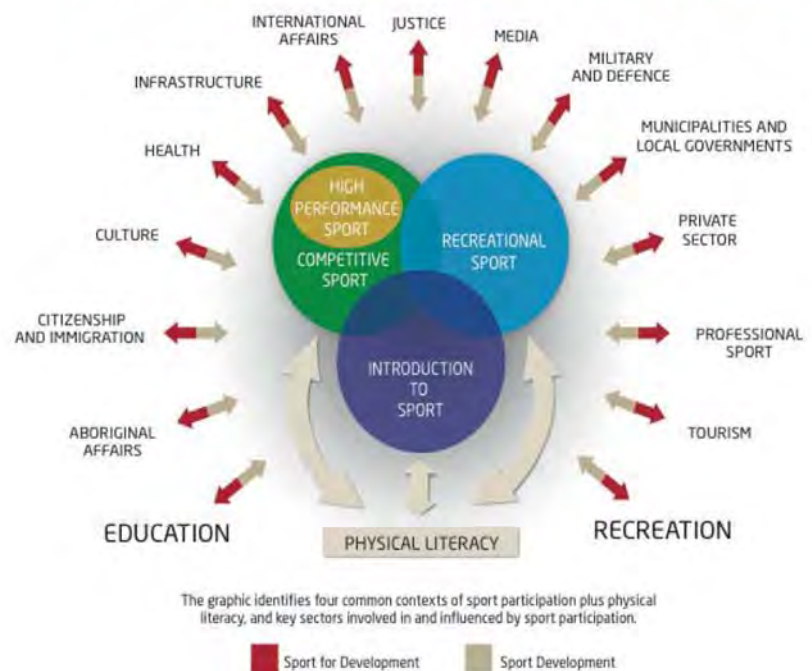
The Canadian Sport Policy¹² outlines four main contexts of sport participation:

1. Introduction to sport;
2. Recreational sport;
3. Competitive sport; and
4. High performance sport.

The role of municipal governments and educational institutions, along with other stakeholders, are primary supporters of these four contexts by contributing through the building, maintenance and upgrading of sport and recreation facilities, and to host sport events.

This does not mean that *all* recreation and sport facilities are the responsibility of the municipal government alone, but it does outline them as a key player.

CSP 2012 – Policy Framework



- Illustration from the Canadian Sport Policy

Canadian Sport for Life

Additionally, the Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) Model highlights seven stages of long-term athlete development (LTAD) and participation in sport:

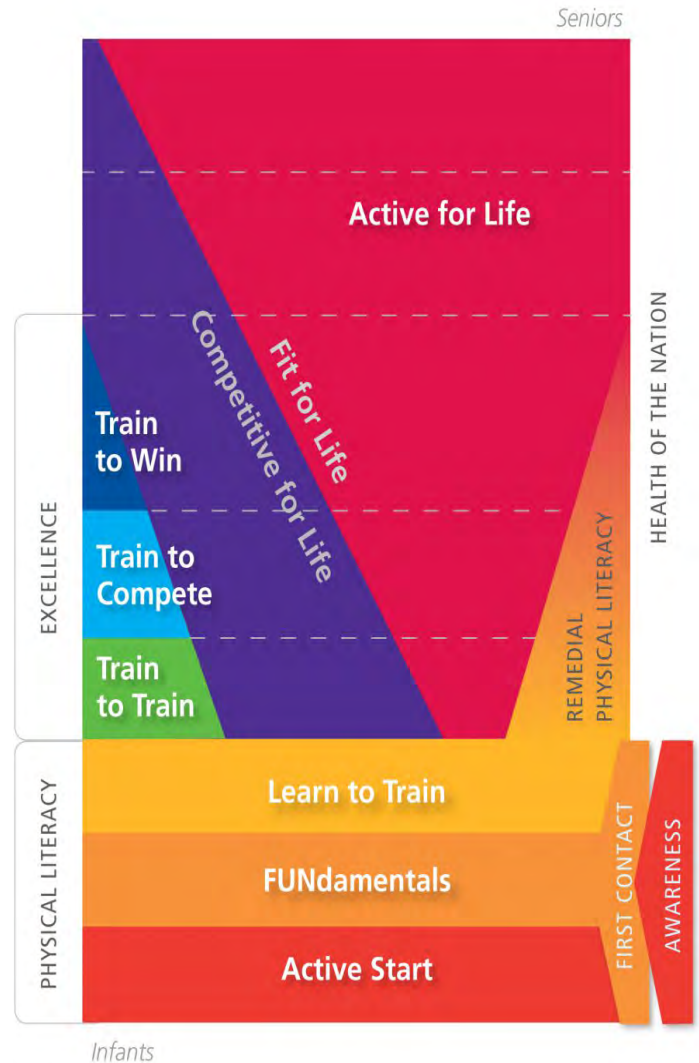
Stage Name	Age group
Active Start	0-6 years
Fundamentals	Girls 6-8 and Boys 6-9
Learn to Train	Girls 8-11 and Boys 9-12
Train to Train	Girls 11-15 and Boys 12-16
Train to Compete	Girls 15-21 and Boys 16-23
Train to Win	Girls 18+ and Boys 19+
Active for Life	Any age participant

The CS4L Long Term Athlete Development model is presented in the image on the right and shows the relationship between physical literacy, sport excellence and being active for life.

While all stakeholders within the sport delivery continuum play a part of any of these stages, it is generally accepted that municipalities have a responsibility in the provision of programs and services, within the *Active Start*, *FUNDamentals* and *Active for Life* stages of the model.

In the CS4L model it is suggested that municipalities also play a vital role in providing the facilities for *all* of the stages to occur because it supports:

- health and wellness;
- tourism;
- creating or increasing a sense of belonging;
- developing community identity;
- reducing anti-social behaviour; and
- improving life-long active, healthy living.



Active Alberta Policy

The Active Alberta Policy⁸ (2011 – 2022) clearly outlines the role of municipal governments in sport and recreation delivery. These roles are to:

- Ensure availability, affordability and accessibility of a broad range of recreation, active living and sport opportunities;
- Undertake regular assessment to determine community needs or interests;
- Facilitate local development through municipal policy, bylaws, as well as program design and delivery;
- Provide incentives and services to programs;
- Coordinate the best use of community resources;
- Build, operate and maintain infrastructure and facilities;
- Make best efforts to the recreation needs of the community;
- Advise and consult with other levels of government regarding sector development initiatives;
- Advocate on behalf of community-based recreation, active living and sport initiatives to other levels of government and within other service sectors;
- Support the volunteer and not-for-profit sector in the provision of recreation, active living and sport opportunities; and
- Optimize access and use of public recreation facilities.



Internal Documents

Through research and assessment, it was found that in many cases The City’s established principles and documents offer no direct reference to sport, sport development or specifically sport field development. The internal framework documents referenced in this section demonstrate an alignment to the overall intent or outcomes related to the needs and benefits for outdoor sport field (re)development. The recommendations in Part B: Strategic Direction Report are guided by these principles and documents.

Purpose Statements

City Council identified, through policy, several Purpose Statements (2013) that support and direct the overall vision for the community, to be a sustainable, vibrant, thriving community where citizens have a high quality of life.

Four of six purpose statements were identified to be directly related to outdoor sport fields:

Purpose Statement	Application to Sport Field Inventory and Assessment
Civic Pride & Ownership ¹⁵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="477 1010 1412 1241">▪ Sport in general has historically been a key factor in a community’s identity. Sport teams who represent the community, especially on a provincial, national or even international stage, are recognized for their contribution to civic pride and a sense of ownership. Sport brings a sense of connectedness and commonality to citizens, regardless of their cultural, social or economic differences.<li data-bbox="477 1297 1412 1486">▪ Increasing the capacity to host larger events leads to improved sustainability of sport groups and increased participation will only enhance our community’s ability to “cheer for the home-team,” and be recognized as a sport hosting leader across the province and country.

Purpose Statement	Application to Sport Field Inventory and Assessment
Wellbeing of the Community ⁶⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participation in sport and sport development are considered key components to ensure citizens achieve and maintain active lifestyles; opportunities for participation must be available. ▪ Sport participation throughout an individual’s life may take on different forms, but ultimately all contribute to a healthy active lifestyle. An individual may participate in many different types of sports, (indoor, outdoor, individual, team, summer, winter, etc.), which requires that the community consider providing or supporting the development of a variety of amenities. ▪ Sport development requires the consideration of the level of the participant; leisure to competitive. In regards to outdoor sport field (re)development, it is important to try to address both the diversity of participation and level, to ensure relevant and efficient use of resources.

Purpose Statement	Application to Sport Field Inventory and Assessment
Sustained & Enhanced Prosperity ⁵⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sport contributes to two key elements by supporting conditions for a diversified, stable, resilient economy and being nationally and internationally competitive for talent and investment. Through sport tourism and hosting, the community has the potential to enhance its profile, visitors, and economic generation. ▪ Several communities have identified sport hosting as a key part of their identity, such as Kamloops, British Columbia. ▪ While (re)investment in other sport facilities will also improve our ability to host larger sport-related events, outdoor sport field hosting sites are typically an economical investment compared to other larger, more complex facilities. Since these fields are typically related to summer sports, participants often use competitions as ‘summer vacations’ and may in fact stay longer in the community than winter sporting events. ▪ Being nationally and internationally competitive for talent, in the context of sport, requires a commitment to sport development and sport competition event hosting. While the majority of the sport delivery in Red Deer is conducted through a large number of sport groups, many of the facilities and support amenities that are required to develop, support, and showcase athletic talent is provided or supported by The City.

