

Public Release  
January 27, 2020



**Town of Aurora  
Additional Items to  
Council Meeting Agenda**

Tuesday, January 28, 2020  
7 p.m., Council Chambers

- **Revised Council Meeting Agenda Index**
- **Item R1 – CMS20-004 – Additional Information Supporting Outdoor Sport Field Development Strategy**



## **Town of Aurora Council Meeting Agenda (Revised)**

Tuesday, January 28, 2020  
7 p.m., Council Chambers

- 1. Approval of the Agenda**
- 2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**
- 3. Community Presentations**
  - (a) Melanie Osmond, Michelle Black, and Brian North, Southlake Foundation  
Re: 2020 Run for Southlake**
- 4. Delegations**
  - (a) Javed S. Khan, Director, Community Relations, and Ron Weese, Past  
President, Sport Aurora  
Re: General Committee Item R1 – CMS20-001 – Outdoor Field  
Development Strategy**
- 5. Consent Agenda**

Items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine or no longer require further discussion and are enacted in one motion. The exception to this rule is that a Member may request that one or more items be pulled for discussion and voted on separately.

**Recommended:**

That the following Consent Agenda items, C1 to C11 inclusive, be approved:

**C1. Council Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2019**

**Recommended:**

1. That the Council meeting minutes of December 10, 2019, be adopted as printed and circulated.

**C2. Special Meeting of Council Minutes of December 17, 2019**

**Recommended:**

1. That the Special Meeting of Council minutes of December 17, 2019, be adopted as printed and circulated.

**C3. Council Closed Session Minutes of December 3, 2019**

(confidential attachment)

**Recommended:**

1. That the Council Closed Session minutes of December 3, 2019, be adopted as printed and circulated.

**C4. Council Closed Session Public Minutes of December 3, 2019**

**Recommended:**

1. That the Council Closed Session Public minutes of December 3, 2019, be adopted as printed and circulated.

**C5. Council Closed Session Minutes of December 10, 2019**

(confidential attachment)

**Recommended:**

1. That the Council Closed Session minutes of December 10, 2019, be adopted as printed and circulated.

**C6. Council Closed Session Public Minutes of December 10, 2019**

**Recommended:**

1. That the Council Closed Session Public minutes of December 10, 2019, be adopted as printed and circulated.

**C7. Council Closed Session Minutes of December 17, 2019**

(confidential attachment)

**Recommended:**

1. That the Council Closed Session minutes of December 17, 2019, be adopted as printed and circulated.

**C8. Council Closed Session Public Minutes of December 17, 2019**

**Recommended:**

1. That the Council Closed Session Public minutes of December 17, 2019, be adopted as printed and circulated.

**C9. Council Closed Session Minutes of January 14, 2020**

(confidential attachment)

**Recommended:**

1. That the Council Closed Session minutes of January 14, 2020, be adopted as printed and circulated.

**C10. Council Closed Session Public Minutes of January 14, 2020**

**Recommended:**

1. That the Council Closed Session Public minutes of January 14, 2020, be adopted as printed and circulated.

**C11. Memorandum from Councillor Gaertner**

**Re: Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting  
Highlights of September 27 and November 8, 2019**

**Recommended:**

1. That the memorandum regarding Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority Board Meeting Highlights of September 27 and November 8, 2019, be received for information.

## **6. Standing Committee Reports**

### **S1. General Committee Meeting Report of January 14, 2020**

#### **Recommended:**

1. That the General Committee Meeting Report of January 14, 2020, be received and the recommendations carried by the Committee approved.

## **7. Consideration of Items Requiring Discussion (Regular Agenda)**

### **R1. CMS20-004 – Additional Information Supporting Outdoor Sport Field Development Strategy**

(Added Item)

#### **Recommended:**

1. That Report No. CMS20-004 be received for information.

## **8. Motions**

### **(a) Councillor Kim**

**Re: Workplace Diversity and Inclusion Strategy**

### **(b) Councillor Kim**

**Re: Tennis Court Permitting**

## **9. Regional Report**

**York Regional Council Highlights – December 19, 2019**

#### **Recommended:**

That the Regional Report of December 19, 2019, be received for information.

## **10. New Business**

## **11. Public Service Announcements**

## 12. By-laws

### Recommended:

That the following by-laws be enacted:

- (a) **By-law Number XXXX-20** Being a By-law to appoint two (2) Deputy Treasurers for The Corporation of the Town of Aurora.
- (b) **By-law Number XXXX-20** Being a By-law to allocate any 2019 Operating Fund surplus and any 2019 Water and Wastewater Operating Fund surplus or deficit.  
(General Committee Report No. FS19-038, Nov. 19, 2019)
- (c) **By-law Number XXXX-20** Being a By-law to designate a property to be of cultural heritage value or interest (Railroad Hotel).  
(Heritage Advisory Committee Report No. HAC18-012, Jul. 9, 2018)
- (d) **By-law Number XXXX-20** Being a By-law to appoint employees of the Vic Priestly Contracting Limited as Municipal By-law Enforcement Officers.  
(Council Report No. BBS11-007, Aug. 16, 2011)

## 13. Closed Session

## 14. Confirming By-law

### Recommended:

That the following confirming by-law be enacted:

**By-law Number XXXX-20** Being a By-law to confirm actions by Council resulting from a Council meeting on January 28, 2020.

