

Background

As part of the 2011 Budget process, Council requested staff to submit a report on the use of outdoor rinks during the 2011-2012 season along with background information on playfield users, statistics and number of playfield facilities.

The Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan

To help frame the issue and to provide a historical perspective the Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan (2004) was reviewed with respect to outdoor rinks and playfields. The following statistics and recommended action were included in the Plan.

Outdoor Rinks

Outdoor Hockey Rink Distribution (Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan, 2004)

Community / Service Area	Outdoor Rink	Population per Rink	0-19 Population per Rink
Azilda, Chelmsford	1	15,046	4,100
Coniston, Wahnapiatae, New Townships	2	2,576	655
Dowling, Levack, Onaping	2	2,444	620
Garson, Falconbridge, Skead, Bowland's Bay	3	2,952	945
Lively, Naughton, Whitefish, Worthington	9	1,125	292
Sudbury - Downtown	1	6,856	1,230
Sudbury - Flour Mill	4	3,501	771
Sudbury - Minnow Lake	3	3,303	872
Sudbury - New Sudbury	4	6,046	1,435
Sudbury - South End	5	3,913	911
Sudbury - West End & Copper Cliff	3	3,593	752
Val Therese, Hanmer, Val Caron, Blezard Valley, McCrea Heights, Capreol	8	3,233	858
City of Greater Sudbury	45	3,449	839

Actions re: outdoor rinks from the Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan

- Similar to the approach taken in some of its Towns prior to amalgamation, it is recommended that the City only provide supervision at select locations and that local organizations be responsible for supervising the balance of the rinks. The City should continue to supply all volunteer associations with the necessary equipment and should provide additional funds to groups providing supervisory duties. The level of funding should, however, be less than what it would cost the City to provide direct supervision, otherwise the City should not adopt this approach.

Outdoor Rinks and Playfields

Soccer/Playfields

Soccer Field Distribution (Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan, 2004)

Community / Service Area	Lit Soccer (Lit=2)	Unlit City Soccer		Unlit School Soccer		Total Fields		Population per Field (all)
	Full	Full	Mini	Full	Mini	Full	Mini	
Azilda, Chelmsford	0	1	0	1	4	2	4	2,508
Coniston, Wahnapiatae, New Townships	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5,152
Dowling, Levack, Onaping	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	1,629
Garson, Falconbridge, Skead, Bowland's Bay	0	0	4	0	2	0	6	1,476
Lively, Naughton, Whitefish, Worthington	0	3	1	1	1	4	2	1,687
Sudbury - Downtown	1 = 2	2	1	0	0	4	1	1,371
Sudbury - Flour Mill	0	0	0	4	3	4	3	2,001
Sudbury - Minnow Lake	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	9,910
Sudbury - New Sudbury	0	0	5	4	5	4	10	1,727
Sudbury - South End	0	0	2	2	5	2	7	2,174
Sudbury - West End & Copper Cliff	1 = 2	0	0	0	0	2	0	5,389
Val Therese, Hanmer, Val Caron, Blezard Valley, McCrea Heights, Capreol	2 = 4	2	1	2	2	8	3	2,351
City of Greater Sudbury	4 = 8	8	15	15	25	31	40	2,186

Notes: Each lit field is considered to be equivalent to two unlit fields due to its extended hours of availability.
Some full size fields are divided into multiple mini fields for minor league play (e.g., Howard Armstrong fields).
Cambrian College has a full size field lit field which is frequently used for competitive community league play.
Laurentian University has 2 full size unlit fields that are occasionally used for high school and league play.

The Plan indicated that, by applying a provision standard of 1 field (both full-size and mini) per 65 active participants, there was a current need for 92 fields. With a thet supply of 71 soccer fields (in 2004), there was a resulting shortage of 21 fields.

Actions re: Playfields from the Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan

- The City should work with the Board of Education to properly convert the under-utilized ball diamond at Chelmsford High School to a soccer field (equivalent to 2 mini fields). These fields have been included within the current inventory as they are being used for soccer at this time.
- Develop three new mini fields at the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre in Azilda.
- Develop a soccer complex with three or more full size lit fields at either Countryside Arena or the proposed multi-use recreation complex in the New Sudbury/Flour Mill area. Should the twin pad site in the New Sudbury/Flour Mill area be selected for soccer field development, consideration should be given to developing one pitch as an artificial turf field
- Pending the outcome of the Adanac Park Master Plan and the reuse of the Barrydowne Arena as an indoor turf venue, an outdoor soccer field complex should be developed within the Adanac/Rotary Park area.