Sustained Use of Resources⁵⁶

- For efficient use and accommodation of future land use it is important to be strategic and deliberate when addressing community needs; outdoor sport fields included. The Strategic Direction recommendations have been identified, keeping this principle in mind. Recommendations consider the enhancement of our existing neighbourhood sport fields and efficient planning for new fields to ensure the largest number of users can benefit in the development of the land.
-

Although not a Purpose Statement, the Sponsorship Policy⁵⁰ recently approved by City Council supports the implementation of a corporate sponsorship policy program. Once this planning has been completed, many opportunities for sponsorship may be utilized in the development of new outdoor sport field facilities.

Neighbourhood Planning & Design Standards (NPDS)

The NPDS³⁷ guidelines are a critical part of future neighbourhood development and provide direction to both City staff and developers of new neighbourhoods to ensure agreed upon standards are achieved.

Outdoor sport field requirements are outlined within this document, under principle 5 – *Integrated Parks & Community Spaces*.

The two key principle elements indicate developers are to:

- (5.11) Construct park amenities in early phases where a development is greater than one quarter.
- (5.12) Consult RPC to identify where major sport fields and formalized outdoor sports facilities are located within the neighbourhood based on city-wide planning and anticipated neighbourhood demographic needs.

As it is the responsibility of RPC department staff to support the neighbourhood planning process, recommendations in the Strategic Direction Report will provide support and direction for future outdoor sport field development.

Recreation, Parks and Culture Community Asset Needs Assessment – CANA, 2008

The CANA study⁴³ completed in 2008 through consultation with the majority of the city’s major sport groups continues to provide the department with recommendations for asset development for the RPC department.

While it was to continue to provide direction until 2033, the recommendations are broad in nature and still require subsequent detailed planning and assessment to determine implementation strategies.

In pages 5-20 of the document, key principles to be used when planning and (re)developing RPC assets are identified and grouped by theme. They include:

Strategic Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Focus on value to achieve the most significant results (output/outcome) for tax dollar.▪ Careful design and development of new facilities to ensure long-term usefulness and appeal, considering its efficiency, effectiveness and flexibility.▪ Ensure sustainability of the facility in the context of social, cultural, economic, environmental, and governance.
Partnerships and Role Identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Pursue partnerships with community groups and regional partners, but role definition is crucial.▪ While there will always be a role for some City directed and operated programming, the emphasis should be on maintaining assets so that community groups can use them in delivering their programming.▪ City must play the role of balancing a multitude of facility requests and needs.▪ Must acknowledge that partnerships require time and ongoing effort.
Sustainability and Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Consider more than immediate capital costs; ensure longer- term maintenance costs and refurbishment requirements are considered.▪ Confirm the project supports the existing RPC mandate as it is integral to determine where RPC can best add value in serving the community.▪ Optimize the benefits of “reciprocal use’ agreements.

Planning Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A community development approach should be applied to projects, considering diversity, inclusion, sustainability, creativity, community governance and active living needs. ▪ Continue to rely on Neighbourhood Planning Guidelines and standards (NPGS) as it relates to sport field and outdoor facility development planning. ▪ Build flexibility into amenity planning and development. ▪ Continue to support integrated transportation system planning, such as trails and transit, when developing facilities. ▪ Create a model of evaluating opportunities.
Inventory and Maintenance System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase integration and linkages to create an effective system of managing inventory data ▪ Use a standard system of facility classification. ▪ Continue to use IMP approach to planning.

CANA Strategy 2.3.6 specifically references recommendations for outdoor sport field facilities:

Expanding Sport Field Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus groups and survey responses strongly indicated that athletic fields are viewed as a priority. ▪ Develop sport fields together, as much as possible (clustering), to reduce the number of 'stand-alone' fields. ▪ To accommodate community growth and the replacement of Edgar Sport fields, the development of a major athletic park was identified as a need. ▪ The types of fields being developed, do not match the needs of the users.
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<p>Development of a Major 50-60 acre Athletic Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Edgar sport fields are used to capacity and lack adequate amenities such as parking and utility servicing. ▪ It is located in an industrial area and although this was to be a temporary location for sport fields, they have now been there for nearly 20 years and an exchange for this property to another, more suitable location, may be timely. ▪ The high level of use on current facilities restricts user groups' capacity to host games and practices. ▪ Groups expressed the desire for, and willingness to support, a multi-use facility that would make possible the opportunity to host both league games and tournaments. ▪ Edgar fields should be maintained but not upgraded until new fields are available to replace them.
<p>Pursue Partnerships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partnerships should be considered with other regional municipal partners for potential sites and other stakeholders to ensure designs are consistent with user group requirements and shared responsibilities for maintenance and reduced operating costs.
<p>Upgrade Program of Existing Outdoor Facilities</p>	<p>Beginning in 2009, commit to upgrading existing outdoor facilities to make them more suitable for user group needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue the practice of not using storm ponds for sport field use. ▪ Development and maintenance standards for sport field classifications. ▪ Work with stakeholders to increase their capacity to support field operation and maintenance.
<p>Reconfigure Great Chief Park (GCP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current surfaces at GCP should be upgraded to enhance quality and increase capacity, until a new athletic park is created. ▪ Surfaces added to the various fields. ▪ Artificial turf and dressing room improvements to accommodate use until a new site is identified then acquired and developed.

Redevelop Great Chief Park

- Should complement activities and amenities at Bower Ponds. *

** The Great Chief Park Enhancement Concept Plan was completed in August 2012 and outlined plans supporting the recommendations above. Some implementation of the plan has been completed; future projects dependent on capital funding approval.*

Economic Development Strategy

The Economic Development Strategy²² completed in July 2013 suggests economic development enhances the general population’s quality of life and socio-economics, and strives to create more sustainable long-term economic opportunities. Intelligent and conscientious land use planning should be hallmarks of economic development.

Health and Wellness and Tourism were identified as “weaknesses” or factors that place Red Deer at a “disadvantage relative to others.” Higher rates of obesity, low birth weight, smoking and heavy drinking and a lower than average number of physicians per capita were identified as impacting the quality of care and life of residents. Regarding Tourism, it’s suggested that Red Deer lacks an “iconic attraction,” as well as marketing and regional packaging. The strategy suggested that Red Deerians perceive a gap between the tourism activity they observe and the potential they imagine.

Community Services Open Spaces & Facilities Action Plan - 2011 – 2015¹⁹

This internal planning document aligns with The City’s Neighbourhood Planning Guidelines and Standards (NPGS), The City’s 10 year Capital plan, and Infrastructure Maintenance Plan²⁶ and includes facilities within the scope of the Community Services Division. It provides direction for the Division as facilities and green spaces are develop and maintained. In October 2013, a status update was completed on the original document and additional actions were added. These are indicated in italics.

The strategies specific to outdoor sport fields outlined in the Plan include:

Action 10 – Edgar Athletic Park

Retain as a community multi-use sport field facility *and explore the possibility of a land swap and new location for Edgar User Groups.*

- When appropriate, explore alternative sites for future facility development of city-wide sport fields.
 - Provide facilitative role in supporting the community use of this multi-use facility.
-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review user group ‘use agreements.’ ▪ <i>Development of the Sport Field Inventory and Assessment</i>
Action 15 – Great Chief Park	<p>Maintain and operate as a major spectator athletic park for an interim period until future redevelopment and reconfiguration plans for the park are fully developed and implemented. There are other strategies related to this Action, however they are specific to GCP and do not directly relate to this report.</p>
Action 42 – Athletic Parks	<p>Development of athletic parks will take into consideration current Major Area Structure Plans (MASP) and future Neighbourhood Area Structure Plans (NASP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assemble land as it comes available and is financially feasible for the future development of a major 50-60 acre school and athletic park site. ▪ Establish a high-level concept plan for the Hazlett Lake area.
Action 43 – Ball Diamonds	<p>Implement ball diamond maintenance standards to ensure safe, acceptable play surfaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing maintenance – Maintain standard that exists, additional maintenance equals additional resources and money ▪ Undertake a review and analysis of user group needs, regarding diamond types and sizes compared to existing inventory. ▪ <i>Development of the Sport Field Inventory and Assessment</i>
Action 67 – Sport Fields	<p>Sport fields facilities will be developed and maintained as set out in the NPDGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing maintenance as required. Maintain standard that exists; additional maintenance equals additional resources and money. ▪ Pursue partnerships in the development of future sport fields. ▪ Work with stakeholders to increase the capacity to support their organizational booking and sport needs. ▪ Review, update and, where appropriate, establish ‘exclusivity agreements with user groups.

-
- Undertake a review and analysis of user group needs regarding field types and sizes as compared to existing inventory.
 - *Use Sport Field Inventory & Assessment as a tool to repurpose, upgrade existing fields and the strategic development of new sites.*
-

There are also general principle statements identified under “Recreation-Built Spaces” category that inform the Strategic Direction Report recommendations. These include:

**Action 88 –
Overall
Involvement**

Requests for City involvement in new RPC facilities will be considered on a case-by-case basis including a review of City planning documents, policies, past and current practices, and gaps in existing availability or access.