## 15. Adjournment



**Town of Aurora  
Council Report**

**No. CMS20-004**

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**Subject:** Additional Information Supporting Outdoor Sport Field  
Development Strategy

**Prepared by:** John Firman, Manager, Business Support

**Department:** Community Services

**Date:** January 28, 2020

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## **Recommendation**

- 1. That Report No. CMS20-004 be received for information.**

## **Executive Summary**

This report provides further information regarding the prioritization of the recommendations included in the Sport Field Development Strategy (SFDS), as presented by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants (MBPC) at General Committee on January 14, 2020. This report includes:

- Several factors are considered in the prioritization of the recommendations.
- The recommendations have been summarized for ease of reference.
- Staff will begin work on the next steps in recommending specific projects to Council in order to meet new and existing sport field requirements.

## **Background**

The Sport Field Development Strategy was presented by MBPC at the General Committee meeting on January 14, 2020, and included numerous recommendations related to the development and/or re-purposing of new and existing sport fields. The strategies were presented in the SFDS in detail, identifying a variety of factors to be considered in moving forward with each recommendation and the project evaluation criteria impacting the prioritization.

Council expressed an interest in better understanding what factors were considered in the prioritization and in seeing the recommendations summarized for ease of reference.

## **Analysis**

### **Several factors are considered in the prioritization of the recommendations.**

MBPC considered the following seven factors in determining the prioritization ranking of High, Medium or Low for each recommendation:

1. Does it add capacity (e.g., lights, artificial turf, new supply, accommodate additional users, etc.);
2. Does it address a high priority need (e.g., large fields);
3. Does it leverage a community partnership (e.g., school);
4. Does it reduce conflicts (e.g. overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes;
5. Does it replace a facility that is underused or in poor condition;
6. Does it appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (e.g., lighting, parking impacts, etc.); and
7. Does it have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)?

### **The recommendations have been summarized for ease of reference.**

MBPC has summarized the recommendations related to the development and/or re-purposing of sports fields on three maps (attached), categorized as follows:

1. Town Parks – High and Medium Priority Projects
2. Schools – High and Medium Priority Projects
3. Lower Priority Projects

### **Staff will begin work on the next steps in recommending specific projects to Council in order to meet new and existing sport field requirements.**

Staff will use the SFDS to inform and guide next steps, which will include:

1. Analyze high priority items and the impact of same;
2. Consult with user groups in the analysis and determination of priority sport field requirements;
3. Continue discussions with school boards and other potential partners; and
4. Develop project recommendations and budgets for the 2021 and 2022 Capital Budgets.

January 28, 2020

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Report No. CMS20-004

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### **Advisory Committee Review**

Not applicable.

### **Legal Considerations**

Not applicable.

### **Financial Implications**

Not applicable.

### **Communications Considerations**

Not applicable.

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

An Outdoor Field Development Strategy supports the Strategic Plan goal of **Supporting an exceptional quality of life for all** in its accomplishment in satisfying requirements in the following key objective within this goal statement:

**Objective 4: Encouraging an active and healthy lifestyle**

### **Alternative(s) to the Recommendation**

1. Council can provide further direction.

### **Conclusions**

The outdoor field development strategy will serve to inform future recommendations to meet community needs for outdoor sports fields.

### **Attachments**

1. Sports Field Development Strategy Maps (3)

January 28, 2020

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Report No. CMS20-004

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**Previous Reports**

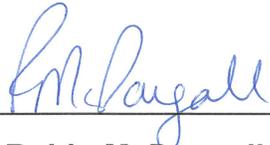
CMS19-016 2019 Capital Budget – Outdoor Field Development Strategy

CMS20-001 2020 Outdoor Field Development Strategy

**Pre-submission Review**

Not applicable

**Departmental Approval**



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**Robin McDougall**  
Director  
Community Services

**Approved for Agenda**



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**Doug Nadorozny**  
Chief Administrative Officer



# Sports Field Development Strategy

February 2020



**Monteith • Brown**  
planning consultants



# Sports Field Development Strategy

February 2020



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## Executive Summary

### **Aurora is an active and growing community. Demand for sports fields is rising.**

Usage data and input from user groups indicate that the Town's supply of sports fields – including ball diamonds and rectangular fields for sports such as soccer, football, rugby, lacrosse and field hockey – are at or approaching capacity. With the Town's population projected to increase 22% by 2031, sport fields needs are also expected to increase, although at a slightly slower rate.