Outdoor Rinks and Playfields

- Install lights on the Lily Creek Sports Complex soccer fields and investigate the possibility of converting the ball diamond and tennis courts at this site into a soccer pitch.
- Continue to upgrade existing soccer fields to meet local needs, including the identification of additional fields suitable for lighting installation. Additional funds may be required to maintain and upgrade fields to the appropriate standards. The City should work with local Boards of Education to improve school fields in areas without municipal fields, subject to a community use agreement regarding the improved fields.
- Identify surplus ball diamonds (on City or school lands) and redevelop them as soccer fields, where feasible and appropriate.
- The City should collect accurate and complete data on soccer participation on a yearly basis, similar to how it obtains information for hockey and figure skating through its ice allocation process.

Ball Diamonds

Ball Diamond Distribution (Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan 2004)

Community / Service Area	Lit Baseball	Unlit Baseball	Lit Softball	Unlit Softball	Practice Baseball/ Softball	Total Diamonds (Lit=2)	Population per Diamond
Azilda, Chelmsford	0	0	2	3	2	9	1,672
Coniston, Wahnapiatae, New Townships	0	0	1	1	0	3	1,717
Dowling, Levack, Onaping	0	1	0	2	1	4	1,221
Garson, Falconbridge, Skead, Bowland's Bay	0	0	2	2	4	10	886
Lively, Naughton, Whitefish, Worthington	0	1	2	1	1	7	1,446
Sudbury - Downtown	0	0	1	0	0	2	3,428
Sudbury - Flour Mill	1	0	2	4	2	12	1,167
Sudbury - Minnow Lake	0	0	2	4	2	10	991
Sudbury - New Sudbury	0	0	1	2	3	7	3,455
Sudbury - South End	0	1	1	1	2	6	3,201
Sudbury - West End & Copper Cliff	0	0	1	0	0	2	5,389
Val Therese, Hanmer, Val Caron, Blezard Valley, McCrea Heights, Capreol	2	0	4	3	5	20	1,293
City of Greater Sudbury	3	3	19	23	22	92	1,687

The inventory data indicated that there were 70 diamonds in the City if only the better quality diamonds were counted and lit fields are considered to be equivalent to two unlit fields. With a demand for 71 diamonds and a supply of 70 diamonds, there was an identified need for one additional field.

Outdoor Rinks and Playfields

Actions re: Ball Diamonds from the Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan

- A third lit softball diamond should be developed at the Centennial Arena in Hanmer, contingent upon receiving an acceptable level of financial assistance from local user groups. Once this field is constructed, no new diamonds will be required in the City.
- Lower quality “practice” or “scrub” diamonds should be evaluated and redeveloped for other uses where appropriate (e.g., soccer fields).
- In cooperation with local organizations, the City should undertake an assessment of ball diamonds in order to identify necessary repairs and upgrades to the diamonds. Upgrades should be made to the select diamonds with the assistance of local organizations. If lights are added to any diamond, one existing unlit diamond should be eliminated from the inventory. Additional funds may be required to maintain and upgrade diamonds to the appropriate standards.

Current Status

Many of the actions identified in the 2004 Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan have been acted upon. Some growth in supply of playfields has occurred, and new outdoor rinks have been added to the inventory. The James Jerome Sports Complex has added an artificial turf field to the inventory of playfields and usage analysis is being completed to identify future supply/demand issues.

The following provides a summary of the current status of CGS outdoor rinks, playfields and ball diamonds.

Outdoor Rink Program

Prior to amalgamation, the former City of Sudbury, towns of Onaping Falls and Nickel Centre funded winter rink supervision. For the 2002-2003 season, the annual budget allocation in support of rink supervision was divided equally amongst the 47 rinks in the City of Greater Sudbury within the existing budget allocation. The former City of Sudbury winter rink supervisor provided 35 hours per week for 11 weeks. The hours were reduced from 35 hours to 25 hours (approximately 250 hours per site) in order to re-allocate the budget to support all outdoor rinks in the City. Council considered increasing rink supervision hours twice in the last 10 years.

The winter rink supervisors are a support to a number of sites operated by playground associations. The supervisors assist with ice maintenance, supervision and managing the playground buildings to accommodate users. There are a number of sites which are operated by volunteer playground associations however other sites are supported only by outdoor rink supervisors.