Revitalize and/or repurpose existing facilities; develop new multi-purpose facilities to accommodate growth.

- Continue to emphasize multi-use facilities where recreation and culture programs and activities take place
 - Develop a “Community Facility Plan” with RDC, Red Deer County, SCoRD and Westerner to ensure a coordinated approach.
 - Explore partnerships in the upgrading/development and operation of facilities
-

Reciprocal Use Agreement

The Reciprocal Use Agreement⁴¹ between The City and local school boards outlines specific terms within the Rules, Policies and Procedures document related to the use of neighbourhood sport fields located in the same location as a school.

They include:

- The joint use of parking lots for City activities after 6 pm and on weekends;
- Community Sport fields available for drop in use Monday – Friday from Sept to June prior to 6 pm only, and
- A rental fee applies to school use of community fields booked through the week after 6 pm and on Saturday, Sunday, Statutory Holidays and during the months of July and August.

Within the current RPC department sport field classification system* many of the Class A fields are located on these school sites and are in very high demand by both the school and community users.

This reality impacts availability and leads to limitations and turf quality concerns, especially related to rectangle fields at high school sites.

For example, there are two exclusive use agreements between The City and community sport groups currently using facilities on school sites. These baseball and softball sites are located in West Park and are used for tournament hosting and the majority of league play, causing some challenges and conflicts with neighbours as well as limitations to upgrade options on the site.

**Details regarding the RPC sport field classifications are found on page 49.*



Lindsay Thurber Composite High School,
Athletics Track and Rectangle Field



Douglas Park Diamond next to Holy Family School

City's Role and Service Continuum

The municipality's role in sport and recreation delivery is based on principles, values and policy. It is critical to provide opportunities for growth, change, partnerships and situational differences, to ensure that sustainable, relevant, planning and delivery can occur, with its available resources.

In Red Deer's development as a community, sport facilities and amenities have emerged and been developed through various means. Furthermore, The City has played, and continues to play, a variety of roles in the development of these facilities and the service level they provide.

These roles can be summarized using this continuum:

DIRECT PROVIDER	DIRECT PROVIDER OF THE FACILITY, LAND OR RESOURCES ONLY	PARTNER	SUPPORTER
<p>The City builds the facility and continues to operate the facility with available operational resources. It strives to meet determined service levels and customer service expectations.</p> <p>Examples: Collicutt Centre, Red Deer Arena, and neighbourhood sport fields, not including West Park</p>	<p>The City provides the facility, land or resources but is not involved in the operation of the facility.</p> <p>Examples: Enmax Centrum, and Red Deer Curling – Pidherney Centre</p>	<p>The City works with other agencies or groups to create facilities and support ongoing operations.</p> <p>Examples: West Park baseball / softball diamonds, BMX, Edgar Athletic Park, Red Deer Gymnastics, and Red Deer College</p>	<p>The City lends support to the development of a facility in principle but nothing beyond.</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>Municipal Letters of Support are requested by other municipalities, groups and organizations to support grant applications or initiatives.</p>

Allocation Policy and Procedures

RPC has developed facility allocation procedures to provide a transparent, consistent approach to facility rental space allocation. The Community Sport Fields Allocation Procedure²⁰ focuses on Performance, Class A and B fields. It does not include recreational / leisure fields, classified Class C and D, as they are intended for spontaneous leisure use.

The allocation procedure(s):

- Establishes consistent and equitable processes for the booking and allocation of outdoor sport fields;
- Provides consistent booking timelines and dates for staff and user groups for booking and renting sport fields;
- Establishes consistent field classifications and definitions related to sport fields and their use;
- Defines “Sport Seasons” for the various sport user groups as they relate to the “Per Participant Fee”; and
- Defines priorities for bookings, considering various sport ‘seasons’.

The following table illustrates the typical sport seasons for the outdoor field sport amenities:

Spring and Summer Field Use	May 1 – July 15*	Soccer/Football fields – soccer Cricket/Soccer field – cricket/soccer, field lacrosse	Diamonds – softball, baseball, slo-pitch
Summer and Fall Field Use	July 15 – October 31	Soccer/Football fields –football, field lacrosse Cricket/Soccer – cricket, soccer, field lacrosse	Diamonds – softball, baseball, slo-pitch

** Groups start using these fields in early April outside of the booking window.*

These policies capture the current and historic practices of the department. Since historic use is the first consideration in terms of responding to conflicting requests, there are challenges for new emerging sports and sports requiring facilities outside their ‘traditional’ seasons.

The Strategic Direction Report recommends a review of these policies and integration of sport Standards of Play* as a determinant of allocation.

**Standards of Play descriptions found on page 47.*

Charges for outdoor sport field use are determined applying the RPC User Fee Guide information.

The two formulas used for determining fees are shown below:

Formula One	Formula Two
<p>Hourly rates for Class A fields are also outlined in the RPC User Fee Guide and include different charges for neighbourhood, Red Deer College and Great Chief Park performance fields.</p>	<p>The Per Participant Fee is an annual fee charged to residential, non-profit sport groups for each of their youth participants for use of Class B and C fields.</p> <p>The fee includes regular maintenance and lining of requested fields and represents a 12 week season for the sport. Any additional use or service requests (field lining, etc.) outside of that period are not included and additional fees may result.</p> <p>I.e. Soccer is May – July 15 +/- = 10 weeks</p>

Intent of Use Agreements

As mentioned, various arrangements between The City and community sport groups have emerged over time related to access, operation and management of neighbourhood outdoor sport fields.

For example the following are agreements that currently exist between The City and LSO:

- Red Deer Minor Softball Association
- Red Deer Minor Baseball Association
- Red Deer City Soccer Association
- Central Alberta Slo-Pitch Association
- Red Deer Minor Football
- Central Alberta Cricket Association

General Agreement Principles

The general principles in these agreements include that:

- The City is the registered owner of the land and related facilities (“Fields”) and the agreement deals with risk and liability, access, response, maintenance, fees, and capital upgrades;
- The City has a Reciprocal Agreement with the Public School Board, Catholic School Board to grant the exclusive right to use and occupy the Fields so the LSO must comply and adhere to this agreement; and

- The City grants the use of the fields to the LSO, as they do not pay any annual fees for booking the fields. In return the fields or diamonds are maintained or upgraded by the LSO.

The benefits of the agreement are that it:

- Guarantees the User Group exclusive use of a specific field(s) and the legal right to occupy this land for a period of time for the stated purpose;
- Prevents and resolves field use conflicts an extended period of time;
- Provides for upgrades and maintenance of the fields at the cost to LSO; and
- Provides for improved seasonal planning for both the LSO and The City.

Sport & Facility Trends

Sport Trends

Nationally, sport trends and participation rates provide overall considerations to help determine future sport needs and challenges.

A brief summary of these trends are outlined below. The key drivers of participation in sport⁵⁵ include:

Key Driver	Explanation
Age	Active participation strongly correlates to age, falling steadily through to the senior years.
Gender	Men are more likely than women to be active participants in sport.
Household composition	The presence of children in the household significantly impacts the pattern of adult participation in sport, especially adult volunteerism, which can double.
Household income	People with high incomes are more likely to participate in sport than are people who earn less.
Educational attainment	The greater someone's education, the more likely he or she is to participate.

Other notable sport participation trends include⁶³:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Generally, national sport participation rate continues to decline. Individual pursuits are increasing. * 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A consistent decrease in organized sport participation across all age groups.*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participation highly concentrated in a few sports – soccer, baseball, and golf was in the top 20 out 100 sports. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gender makes a difference – men participate more actively than women, especially in competitive sport.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children aged 5 to 14 prefer soccer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students participate more actively in sport than any other group.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active participation declining, while volunteering in sports increasing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involvement in amateur sport as spectators almost doubled from 1992 to 2005.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parents actively involved in sports, (playing and/or volunteering) have a higher rate of children who participate in sport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Top ten most heavily reported sporting activities for late teens and adults in both 1998 and 2005 include: golf, ice hockey, swimming, soccer, basketball, baseball, volleyball and skiing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sport clubs are experiencing substantially higher expectations from sports participants and parents, as well as their regional, provincial and national associations. Increased expectations for facility standards, revenue generation, volunteer commitment and coaching standards and performance. (I.e. artificial turf, enhanced amenities, year-round training opportunities, higher levels of training and certification for volunteer coaches, hosting obligations.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risk management is a significant focus of community sport organizations.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fund development and sustainability is a constant challenge for not-for-profit sport groups. ▪ Smaller sport organizations are looking to merge and align resources with other similar sport groups to increase capacity and decrease operational demands.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Costs to participate in community sport is increasing due to costs related to additional training, year-round facility rentals, coaches training, fund-raising commitments, and specialized sporting equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Since the late 1990's, communities have looked to new sources of economic growth and identity. This initially started with cultural tourism (festivals and special events) to now incorporate sporting events. For example communities such as Kamloops worked to redefine itself as “the tournament capital of Canada.’

* Note: Despite decreased participation trends in a variety of sports, Red Deer’s population growth exceeds the degree to which sport participation has decreased. Upon reviewing local sport participation numbers, there is no indication that this is the case in Red Deer.