As Aurora begins to grow inwards and upwards, there will be fewer opportunities for community park development, including sites that are large enough to accommodate sports fields. Increasingly, the Town must explore options for optimizing its field supply and work in partnership with other landowners – such as schools – to meet needs.

### **We must plan ahead, make the most of our assets, and work with others.**

This Sports Field Development Strategy examines short and long-term needs through research and input from local stakeholders and user groups. Strategies for meeting community needs are proposed, often in partnership with others. It will take a variety of approaches and sustained investment to address community needs.

This Strategy uses market-driven provision targets that consider standards in nearby communities, but that reflect Aurora's specific usage and demand profiles. By linking the target to participation levels, we can monitor trends and estimate long-term needs associated with local growth factors.

### **The Town has made strides, but strategic investment is needed to keep pace with evolving interests.**

To enhance capacity for soccer and other turf sports, the Town has recently invested in new and improved rectangular fields at locations such as Stewart Burnett Park, Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area and through partnerships with schools. Efforts are also underway to address growing demand for ball diamonds, as two diamonds are planned for the Hallmark Lands (a site recently purchased by the Town for sport field development).

Nearly half of the 60 rectangular fields permitted by the Town are owned by non-municipal entities, such as schools and The Stronach Group ("Magna Fields"). These fields are vital to meeting current and future needs. As the 19 Magna Fields could be removed from service as early as 2022/23, we need to start planning for their eventual replacement so as not to create a disruption in service.

Participation in sport is also evolving, with a growing emphasis on competitive sport, year-round training, and high quality facilities. Participation in soccer grew tremendously in the early 2000s, and baseball has been on the rise more recently. Other field sports also capture the interest of many residents, and Aurora's location in the Greater Toronto Area make it a convenient destination for organizations serving the entire York Region.

### Sports groups are seeking more and higher quality fields.

Consultation for this Strategy included stakeholder focus groups, surveys, interviews and written submissions. All local sport field users were provided multiple opportunities to contribute.

Several organizations voiced a desire to improve and expand the sports field inventory to address their waiting lists and/or enhance their programs. Groups identified that some Town parks contain multiple types of sports fields (e.g., soccer and baseball), often with overlapping templates that do not allow for simultaneous play. They also suggested that parks or school sites may have the potential for greater use, particularly through the expansion of fields or installation of lighting and/or artificial turf.

Among the items most often sought by user groups are artificial and lighted fields, indoor fields for winter use, locations with multiple fields, and barrier-free accessibility. Not only do these features facilitate local needs, they also help groups to attract and retain athletes and support sport tourism.

### Fields are being used to capacity.

Despite declining registration in youth soccer, the demand for rectangular fields remains strong due to increased interest in skill development, adult play, and growth in sports such as football and lacrosse. Different age groups also require different field sizes, adding to the challenges of creating a supply that adequately fits Aurora's needs.

In 2019, the Town's rectangular sports fields were booked 80% of the time (90% on weekdays and 57% on weekends), while ball diamonds were booked 73% of the time (61% on weekdays and 22% on weekends). These levels are indicative of a system that is being used to capacity, recognizing that some smaller and lower quality fields are not fully utilized. It is important to note that no field can be booked 100% of the time due to rainouts, time limits and scheduling practices, field rest, etc. Usage is greatest on senior/large fields, particularly those with lights and/or artificial turf.

### More rectangular fields will be required to address growth and the closure of the Magna Fields.

Because lit and artificial turf fields offer added capacity, the Town's supply of 60 rectangular fields are equivalent to 66 unlit fields. Based on a target of one rectangular field (unlit equivalent) per 85 participants, the available supply is currently meeting needs. However, growth-related demands will result in a need for an additional 7 fields by 2031. In addition, it is estimated that approximately 13 fields of varying sizes will be required to offset the loss of the Magna fields. This results in a total need for **20 additional rectangular fields by 2031**; approximately two of these should be lit artificial turf fields.

### Our needs are currently greatest for ball diamonds.

The Town permits 18 ball diamonds, all of which are Town-owned. Because lit diamonds (of which there are 10) offer added capacity, the Town's supply is equivalent to 23 unlit diamonds, the base level of measurement in this Strategy.

Based on a target of one ball diamond (unlit equivalent) per 90 participants, the Town currently has a deficit of two ball diamonds (unlit equivalents), increasing to **5 additional diamonds by 2031**. The Town is well positioned to address the short-term needs through the development of two diamonds on the Hallmark Lands.

### **Land acquisition options are extremely limited.**

If the Town were to secure land to accommodate all of the field needs identified in this Strategy (projecting out to 2031), it is estimated that up to an additional 32 hectares of parkland would be required (20 hectares for rectangular sports fields and 12 hectares for ball diamonds). These needs can not be met strictly by traditional means such as the land development process as greenfield land supplies are dwindling and additional community parks are not anticipated. As a result, sports field development must focus on improving what we have, optimizing our sites, acquiring land, and working in partnership with owners of other large sites.