In the last few years, 1 outdoor rink location has closed (Twin Forks) and there has been an increase of 7 outdoor rinks for a total of 53 rinks currently operating in the City of Greater Sudbury. The following is a summary of outdoor rinks, categorized by Ward:

Outdoor Rinks and Playfields

Outdoor Rinks by Ward:

Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delki Dozzi• Robinson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beaver Lake• Black Lake• Den Lou• Diorite• Kinsmen• Lively• Oja• Penage Road• VLA• Whitefish	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chelmsford• Dowling• Levack• Russell Beaudry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Antwerp• Azilda• Elm West	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carol Richard• McLean• Ryan Heights• Sunnyside• Valley East Kin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elmview• Farmdale• Theresa• Valley Acres
Ward 7	Ward 8	Ward 9	Ward 10	Ward 11	Ward 12
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capreol• Central Lane• Falconbridge• Matson• Old Skead Rd• Skead	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Don Lita• Rosemarie• Westmount	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Algonquin• Coniston• Long Lake• McFarlane• Wahnapiatae	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lo-Ellen• Riverdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carmichael• Downe• East End• Lonsdale	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cedar Park• Eyre• O'Connor• Percy• Ridgecrest

In addition to supporting the 53 Neighbourhood Outdoor Rinks, the current budget supports both Queen's Athletic Field Oval and the Ramsey Lake Skating Path. Both sites are extensively used by the general public.

Appendix A provides a summary of the weekly attendance at the majority of the outdoor rink sites for the 2011-2012 season. There are 6 outdoor rinks which no attendance statistics were available/accumulated.

Soccer/Playfields/Ball Diamonds

The City of Greater Sudbury has a number of varied users of playfields during the summer months. Youth and Adult users participate in Rugby, Football, Cricket, Soccer, Flag Football, Baseball and Frisbee. The leagues utilized City owned and school board fields in order to implement their programs.

The report on playfields provides Council with information on the following:

- 3 Year Statistics (2009-2011) – Appendix B
- Playfield Facilities (City owned and Board of Education) – Appendix C
- 2011 Tournament Listing – Appendix D

Outdoor Rinks and Playfields

Playfield Allocation

The Leisure Services department has hosted three separate pre-season athletic field user meetings this spring; baseball, soccer, football/cricket/rugby/ultimate frisbee. Discussions pertaining to field allocation and CGS policies formed the basis of the meetings.

The Greater Sudbury Police Service attended the baseball user meeting to inform users of the increased enforcement regarding the non-licensed consumption of alcohol at CGS athletic fields. Field Users were advised that a focused effort to ensure the zero tolerance policy for this type of behaviour will be strictly enforced. Teams in contravention of this policy will be suspended. Arrangements were made to provide all league schedules to GSPS prior to the beginning of the season on May 21st, 2012. Any league representatives who were not in attendance at the meetings have received the meeting notes to ensure they are well advised of the policy. In addition, leagues were advised to further inform each individual team representative. This information was also included in written communication on subsequent communications from the CGS to all field users. Positive results are anticipated from this proactive, collaborative approach.

Playfields are also a critical part of discussions in the current renegotiation of the Joint Use agreement. Staff are currently collaborating with all four local school boards to renew/create one Joint Use agreement between all parties. A draft Joint Use agreement is scheduled to be presented to Council prior to December, 2012.

Conclusion

The City of Greater Sudbury continues to analyze and review supply, demand and capacity issues within its outdoor recreational facilities and sports fields. Since the release of the 2004 Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan, the following has been accomplished:

- 2 mini fields at Lionel Lalonde Centre (equivalent to 1 full size field)
- 4 full size fields at Howard Armstrong Recreational Complex
- Renewal of 2 full size fields at James Jerome sports complex with lights / converted one natural field into artificial turf. An artificial turf field is equivalent to 4 full size grass field or 2.5 lit grass field.
- Developed 6 mini fields at Adanac / Rotary park - (equivalent to 3 full size field)
- 1 mini field at Robinson playground
- 1 mini field at Delki Dozzi playground

The above reduces the soccer field shortage by 13 full size fields leaving a balance of field shortage of 8 fields. Additionally, a feasibility study completed during the Multi-Use Recreational Complex exercise identified the shortage of fields primarily in the former city of Sudbury.

Outdoor Rinks and Playfields

As defined in the Leisure Services Strategic Plan, with the initiation of the Official Plan review, it is anticipated that an update can also be provided for the Parks, Open Space and Leisure Master Plan. This update will provide the framework to better inform the decisions and actions in the continued effort to renew infrastructure and meet the needs of the citizens of Greater Sudbury.