Adults

According to the Canadian Fitness & Lifestyle Research Institute¹, the rates of outdoor field sports adults participate in are:

- 17% soccer
- 14% baseball/softball
- 5% football/rugby
- 3% Track and Field

Children and Youth

According to the 2010-2011 Physical Activity Monitor³:

Overall Sport Participation trends for children in Alberta	Approximation of comparable number of Red Deer children*	<i>* Approximation is based on 2013 Municipal Census data that groups ages 5-9 years, 10-14 years, and 15-19 years versus the 5-17 years range noted in the Alberta statistics.</i>
78% of children ages 5-17 in Alberta participate in sport compared to the national average of 74%	12,611	
27% of children participate in sports for less than 8 months out of the year,	4,365	
26% of children participate in sports for 8-11 months.	4,204	
46% children participate in sports all year round, 12 months per year.	7,437	

% breakdown of children's participation by sport relevant to this report in Alberta.	Approximation of comparable number of Red Deer children*	Actual reported participation in similar sport type, based on sport group information.
38% soccer	6,144	2,750
13% baseball (boys)	2,102	407
7% softball (girls)	1,132	200
6% football/rugby	970	420 (RDMFA & High Schools)

Facility Trends

This study is designed to assess the need for a range of outdoor sport fields. This includes specialized facilities serving a narrower segment of the population (e.g. football and lacrosse) to facilities such as soccer and ball, which are used by a larger number of participants. While there are certain trends associated with each sport, there are also a number of trends which apply broadly to the provision of sport fields.⁴⁷

<p>Aging Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Municipalities are challenged by aging infrastructure and resource restraints (land costs, infrastructure and capital resources) Development and redevelopment of sport fields needs to be strategic and relevant to ensure good return on investment and extended life-cycles.
<p>Demand for Amenities & High Quality Facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Today’s consumers expect and demand high quality. This is a trend which is as applicable to sports fields as it is to the purchase of consumer goods. It translates into a demand for washrooms, parking, and higher quality turf management. The introduction and rise in user fees increases the expectation for higher levels of service and facilities.
<p>Development of Youth Programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sports which have been in decline provincially (e.g. baseball, softball) are focusing on the early years with programs to acquaint children with the sport and introducing aspects to the game which are fitness oriented. This requires access to lower-cost, smaller, developmental fields and synergies between City-delivered programs and other similar sport groups. The incorporation of the LTAD model of sport delivery continues to guide and direct sport-development programs.
<p>Facility Allocation - Competition for a Scarce Resource</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Traditionally many municipalities have relied on a field allocation system which is based on historical allocation. This is changing as allocation based on “last year’s allotment” is being recognized as an approach with inherent inequities. For example, female sports teams can be at a disadvantage because their participation in many sports is growing. ▪ New, emerging sports and sports that have expanded their typical seasons such as field hockey, spring football, and fall slo-pitch are also at a disadvantage. When facility supply is an issue, groups compete for a scarce resource. Many municipalities are changing their facility-use allocations policies by integrating the LTAD model and specific sport development requirements in decision-making.

Irrigation, Pest Management & Weed Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Irrigation is becoming a standard feature in sport field development. Irrigated fields adapt to environmental challenges and subsequently handle more participants. Lack of irrigation leads to field compaction and degradation and possibly injuries. In addition current initiatives regarding pesticide/herbicide management, water management and environmental stewardship may also be significant issues for field management. ▪ The trend toward the use of artificial turf reduces issues such as environmental impacts and extends the opportunity for play during shoulder seasons and diversifies the user base. While there are costs related to artificial turf maintenance other existing artificial turf facilities report positive cost benefit.
Lighting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lighting of sport fields permits additional players to be accommodated. The lighting of fields is a strategy that is implemented when the shortage of fields is an issue. ▪ While lighting is a desirable amenity, it is also costly. It is standard practice to pass the operational cost of lighting directly to the consumer. Many minor sports groups, however, do not want to pay the extra costs associated with lighting resulting in dilemma for municipalities trying to meet the demand for playing fields.
Multi-field Sport Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building on the aspect of convenience and consumer demand for high quality facilities, the traditional single field is losing favour to multi-field parks, which can provide amenities such as parking, concession stands and washrooms more efficiently. Such facilities are also gaining favour because they cater to the lucrative tournament market and provide opportunities for households to have participants at the same location at the same time. ▪ Clustering and multi-use function facilities are needed to diversify and increase use and sustainability.
Municipalities Playing Catch Up in Sport Field Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ While participant and demographic trends indicate some leveling off in sport fields demand (e.g. soccer), many jurisdictions are still playing catch-up. ▪ Municipalities need to engage in long-range planning for future facility needs, considering the needs for emerging outdoor sport field facilities and how existing facilities can be used to better meet growing demand.

<p>Partnerships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is increasingly common practice for sports groups to play a role in facility development including construction, sponsorship and operation of recreation facilities. ▪ Different types of partnerships and funding arrangements for facility development and operation are being established as municipal government resources are being stretched and expectations/facility needs are increasing. Sponsorship, naming, advertising and public/private/agency partnerships are becoming more common.
<p>Risk Assessment & Liability Concerns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One of the issues associated with aging facilities is risk assessment and liability. Baseball Ontario identifies this as one of the major issues impacting their sport and one which should be of concern to municipalities who are the providers of the vast majority of sport fields, to mitigate potential litigation.
<p>School Facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many of the neighbourhood sport fields are located on a school site. This is a practical location, as it provides for school-based curriculum requirements to be met as well as organized sports and spontaneous neighbourhood use. It is a challenge if the site is used for tournament hosting that may require the groups to have official tents/trailers on site and fencing of the outfields. ^{ibid}
<p>The Trend Towards Year-Round Play and Longer Seasons of Play</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the past, soccer players played in the summer, hockey players played in the winter and football players played only in the fall. Today, however, there is a general trend towards year-round participation, which is creating field maintenance and booking issues for facility providers.

Hosting Requirements

Hosting requirements are specific to each sport type and therefore each type of field. These are set and determined by the provincial and national organizations representing the various sports.

While there are ‘must haves’ for each type of event there are also ‘nice-to-haves.’ To stay true to the requirements of a hosting site, if there are other amenities added to the site, it will likely improve both the usability, marketability for the bidding process and sustainability for the hosting group.



In the tables on the following pages the hosting requirements for each type of outdoor field sport are provided for both Provincial and National events.

These are requirements that are reviewed and incorporated into any tournament or hosting site development planning. The ones marked with an “R” are required and with an “N” are nice to have, but not required.

Hosting requirements consistently change and should be reviewed on a regular basis to keep up with current trends and needs.

Partnerships and cost-sharing models need to be considered to achieve the required amenity standard. Basic facility services and development typically receives municipal support. Fund development and partnerships need to be considered in all future development to meet provincial or national requirements. This will also improve the operational sustainability of the facilities and the users hosting the events.

The assessment of current inventory related to hosting requirements is found on page 67.

FOOTBALL

A Performance facility must have one field 110 yards in length X 65 yards in width to host.

National	Provincial	
R	R	1 field must have lights
R	R	Adequate seating (2500 + for ASAA/National events, 1000 for Provincial events), permanent seats not required
R	R	Washrooms / change rooms on location
R	R	Permanent or non-permanent administration building / trailer and concession
R	R	Natural turf must be properly groomed to Football Canada standards
N	N	Natural turf or comparable artificial surface preferred for elite Provincials competition
R	R	Synthetic turf is required for ASAA championships and elite National championships
R	R	Practice fields close in proximity (grass turf acceptable)
R	R	South located score clock and safe spotter box for scorekeepers 50 ft from field and 25 ft high
R	R	Heated dressing rooms that hold 50 per room, sport therapy room and organizers / referees' room




Authorities:

Outlined by Provincial – National events includes NSO, PSO and ASAA


SOCCER

A Performance facility must have one to two **or more** fields in one location and 100 – 110 yards in length X 60-70 yards in width to host.

National	Provincial		
R	N	One field must have lights	 <p>Authorities: Outlined by ASAA, Alberta Soccer, Canadian Soccer Association & FIFA</p>
N	N	Synthetic turf not required	
R	R	Adequate seating (500 + for national events) not required to be permanent	
R	R	Washrooms / change rooms on location, but permanent is not required	
R	R	Permanent or non-permanent administration building / trailer	
R	R	Natural turf must be properly cut to meet CSA standards	
R	R	If synthetic turf is used, it must be FIFA/CSA approved	
R	R	Practice fields close in proximity – can't be main competition pitch	


BASEBALL

A Performance facility must have two to four clustered fields with 225-375 ft left and right field dimensions with fenced outfields to host youth and senior events.

National	Provincial		
R	N	One field must have lights	 <p>Authorities: Outlined by Provincial – National events includes NSO, and PSO</p>
R	R	Adequate seating (100 -250 / field), permanent seats not required	
N	N	Main stadium seating for 500+	
R	R	Washrooms / change rooms on location	
R	R	Umpires room	
R	R	Maintenance facility	
N	N	Dual batting cage	
R	R	Storage facility	
N	N	Permanent or non-permanent concession	
R	R	Natural turf must be properly groomed to Baseball Canada standards	
R	R	Field water source	
R	R	Practice fields close in proximity	
N	N	Camping / Parking	

SLO-PITCH

A Performance facility should have six clustered fields with 300 ft left and right field dimensions and fenced outfield to host.