### **The Town should employ a variety of strategies to enhance and expand the supply.**

The following strategies have been identified to guide implementation; recommendations and options have been developed for each:

- Strategy 1: Improve and Re-purpose Existing Sports Fields
- Strategy 2: Develop New Fields and/or Permit Fields within Existing and New Parks
- Strategy 3: Expand Partnerships
- Strategy 4: Modify Operational Practices

#### **Recommendations – Rectangular Sports Fields**

- 1.1: Convert fields to better match dimensions and uses with demands.
- 1.2: Add lighting to extend play opportunities.
- 1.3: Improve fields to enhance playability and address areas of demand.
- 2.1: Construct new fields to strengthen the supply of rectangular sports fields.
- 2.2: Permit more fields in existing parks.
- 2.3: Consider opportunity-based acquisition for sports field development.
- 3.1: Partner with School Boards to permit available school fields, most notably the York Region District School Board. This would require the Town to allocate additional operating funding toward field maintenance, in agreement with the respective school boards.
- 3.2: Partner with School Boards to improve and/or construct fields.
- 4.3: Upon termination of the third-party lease agreement, resume Town-operations of the Aurora Sports Dome and investigate the potential to add air conditioning to maximize usage during the summer months.

#### **Recommendations – Ball Diamonds**

- 1.1: Improve fields to enhance playability and address areas of demand.
- 2.1: Construct new fields. This would require land acquisition (aside from the Hallmark Lands).
- 3.1: Work with St. Andrew's College to improve community access to the hardball diamond.

#### **Recommendations – All Sports Fields**

- 4.1: Identify and circulate opportunities amongst affiliated groups for last minute sports field rentals.
- 4.2: Work with surrounding municipalities to ensure that cross-border sports organizations that serve regional players have coordinated access to fields within and outside of Aurora and that field capacity is properly managed. Consider restricting usage from organizations representing memberships having a high percentage of non-Aurora residents.

## Specific options for addressing sports field needs have been identified and assessed.

Several options (e.g., candidate sites) for enhancing the sports field supply have been assessed. A focus has been placed on Town parks and schools, and different options are occasionally considered for the same site (e.g., exclusively used for rectangular fields or ball diamonds). Priority and timing have been assigned to each (**see Section 6.4 for a summary**). Maps illustrating the location and priority of each option are contained on the following pages.

High priority projects are those that:

- Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users, etc.);
- Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields);
- Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school);
- Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or creates multi-field complexes;
- Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition;
- Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (e.g., lighting, parking impacts, etc.); and
- Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.).

It is recognized that implementation of some options may be impacted by site size/capacity, ability to accommodate field lighting, other parkland priorities, partnership agreements, funding and community support. The options represent a starting point for further analysis or partner discussions. New options may emerge over time and should be evaluated against the assessment criteria.

Nothing in this report should prohibit the Town from continuing to undertake minor maintenance and/or field improvements on an as-needed basis.

## There are many options for addressing rectangular sports fields needs.

The Strategy identifies the potential to increase the supply by **up to 37.0 rectangular sports fields (unlit equivalents or ULE)** through new fields, access agreements, and enhancements. Not all will be required to meet community needs (20 additional fields are required by 2031), nor are all options mutually exclusive and some enlargements may result in a net loss of fields.

Several options are presented to reduce conflicts through field conversions (e.g., Machell Park, etc.), field improvements (e.g., Norm Weller Park, etc.), field development (e.g., small fields in new neighbourhood parks), and expanded partnerships (e.g., facilitating access to YRDSB fields, turf field at Cardinal Carter, etc.).

### Summary of Rectangular Sports Field Development Strategies



Facilitating community access to YRDSB fields may be the Town’s most viable solution to replacing the Magna fields as it could be implemented quickly and most school fields are smaller templates. In addition, the Dr. GW Williams Secondary School site (which is slated for closure in 2023 but is anticipated to remain in YRDSB ownership) presents an excellent opportunity due to its location and size; additional discussions with the school board will be required to explore future options.

**There are fewer options for addressing ball diamond needs.**

The Strategy identifies the potential to add **up to 4.5 ball diamonds (unlit equivalents or ULE)**, largely through new field development. This is slightly less than the projected need for 5 additional diamonds by 2031. To create larger diamonds, some options would result in a net loss of fields.

Options for enhancing the supply of ball diamonds are few. Due to their size and buffer requirements, ball diamonds are hard to fit within many parks. Further, there are no schoolyards or private parks in Aurora that contain ball diamonds, putting the onus for provision solely on the Town.