National	Provincial		
R	N	One field must have lights (Some high level National event may not require lights)	 <p>Authorities: Outlined by Provincial – National events includes SPN</p>
R	R	Adequate seating (100 -250 / field), permanent seats not required	
R	R	Washrooms / change rooms on location	
R	R	Umpires room	
R	R	Permanent or non-permanent concession	
R	R	Natural turf must be properly groomed by SPN standards (artificial not required)	
N	N	Field water source	
R	R	Practice fields close in proximity	
N	N	Camping	

SOFTBALL

A Performance facility should have four clustered fields with 200-225 ft left and right field dimensions with fenced outfields to host.

National	Provincial	
R	N	One field must have lights
R	R	Adequate seating (100 -250 / field), permanent seats not required
N	N	Main stadium seating for 500+
R	R	Washrooms / change rooms on location, can be non-permanent
R	R	Umpires room
R	R	Maintenance facility
N	N	Dual batting cage
R	R	Storage facility
R	R	Permanent or non-permanent concession
R	R	Natural turf must be properly groomed to Softball Canada standards (artificial turf not required)
R	R	Field water source
N	N	Practice fields close in proximity
N	N	Camping / Parking




Authorities:

Outlined by Provincial – National events includes NSO, and PSO events

ATHLETICS – TRACK & FIELD

A Performance facility must have a 400m oval track with six to eight lanes that are 1.22 – 1.25m in width.

National	Provincial		
R	R	Infield must have natural turf to host all field events	 <p>Authorities: Outlined by ASAA and Athletics Canada</p>
R	N	Venue does not require lights	
R	R	Adequate seating (500 + for ASAA/National events), permanent seats not required	
R	R	Washrooms / change rooms on location but doesn't need to be permanent	
R	R	Permanent or non-permanent administration building / trailer	
R	R	Natural Turf must be properly groomed to AC / IAAF standards	
N	N	Practice fields not required, only open field space adjacent	
N	N	IT technology for race scoring and management, such as Category 6 (CAT- 6) cable underground	

Standards of Play

Standards of play are determined by each sport's national governing body and are based on the LTAD model (as noted on page 19) and outlines the field equipment, numbers of participants, length and number of games and practices, competition modifications, and length of season.

In larger communities such as Edmonton and Calgary their allocation policies for the use of sport fields, ice, dry space, etc. is determined with significant consideration to these standards of play. This ensures that user groups requesting to rent or book space / facilities are provided time based more on the standardized sport development requirements and needs of the sport, rather than use history or wants.

Increasing the use of Standards of Play criteria in allocation procedures will support several key outcomes. These include:

- Local sport groups are encouraged to be aware of and compliant with their own NSO requirements to support the LTAD model of sport development;
- All sports have an equitable opportunity to access facilities based on their actual needs, and not historic use or anticipated needs;
- New and emerging sports have equitable opportunities access to facilities;
- Groups are allowed to request additional time, once all basic needs are met;
- Future facility development needs and timelines are better informed; and
- Amount of unused facility time is potentially reduced. User groups should be less hesitant to give up un-needed facility time because 'historic' use of the facility no longer is the determining factor.

In regards to sport fields, Baseball Canada, Canadian Cycling Association, Athletics Canada (track and field), Softball Canada (softball and slo-pitch), and Football Canada, all have LTAD guides outlining their Standards of Play.

While staff have not confirmed the level to which local sport organizations have endorsed and designed their programs to align with the LTAD model(s), it is assumed that they are all aware of these guidelines and recommendations. Additional information, conversation and review, to identify the impact(s) of including standards of play into allocation practices is needed.

The following examples outline the standards of play for several of the sports featured in this report.

<p>Canadian Soccer Association⁶⁵ Stage 1 - Active Start</p>	<p>Football Canada²³ Stage 2 - FUNdamentals</p>
<p>“Physical – proper fundamental movement skills – running, jumping, kicking, throwing, twisting, catching. Technical – player and ball; running with ball, dribbling, controlling, kicking and shooting, No Tactical, Mental – fun, fascination and passion for play.</p> <p>No competitive games, 30-45 minute practices, 4-16 week seasons. Child is encouraged to participate in other physical activities such as swimming, gymnastics.”</p>	<p>“Emphasis on the ABC’s of participation (agility, balance, coordination and speed); technical skills (throwing, catching, kicking); tactical skills - introduction to the game; character-life skills – partnership/teamwork, problem-solving; game options – touch/flag football, modified tackle, 6 on 6, small field, small ball, skills more important than winning.”</p>
<p>Baseball Canada¹⁰ Stage 3 - Learn to Train</p>	<p>Athletics Canada³² Stage 4 - Training to Train</p>
<p>“Athletes should focus on 3 sports that they enjoy and are successful. Three sessions per week for baseball and 3 sessions in other sports per week. Training should be 70% of the time and games 30% of the time. There should be 1 umpire, no scorekeepers, no stats recorded; focus is to educate and enforce.”</p> <p>Game format: 6 vs 6 players moving to 9 vs 9. Game length 1.5 – 2 hours in length. Season length is 8-12 weeks. Pre-game practice is mandatory. Special Rules: No bunting, no strike-out, no walks, re-entry possible, no players cut from teams, no curve balls pitched.</p>	<p>“...training should approach a total time of 12 hours per week towards the end of the stage, involving 4-7 sessions of physical training and activity. 3-5 of these sessions should be in Athletics event-specific areas.”</p> <p>Softball Canada³³ Stage 5 - Training to Compete</p> <p>“At this level, participants should be able to choose between a competitive stream and a recreational stream.</p> <p>For competitive participants - 15-20 practices in pre-season, season is 12-16 weeks, 50% practices 50% games, 44-52 games – plus structured skill development prior to games. Softball-specific activities 4-8 times per week including fitness and mental training.”</p>

City Outdoor Sport Fields

Current Classifications

The City of Red Deer classifies its outdoor sport fields by size and level of service. The following charts define each classification and criteria by which ball diamonds and rectangle fields are determined:

DIAMONDS CLASSIFICATION	INFIELD	DESCRIPTION
Performance Ball Fields	Shale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outfield Distance may vary based on type of diamond ▪ Shale infield and baselines ▪ Maintained a minimum of daily ▪ Staffed, Supervised ▪ Lined ▪ Dugouts ▪ Bleachers ▪ Additional amenities available such as washrooms, change rooms, and concession.
Class A - Baseball only	Shale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outfield distance of 320' or greater ▪ Maintained regularly ▪ No obstacles ▪ Not located in detention ponds
Class B - Baseball only	Shale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outfield distance of 200' to 274' ▪ Maintained regularly
Class A - Softball and Slo-pitch	Shale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outfield distance of 275' to 319' ▪ Maintained regularly ▪ No obstacles ▪ Not located in detention ponds
Class B - Softball and Slo-pitch	Shale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outfield distance of 200' to 274' ▪ Maintained regularly
Class C - Softball and Slo-pitch	Shale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outfield distance of less than 200' ▪ Maintained regularly
Class A - Softball and Slo-pitch	Turf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outfield distance of 275' to 319' ▪ Maintained regularly
Class B - Softball and Slo-pitch	Turf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outfield distance of 200' to 274' ▪ Maintained regularly
Class C - Softball and Slo-pitch	Turf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outfield distance of less than 200' ▪ Maintained regularly
Class D - Leisure – NOT BOOKED	Turf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restricted outfield ▪ Located in detention pond

RECTANGLE FIELDS CLASSIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	
Performance Rectangle Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintained at high standard ▪ Increased turf maintenance ▪ may include irrigation ▪ Staffed, Supervised ▪ Lined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bleachers ▪ Additional amenities available such as washrooms, change rooms and concession
Class A - Soccer and Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum 65 yd. x 110 yd. ▪ + 20 yd. end zone (10 each end) ▪ Combination goal posts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintained regularly ▪ Not located in detention pond
Class A - Soccer only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum 100 yd. length ▪ Soccer goal posts only (no uprights) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintained regularly ▪ Not located in detention pond
Class B - Soccer and Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum 55 yd. x 90 yd. ▪ + 10 yd. end zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Combination goal posts ▪ Maintained regularly
Class B - Soccer only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum 55 yd. x 90 yd. ▪ Combination goal posts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintained regularly
Class C - Soccer and Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum 35 yd. x 75 yd. ▪ 5 yd. end zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Combination goal posts ▪ Maintained regularly
Class C - Soccer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minimum 35 yd. x 75 yd. ▪ Goal posts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintained regularly
Class D – Recreational Use Sport Field – NOT BOOKED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No minimum dimensions ▪ Goal posts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Site limitations ▪ Retention pond location

Current outdoor sport field classification is primarily based on size regardless of field usability and quality. It is proposed in the Strategic Direction Report that the quality of the field, regardless of its size and other amenities be considered as a critical classification determinant.