The Hallmark Lands represent the most tangible opportunity to expand the ball diamond inventory, barring additional land acquisition. Options for adding ball diamonds to existing parks without removing well-established and highly utilized park amenities simply do not exist. Although some diamonds can be expanded to accommodate a wider range of users, this will not add to the supply. Furthermore, viable options for accommodating the lit hardball diamond recommended in the Town’s 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan have yet to be identified.

**Summary of Ball Diamond Development Strategies**



**New approaches and partnerships will be the keys to success.**

As a best practice, opportunities to develop multi-field sports fields at a single location to accommodate league play and tournaments should be encouraged. Where possible, new sports field development should generally be full-size with goal posts (with consideration given to uprights), and supporting amenities such as lighting, parking, spectator seating, etc.

With a limited land base available to construct new sports fields, there will be a need to expand existing partnerships and/or form new partnerships with non-municipal organizations that provide outdoor space. To meet future needs, the Town must build on its past success in providing or accessing outdoor sports fields with partners, such as school boards, St. Andrew’s College, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, and others. Some of these options – particularly those involving artificial turf – present the best opportunity for the Town to address not only soccer needs, but also the growing demand of sports such as football, rugby and lacrosse. Any municipal investment in third-party fields should be accompanied by a suitable agreement that protects the municipal investment and guarantees appropriate community access.

# Sports Field Development Strategy - Map 1 of 3



## Implementation Strategy - Town Parks High and Medium Priority Projects

- High Priority Project
- Medium Priority Project

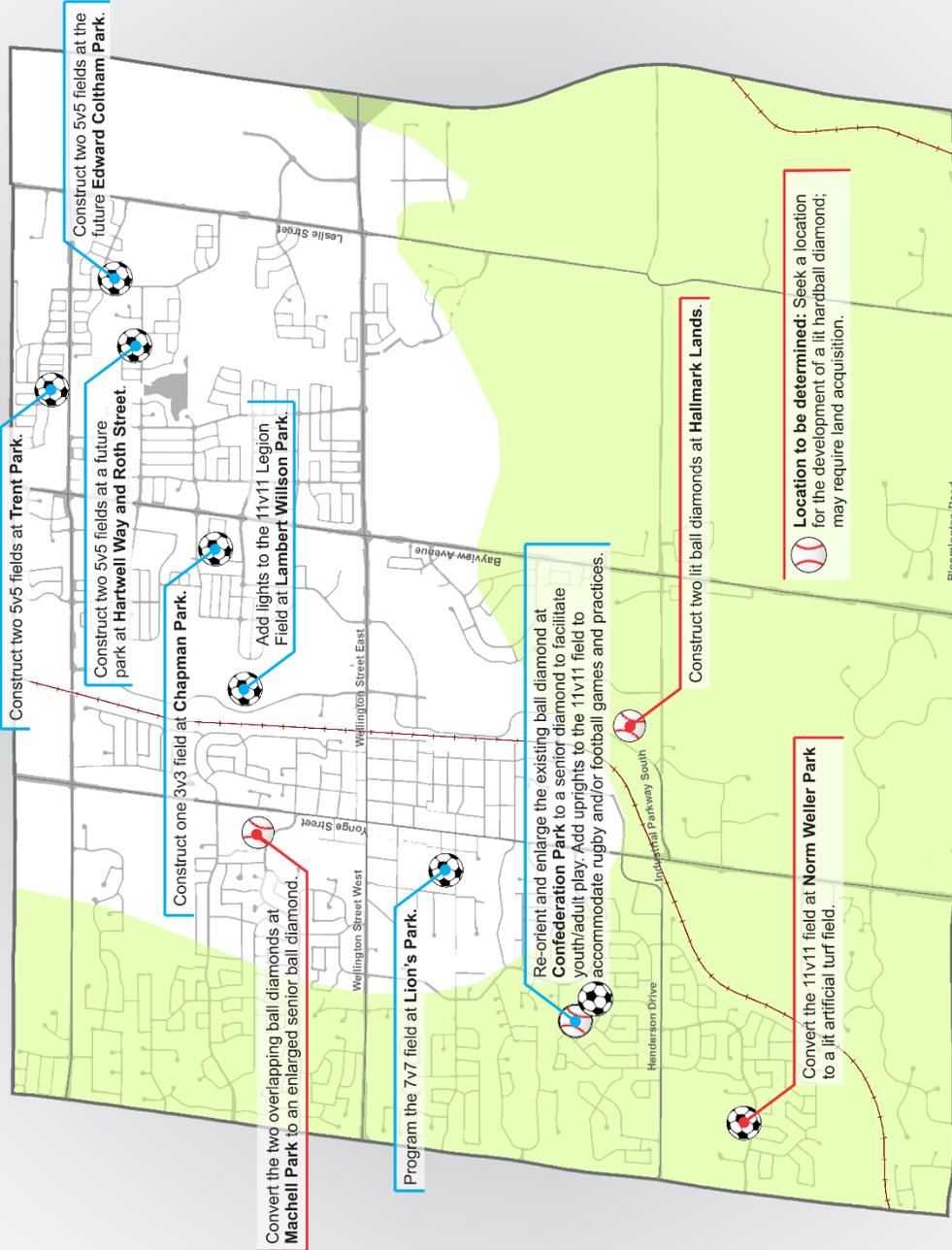
### Footnotes:

The options represent a starting point for further analysis and partner discussions. Additional investigations and/or public consultation may be required. Some options may prove not to be viable; for example, upgrading fields (such as adding lights) may not be feasible at all locations due to neighbourhood concerns, park capacities, etc. New options may also emerge over time and should be evaluated against the assessment criteria.

All identified options may not be required to satisfy current and future needs; the Town is encouraged to regularly monitor field usage and registration to inform ongoing planning.

Timing of implementation will be influenced by several factors. The priority of options may be altered or accelerated to respond to emerging park redevelopment, partnership, and funding opportunities.

Minor maintenance and/or improvements such as repairs or upgrades that do not enhance overall field capacity (e.g., re-sodding, drainage, etc.) are not identified. These should continue to be assessed and implemented by the Town on an as-needed basis.



# Sports Field Development Strategy - Map 2 of 3



## Implementation Strategy - Schools High and Medium Priority Projects

- High Priority Project
- Medium Priority Project

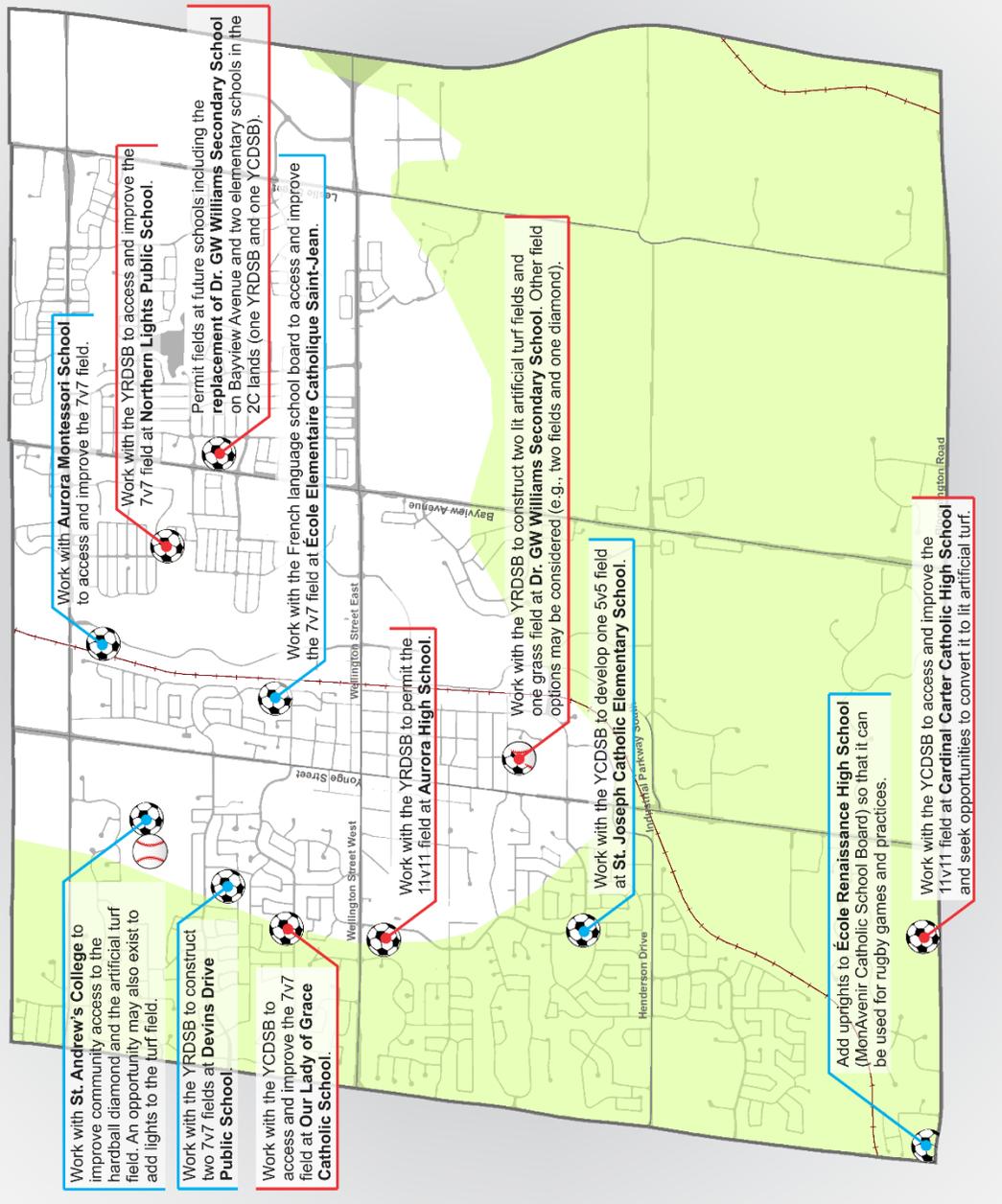
### Footnotes:

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Minor maintenance and/or improvements such as repairs or upgrades that do not enhance overall field capacity (e.g., re-sodding, drainage, etc.) are not identified. These should continue to be assessed and implemented by the Town on an as-needed basis.