Rectangle Fields Inventory

CURRENT FIELDS	CLASSIFICATION
9	Class A Soccer/Football
6	Class A Soccer only
8	Class B Soccer/Football
21	Class B Soccer only
1	Class C Soccer/Football
21	Class C Soccer only
15	Class D – Recreational Use Sport Field
81	TOTAL

Diamonds Inventory

CURRENT FIELDS	CLASSIFICATION
1	Class A Baseball
2	Class B Baseball
28	Class A Slo-pitch/Softball - shale and turf
20	Class B Slo-pitch/Softball- shale and turf
18	Class C Slo-pitch/Softball - shale and turf
13	Class D - Leisure use
82	TOTAL

The Fields and Diamonds inventory numbers reflect the January, 10, 2013 document referenced and utilized by Parks and the Pass and Bookings Specialist. These numbers do not include Edgar Athletic Fields or Great Chief Park.

Part B: Strategic Direction Report and explains the Proposed Changes in detail.

Other Outdoor Sport Field Needs

The sports of rugby, field lacrosse and cricket are also identified sport field users of rectangle fields and green spaces in Red Deer, however they have not been addressed individually in this report for the following reasons:

Rugby

Titans Rugby currently has a rugby park located just south of Red Deer in Red Deer County. This facility has several practice fields and one main field. They have their own clubhouse and servicing.

There have been occasions that they have used the ME Global Athletic Park in Lacombe to access their synthetic turf. Because they currently meet their hosting requirements they do not use city of Red Deer outdoor facilities for their sport.

Field Lacrosse

This group has not had a large presence to date, in terms of use of outdoor sport fields, and therefore they are not listed separately. However, if synthetic turf is made available, it is suspected that the city may see some potential growth in this sport.

Cricket

The Central Alberta Cricket Association currently has a field located east of the Collicutt Centre, and has a synthetic bowling pitch as well as plans for a batting cage on the site. The size does not have the correct diameter for hosting requirements and so alternative sites may need to be considered.

BMX

Although BMX biking is not considered a 'sport field' sport; it is mentioned here because of the potential synergies in re-locating the current facility, which is in a restricted location along the Red Deer River.

This sport requires parking, washrooms, change rooms, and viewing / seating. If there is a potential to include this type of facility into a future sport field hosting site, it should be considered.

Other known emerging sports such as Field Hockey, Quidditch, and Disc Golf exist in Red Deer, however, it has been determined that their current needs are being met with the existing field inventory.

Local Sport Organizations

The groups representing soccer, baseball, slo-pitch, track and field, football, softball and High School Athletics were engaged in the process.

The survey used in the one-on-one interviews with the sport groups included the following questions.

Survey questions

The diamond and rectangular field user groups they were asked to respond to the following questions:

- Which outdoor sport field user group do you represent?
- What is the current total number of participants registered in your sport in Red Deer?
- What is the percentage of your participants (athletes only) that are youth (U18) or Adult (19+)?
- How many adult participants are there in each of the following categories? – house league / recreational, competitive / rep team and elite
- What is the breakdown by category of your youth participants? – house, league/recreational, competitive/rep team and elite
- Which Red Deer “A” class diamonds / fields, “B” Class diamonds or fields and “C” Class diamonds does your sport currently use?
- What is the highest level of competition your sport can host in Red Deer? – local, zone/regional, provincial, western, national, international
- Does your sport organization plan on hosting or applying to host a major sport event in the next 5-10 years?
- What is your organization’s future diamond/field needs in the next 5, 10, 15 or more years? Include information about number, size, type, amenities, locations etc.

Summary of Responses

Here is a synopsis of the local sport organizations based on survey information, conversations and booking data.

LSO	2013 PARTICIPANTS NUMBERS		BASIC DETAILS: SEASON, AGES SERVED, ETC.	AGREEMENT & LOCATION(S)	PARTICIPANT PROJECTIONS 5-10 YEARS NET BASED ON LSO INPUT
	YOUTH	ADULT			
RDCSA & Men & Ladies	YOUTH 2500	ADULT 0	Timbits (U5) to Senior Men/Women Indoor – Fall/Winter and Outdoor – Spring/Summer	Edgar Morrisroe Various sites	2500-3500
RDMF	YOUTH 225	ADULT 0	CFL (Pee Wee, Bantam), RDMF (Atom, Bantam) Atom (8-10), Pee Wee (11-12), Bantam (13-15) Member of Football Alberta High School Football Senior (Grades 10-12) and Junior (Grades 8 and 9)	L.T.C.H.S. GCP Rosedale HS sites	225-500
CASPA	YOUTH 0	ADULT 1560	Adult only; Co-ed, Men & Women, Primarily Co-Ed Recreational Members of Slo-Pitch National	Edgar Various Sites	2000-3000
RDMS	YOUTH 225	ADULT 0	Youth female and Senior female only (U8-Sr Female) Spring/Summer Member of Softball Alberta	St. Martin de Porres GCP	225-350
RDMB	YOUTH 500	ADULT 0	U8 – Senior Men’s Co-Ed in youth (U8-U16), Men only from Midget to Senior Men’s Member of Baseball Alberta Spring/Summer	GCP Westpark Jr. High	500-700
SCHOOL	YOUTH ~500	ADULT 0	Grades 10-12 (ASAA); Grades 7-9 (CWAAJA) Football, Athletics	School sites CORD sites	

All LSO and school sports may participate in the following championship events: local, regional, Provincial, Western Canadian, National, Alberta Games and Canada Games

Baseline Information

Survey Responses – Rectangle Fields

Local Sport Organization	Red Deer Minor Football	Needs/Hopes in 5, 10, 15+ years	
LSO Participant Total	160		<p>Turf would be an asset within Red Deer. There are opportunities to host events within the city but the biggest hurdle remain that we don't have turf. In my opinion we are a city that is far behind other cities in all sport fields.</p> <p>Our organization requires access to an artificial grass playing surface for our games and practices. The sports field needs to be equipped with change rooms/ washrooms and seating.</p>
% Adult Participation	None		
% Youth Participation	75-100%		
Recreational Participants	25-50% (80)		
Competitive and Rep Participants	25-50%(80)		
Elite Participants	None	Other Comments	<p>We are not able to host any events in Red Deer because we have no artificial grass playing surface for football. Our league is an elite spring football league with our season of play running from March thru May.</p> <p>For the majority of the 2013 spring season we practiced at ME Global in Lacombe and played our home games there as well.</p> <p>Approximately 70% of our player base comes from Red Deer with the other 30% coming from central Alberta.</p> <p>It is unfortunate that Red Deer players and a Red Deer based team has to travel to outlying communities to have access to modern facilities.</p>
Class A Fields	LTCHS E, Rosedale N		
Class B Fields Used	Dawson Park, LTCHS W		
Class C Fields Used	None		
Highest Level of Competition	Provincial		
Hosting Requirements	Provincial and National Championships		
Hosting Plans next 5-10 years	Provincial and National Championship		

Note: Men's Football, Red Deer Buccaneers, has moved to Lacombe until there is synthetic turf in Red Deer.

Local Sport Organization	Red Deer City Soccer	Hosting Requirements	We would like to host Nationals 2-4 fields together turf, CSA approved Change rooms, washrooms...
LSO Participant Total	~2530		
% Adult Participation	0-25%	Hosting Plans next 5-10 years	Provincial Championships
% Youth Participation	50-75%		
Recreational Participants	75-100%	Needs/Hopes in 5, 10, 15+ years	Nationals, Major College event, bringing National teams
Competitive and Rep Participants	0-25%		
Elite Participants	20 athletes	Other Comments	None provided.
Class A Fields	Annie L. Gaetz, Anders on the Lake, Collicutt Centre E, Collicutt Centre W, Inglewood, Central Park, Ironstone Park, Johnstone Park, McLean W, McLean Park E, RDC W, Victoria Park E, and Westpark W		
Class B Fields Used	Davenport E, Davenport W, Douglas Park, Oriole Park W		
Class C Fields Used	Joseph Welsh N 1, Joseph Welsh N 2, Joseph Welsh S, Joseph Welsh S 2, Kentwood, McLean S, Oriole Park Extension, and Westpark Jr. High		
Highest Level of Competition	Provincial		

Local Sport Organization	Men's Soccer (4 responses combined)	Hosting Requirements	Only two soccer fields in town that are of very high quality (Great Chief Park, RDC Main Field) and these fields are expensive.
LSO Participant Total	500		
% Adult Participation	75-100%	Hosting Plans next 5-10 years	Provincial Championships
% Youth Participation	0-25%		
Recreational Participants	~400	Needs/Hopes in 5, 10, 15+ years	<p>I would like to see a full size FIFA approved indoor pitch which can be broken into three equally space fields for small league team use.</p> <p>More lines</p> <p>Full sized indoor soccer pitch, at RDCSA or somewhere in else Red Deer.</p> <p>Washrooms at field sites would be appreciated.</p>
Competitive and Rep Participants	Up to 500		
Elite Participants	20 athletes	Other Comments	None provided.
Class A Fields	Anders on the Lake, Annie L. Gaetz, Johnstone Industrial, Johnstone Park, RDC E, RDC W, and Westpark Jr. High		
Class B Fields Used	Glendale E		
Class C Fields Used	RDC N		
Highest Level of Competition	Provincial, Zone/Regionals		

Survey Responses – Diamond Fields

Local Sport Organization	Central Alberta Slo-Pitch Association	Highest Level of Competition	Nationals
LSO Participant Total	~1800		
% Adult Participation	75-100%		
% Youth Participation	0-25%	Hosting Requirements	Washrooms, concessions, lights, etc. (all amenities) - regulation diamonds(size min 300 + feet) - camping (fully serviced) - "Ball Park" Facility, having 4 - 6 fields there - parking
Recreational Participants	1500		
Competitive and Rep Participants	250		
Elite Participants	25	Hosting Plans next 5-10 years	National Championship
Class A Fields	Anders on the Lake, Dawson Park 3, Dawson Park 4, Eastview Estates, Edgar Diamonds, GH Dawe NE, Inglewood, Montfort E, Notre Dame NE, Notre Dame SW, RDC N, RDC S, St. Francis, St. Pats NW, St. Pats SW, Victoria Park, and Westpark Jr. High N	Needs/Hopes in 5, 10, 15+ years	As Slo-Pitch continues to grow this sport requires field sites with proper amenities, and technical fields for major competitions. This applies to an extent with full-time fields used in league play ("A" Class fields).
Class B Fields Used	Douglas Park 1, Douglas Park 2, Inglewood, and St. Teresa N	Other Comments	None provided.
Class C Fields Used	None		

Local Sport Organization	Red Deer Minor Softball	Highest Level of Competition	Provincials
LSO Participant Total	220		
% Adult Participation	None		
% Youth Participation	75-100%	Hosting Requirements	Limitations are field size and fencing for current fields used. At this time current fields could be used but need to be modified and/or add additional fields such as Edgar. RDC fields as they exist cannot be used. This condition applies to any event from provincials or higher.
Recreational Participants	25-50%		
Competitive and Rep Participants	0-25%		
Elite Participants	0-25%	Hosting Plans next 5-10 years	Provincial Championships, Western Championships, and National Championships
Class A Fields	RDC N, RDC S	Needs/Hopes in 5, 10, 15+ years	Proper sized fields - completion of RDC fields (4) or the development of additional site in development of new areas such as Hazlett Lake, or East Red Deer.
Class B Fields Used	Grandview, St. Martin's SW, and St. Martin's E		
Class C Fields Used	St. Martin's NW, West Park Elementary	Other Comments	None provided.

Local Sport Organization	Red Deer Minor Baseball	Hosting Requirements	Can host at Midget level at Great Chief. Can host Western PeeWee at Great Chief. Cannot host Bantam as Red Deer only has 1 National/Western level diamond.
LSO Participant Total	450		Need more diamonds with water, fence, electrical to host more than and team tournament. We can assume that nationals would be a 10-12 team tournament.
% Adult Participation	0-25%		
% Youth Participation	75-100%	Hosting Plans next 5-10 years	Provincial, Western and National Championships
Recreational Participants	50-100%	Needs/Hopes in 5, 10, 15+ years	RDMBA is presently growing at a rate of 8-10% annually. We are going to need house league level diamonds in the areas where our players live. We hope to add 4 rep teams (1 per age group) in the future. We will need diamonds to accommodate the increase in practice and game time. We would like to have our rep teams play at a facility that is able to house all of them. Amenities: lights, water for fields, clubhouse (bathrooms, change rooms, concession), parking, press boxes, power, maintenance building, batting cages, indoor training facility. We need to have a place that we can host games and tournaments that has water (for fields and bathrooms) and has electrical (for PA systems and concession). We need more diamonds fenced with pitching mounds and bases at the appropriate distances. We need to have somewhere to keep our field equipment so that we can keep up the diamonds. Right now we need at least one more diamond of each age group size (U11, U13, U15, U18). In the coming years, we will need another 1-2 fenced and properly sized U11 and U13 diamonds. It would be helpful if these diamonds were in close proximity to each other so that we could host larger tournaments/championships.
Competitive and Rep Participants	25-50%		
Elite Participants	0-25%		
Class A Fields	Eastview Estates, Edgar Diamonds, Hunting Hills SW, Hunting Hills NE, LTCHS N, and LTCHS S		
Class B Fields Used	Bower E, Bower Place W, Douglas Park 1, Douglas Park 2, St. Teresa N, Westpark Jr. High SE, and Westpark Jr. High SW		
Class C Fields Used	Annie L. Gaetz, Bower		
Highest Level of Competition	Westerns and National	Other Comments	None provided.

Survey Responses – Specialty Fields

Local Sport Organization	Titan's Track & Field	Hosting Requirements	Runway on long jump and triple jump is short; pole vault and high jump is not properly built; and javelin has no runway
LSO Participant Total	60		
% Adult Participation	0-25%	Hosting Plans next 5-10 years	Provincial Championships
% Youth Participation	75-100%		
Recreational Participants	0	Needs/Hopes in 5, 10, 15+ years	Titan track would like to hold a provincial meet in the future with the growth that the sport has experienced.
Competitive and Rep Participants	75-100%		
Elite Participants	15 athletes (0-25%)	Other Comments	None provided.
Class A Fields	L.T.C.H.S. E		
Class B Fields Used	L.T.C.H.S. W		
Class C Fields Used			
Highest Level of Competition	Local		

Local Sport Organization	High School Athletics (Hunting Hills only response received)	Hosting Requirements	Field quality; need turf and change rooms.
LSO Participant Total	90 (HHHS)		
% Adult Participation	0-25%	Hosting Plans next 5-10 years	Provincial Championships
% Youth Participation	75-100%		
Recreational Participants	0	Needs/Hopes in 5, 10, 15+ years	<p>Turf Field as per ASAA requirements; Red Deer Schools would like to host a 1A, 2A, 3A & 4A Championships- Spectator seating</p> <p>Upgraded change rooms and storage(2) - Press Box(3); parking for buses and spectators</p> <p>Bad weather field grooming & playability</p> <p>Score Board</p> <p>Would like to host Canada Cup; CFL Spring Training/Exhibition and CIS Camps/Exhibition</p>
Competitive and Rep Participants	75-100%		
Elite Participants	20 athletes		
Class A Fields	Hunting Hills N		
Class B Fields Used		Other Comments	None provided>
Class C Fields Used			
Highest Level of Competition	Zone/Regional		

Analysis and Observations

This analysis reflects the information and research presented in this report. Key themes are identified and listed below.

Community Profile

- As identified on page 15, age, gender, annual family income and education are key drivers for sport participation.
 - Forecasts suggest continued growth in Red Deer and Region.
 - Red Deer is a young community with an average age of 31.
 - Over 20% of the population (2014 Municipal Census) is under the age of 14.
 - There's almost an equal distribution of males and females in the 0-14 age range.
 - Average household income is over \$87,000 before tax (2011 Federal Census).
 - Over 3/4 of the population has high school or higher education.
- With these facts, the potential for sport growth and participation numbers is highly probable making adequate planning and continued facility investment and development necessary.
- Red Deer's location being an hour and a half away from both Edmonton and Calgary, positions it centrally and within the majority of the Province's population. International and regional airports, and other significant transportation infrastructure, are readily accessible in this area which reinforces the opportunity to host national event and increase sport tourism and economic development. Sport tourism could contribute to, or even become an iconic attraction for Red Deer and region.
- A strategic focus on Sport Tourism packaging would be required to realize this potential.

Municipal Priorities

- Canada's Sport Policy Framework offers direction and parameters related to the sport delivery model and municipal roles and responsibilities. The recent development of the Active Alberta Policy not only reinforces the national framework, but also provides implementation strategies for municipalities.
- While there are a established principles and documents within The City that outline the connection and importance of facility development and wellbeing of the community and satisfaction of its citizens, a specific community sport and recreation policy and master plan is required to formally consolidate and align these principles.

- The development of this type of document would provide clear direction on roles, priorities, required resources and timelines related to enhanced sport delivery.
- The 2008 CANA study outlines direction and strategies related to outdoor sport field (re)development. A formal review and update of this plan, along with the creation of implementation strategies would be beneficial to leverage its value as a planning document.
- With anticipated implementation of a corporate sponsorship program, new and existing sport field facilities will provide opportunities to contribute resource and enhance community partnerships.
- There are many different roles that The City now plays in sport delivery. Further determination and confirmation of role(s) for the various scenarios related to sport delivery would be helpful to lead to consistent decision-making and engagement with community groups. The development of an evaluation tool may be useful in meeting this need.
- The RPC department's current allocation policy and related procedures reflect past practices when allocating City facilities to user groups. Presently the main criteria used to determine what request gets first priority is historic use. This creates the potential for user groups to 'hold on' to certain time slots, regardless of their ability to fill the time so that if in the future they should need it they would have the historic-use criteria applied to their request.



As the Canadian Sport Policy has gained momentum, NSOs and PSOs have developed and established sport-specific LTAD models for sport development and competition. These models outlined Standards of Play including required practice to game ratios, as well as space and facility requirements for the various levels of play and ages of participants. Communities, such as Edmonton and Calgary, have already integrated LTAD model requirements into their sport facility allocation practices. Integration of the LTAD requirements as criteria to base facility rental requests would support the sport group's NSO and PSO direction.

While it is not The City's role to ensure compliance of a group with their specific sport LTAD requirements, including this criterion in City procedures would encourage and increase equity for facility time between the various user groups. It will also assist in evaluating the need for additional facilities.