# Sports Field Development Strategy - Map 3 of 3



Enlarge the ball diamond at **Summit Park** to facilitate youth/adult play.



Enlarge the ball diamond at **Flery Park** to facilitate youth/adult play.



Add lights to the 11v11 field at **Machell Park**.



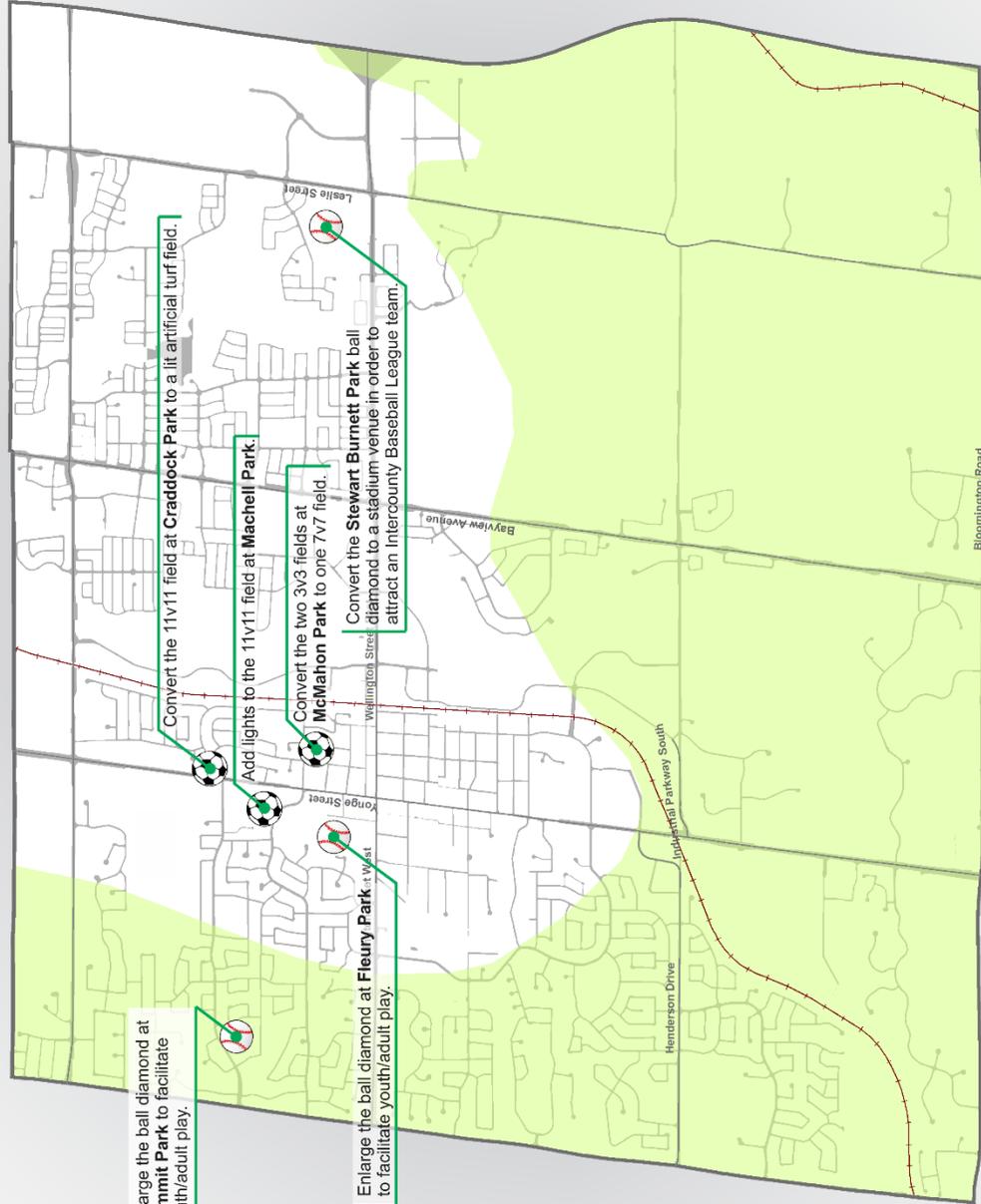
Convert the two 3v3 fields at **McMahon Park** to one 7v7 field.