- Current use agreements for sport fields reflect the historic and recent relationship between The City and sport groups who have exclusive use of specific sport fields.

Following the outcome of the Use of Public Lands and Facilities project, guiding principles and potential evaluation criteria could be applied to current and future agreements and request related to exclusivity on sport fields.

Sport and Facility Trends


The following sport participation trends were noted which may influence the potential for outdoor sport delivery.

- Soccer and baseball are within the top sports for highest participation, which confirms the need to (re)invest in both rectangle and diamond sport fields.
- The number of sport spectators has doubled since 1992, demonstrating the potential level of engagement by the community and resulting multiplier effect created by sport tourism when hosting events.
- Increased expectations of sport groups from participants, coaches and parents for higher quality facilities and competition are impacting the satisfaction level and expectations on City to provide high quality amenities. In addition, the expectations being placed on the LSOs to host higher-level competition events also increases the demand for (re)development of facilities.
- Other communities have successfully looked at sport tourism as a new source of economic growth and identify. Red Deer's location makes this a feasible option.
- When comparing the sport participation rates for Albertans with the LSO reported numbers of participants in Red Deer, an increase in participation in outdoor sports is both possible and likely. An increase in the operational sustainability of the LSOs and sport field facilities that support increased levels of participants and standards of competition is required.
- The majority of sports are experiencing an increased expectation on the length of training and competition seasons and outdoor sports are no exception. In the past in locations where two different playing fields overlapped (one ball diamond over top of a football field) both were able to be used based on different 'seasons' for the sports. With year-round participation, more conflicts and reduced access to a number of facilities result. In addition, indoor spaces and multi-season surfaces such as synthetic turf are also expected and needed for dryland training.



- Municipalities continue to be challenged with numerous demands on financial resources. Priority setting and asset management planning of existing infrastructure are required to ensure initial capital investments are maintained and the need to replace existing infrastructure is minimized.
- Limited resources and increased expectations of user groups create opportunities for different types of partnerships and funding arrangements for facility development and operation. Local sport groups are willing to explore new models to achieve shared vision.
- Synthetic turf for outdoor sport fields lead to increased safety standards and extended playing seasons, as well as reduced environmental impacts related to natural turf management such as water, pesticides and fertilizer use.
- Developing Performance/Class A fields in clusters stems from the need to increase convenience and requirements for hosting events. Additional space and centrally located amenities are needed to create clusters, impacting land use planning.

City Outdoor Sport Fields

- The number of fields listed in the various classifications in the City’s outdoor sport field inventory will change based on recommendations to remove, re-classify and develop new fields within the city. The new inventory applies the criteria consistently and provides an accurate reflection of the number of fields that appropriately fit within the classifications. It also improves the user’s ability to book fields and know that the field they are paying for will meet the required size and standards required for the intended use.
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- The current inventory of outdoor sport fields indicates there are equal numbers of diamond fields to rectangle fields. Following the implementation of recommendations, there will changes to the number of fields in each category, however the number of fields on the ground will not change significantly. The number of neighbourhood fields available for sport development is currently sufficient to meet user needs. Future development of Class A – D fields will now be determined based on user needs and community access to neighbourhood facilities.
 - As there are other types of outdoor sport fields and facilities that share common needs and challenges, they were included for information in the report. The needs of Rugby, Field Lacrosse, Cricket and BMX may be met through partnerships or combined site development of diamond or rectangle fields. Identifying potential synergies between other sports is important to ensure resources are maximized, reducing potential ‘stand-alone’ facilities that may not be sustainable.

Local Sport Organizations

- The survey responses from the outdoor sport user groups indicate that all anticipate a growth in participation in the next 5-10 years. In anticipation of this growth, new developmental sport fields and performance fields will need to be identified to keep up with anticipated growth.
- The survey responses provide a baseline to measure the impact of recommendation implementation and actual participation growth.
- Increased amenities and sport event hosting facilities were consistent themes in the responses, supporting the recommendations related to the need for an increase in performance fields and supporting amenities for successful sport event hosting.

Sport Development Requirements

- For the current population and demand, there are sufficient neighbourhood park fields to accommodate the delivery of developmental sport, such as practices, recreational/house league games and younger children and youth participation (under 10 years of age). Within the existing inventory, some locations require minor modifications to increase suitability and decrease safety concerns.

Hosting Requirements

- Hosting facility requirements were the most significant gap identified by sport groups utilizing outdoor sport fields. Using information from national, provincial and local sport organizations, the requirements for hosting larger events were identified and listed. Red Deer currently has insufficient outdoor sport field facilities that would accommodate current provincial and national hosting requirements for both diamond and rectangle fields.

Specific hosting requirement challenges for the specific outdoor sport field groups are outlined below:

Football

The only facility that currently meets the majority of hosting requirements for football is Great Chief Park, which has one natural turf field limiting field use during poor weather. This includes times when it is too dry or wet, frozen or under snow.

Regionally, the city of Lacombe has recently installed a synthetic turf football/soccer field, with limited parking, and sufficient change rooms or seating capacity. Regardless, several Red Deer football organizations (spring and senior men's football leagues) have moved to Lacombe until such time that Red Deer can adequately meet their game needs on synthetic turf.

Soccer

Red Deer does not meet soccer hosting requirements and standards in any one location. Soccer facilities at Edgar Athletic Park, Red Deer College and Great Chief Park have the potential for hosting if the other required amenities are addressed.

Baseball

While Baseball has successfully hosted provincial and national events in the past, the small number of same size diamonds in one location makes this a challenge and limits hosting opportunities. Competitive baseball in Red Deer uses three main facilities Great Chief Park, Edgar Athletic Park fields and West Park district park.



Slo-Pitch

At this time there are four Slo-Pitch diamonds clustered at Edgar Athletic Park in Red Deer. All other fields for Slo-Pitch in Red Deer are located around the city in neighbourhood park sites. While this group has successfully hosted tournaments in this location, the lack of amenities restricts their ability to host larger provincial and national tournaments.

Softball

Currently, softball uses two locations in Red Deer to host provincial tournaments, Great Chief Park and West Park neighbourhood park. Both locations have limitations due to the number and size of fields and types of amenities.

Athletics – Track & Field

Red Deer has one outdoor Athletics facility, located at Lindsay Thurber Composite High School (LTCHS), which does not have lights, access to washroom / change rooms for large events and because of inadequate sub-grade construction it is not ideal for high-level competition events.

Sport Field Challenges

A number of sport field-related challenges that were discovered in our research⁴⁷ are consistent with those in Red Deer and are confirmed through previous planning and work with the sport user groups.

This indicates that other communities are challenged by similar situations which may be an opportunity to share information and solution strategies.

Various challenges from our research are listed below, followed by an analysis of Red Deer's situation:

Field Users Dissatisfaction

Users of Red Deer's sport fields are generally happy with the services and facilities provided, however turf quality, length of turf and the number of regulation-sized fields / diamonds for higher level competition and hosting are cited as challenges.

High Quality Fields and Other Amenities Shortage

As mentioned, lack of performance fields and clustering of fields provides significant challenges to host larger events. Other challenges include the lack of available support amenities, including camping, services, parking, change rooms, washrooms, and concessions.



Overuse of Fields

This predominantly relates to overuse of grass rectangle fields. The two factors that contribute to the overuse of Performance and Class A fields are the small number of regulation Class A rectangle sport fields within the city combined with year-round use demands, as each sport's season is growing longer and now overlaps other sports using the same facilities.

Increased User Expectations

Increased sport venue standards and longer sport seasons create increased expectations related to the number and quality of facilities.

Increasing Population & Levels of Participation

The City of Red Deer's population and regional service area, and growth of local sport organizations have increased the demand on our existing facilities.

Budget Constraints

Increased and diverse use and needs have increased the demands for land use. Budgets affect current maintenance levels and limit the ability to acquire new land appropriate for sport field development.

Impact of Organized Sport Activities on Neighbourhood Park Sites

The majority of Red Deer's local sport groups utilize neighbourhood park sites for developmental sport programming without issue. However, this creates challenges to the surrounding neighbourhood including noise and parking, and limited access for those living in the area.

Local sport groups also experience challenges as they often experience vandalism and aggressive, unhappy neighbours who use the facilities for other uses such as off-leash dog parks.

Aging Infrastructure & Construction Challenges

The City's neighbourhood fields continue to be maintained to ensure safety and liability issues are mitigated. Upgrading opportunities are limited because upgrades must meet the needs and concerns of both The City and the neighbourhood. For example, a camping facility or large storage unit would likely not be acceptable or appropriate in the middle of a neighbourhood / school site park.

Field Booking Balance

Sport user groups have been using the same fields year after year, however as the demand for sport fields increase, there are more challenges related to equity in bookings.

User Fees and Funding Contributions

Financial resources are challenging to both The City and the local sport organizations. Keeping sport accessible is a priority to both The City and these groups. While rental rates for sport field use continues to be subsidized, capital (re)investments into existing and new facilities will require planning by both The City and the sport groups to make future development plans a reality.

Endnotes and References

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Appendices

- Appendix A Detailed Diamond Field Sites Inventory
- Appendix B Detailed Rectangle Field Sites Inventory
- Appendix C Use Agreements
- Appendix D Hosting Requirements
- Appendix E NSO LTAD Models