Convert the **Stewart Burnett Park** ball diamond to a stadium venue in order to attract an Intercounty Baseball League team.



Convert the 11v11 field at **Craddock Park** to a lit artificial turf field.



## Implementation Strategy

Lower Priority Projects (to be pursued as required following the consideration of High and Medium priority projects)

### Lower Priority Project

#### Footnotes:

The options represent a starting point for further analysis and partner discussions. Additional investigations and/or public consultation may be required. Some options may prove not to be viable; for example, upgrading fields (such as adding lights) may not be feasible at all locations due to neighbourhood concerns, park capacities, etc. New options may also emerge over time and should be evaluated against the assessment criteria.

All identified options may not be required to satisfy current and future needs; the Town is encouraged to regularly monitor field usage and registration to inform ongoing planning.

Timing of implementation will be influenced by several factors. The priority of options may be altered or accelerated to respond to emerging park redevelopment, partnership, and funding opportunities.

Minor maintenance and/or improvements such as repairs or upgrades that do not enhance overall field capacity (e.g., re-sodding, drainage, etc.) are not identified. These should continue to be assessed and implemented by the Town on an as-needed basis.



## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

Aurora’s outdoor sports fields are vital community assets that accommodate physical activities and promote healthy lifestyles, athletic development, and sport tourism. The provision of outdoor sports fields is currently guided by the Town’s 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. While the Town has moved forward with the Master Plan’s recommendations, a more detailed strategy is needed to guide the development of sports fields, as well as opportunities to enhance capacity at existing sports fields and re-purpose underutilized sports fields, parks and open spaces.



Lambert Willson Park

This Sports Field Development Strategy establishes an understanding of local sports field needs through research, an updated needs assessment, and engagement with stakeholders and user groups. The focus of this report is on rectangular sports fields (for activities including soccer, football, rugby, lacrosse and field hockey) and ball diamonds. Although an emphasis is placed on outdoor fields, consideration has been given to the ability of indoor fields in meeting peak demands.

Overall, the Sports Field Development Strategy provides insight to better understand user needs and confirms future directions relative to outdoor sports fields. Specific attention is given to short-term needs related to the future of the Magna soccer fields and strategies to identify alternative field locations, as well as ball diamond needs to ensure that there is sufficient field capacity available in Aurora over the next ten years.

### 1.2 Primary Drivers

The need for a Sports Field Development Strategy is being driven by a number of factors.

1. Aurora is an active community, with a large core of residents of all ages interested in field sports. The Town and broader region are also growing, which will lead to increased demand for fields over the long-term.
2. With demand rising, local sport organizations are seeking greater access to fields, placing pressure on existing fields. Despite recent investments in municipal sports fields – and plans for additional capital improvements (e.g., Hallmark lands) – organizations are seeking access to additional prime-time hours.
3. Opportunities to secure land and develop additional fields – particularly full-size fields and multiple fields at one site – are becoming fewer. The high cost of land, coupled with the Town’s location in the greenbelt and lack of large undeveloped parcels, present significant challenges to new sport field construction. Changes to legislation and land use patterns will also make it more

difficult for the Town to secure suitable parkland for sports fields through the development process.

4. Local users – particularly soccer clubs – rely heavily on non-municipal fields provided by the school boards, St. Andrew’s College and The Stronach Group (“Magna Fields”). Most notably, the Aurora Youth Soccer Club uses 19 soccer fields on lands leased from The Stronach Group; the club and Town need to plan for the eventual removal of these fields from the inventory as the land is slated for residential development. School closures and openings also offer both challenges and opportunities for field development, though the tightening of provincial budgets poses a threat.
5. Participation in sport is evolving. While the recreational and social aspects of sport remain, the level of competition is rising at all levels. This is leading to greater demand for year-round training opportunities (both outdoor and indoor), typically on the highest quality fields. Participation in soccer grew tremendously in the early 2000s, and baseball has been on the rise more recently. Field lacrosse, football, rugby and other field sports also capture the interest of many residents, and Aurora’s location in the Greater Toronto Area make it a convenient destination for organizations serving the entire York Region.
6. While Aurora has a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that focuses on town-wide needs and priorities, it lacks a comprehensive assessment of sport field opportunities and implementation options; this is the core purpose of this study. For example, there may be opportunities to enhance capacity and access by undertaking improvements to the current inventory, modifying scheduling practices, and/or working with others.

### 1.3 Methodology

The foundation for this Strategy utilized a framework that is based on an understanding of population growth, municipal and non-municipal sports fields inventories, participation trends, and usage. These inputs were supported by stakeholder consultation that included a mixture of focus groups and interviews with local sports groups, and a stakeholder survey.

Building upon the Phase One findings, a sports field needs assessment was undertaken to identify current and future needs using a combination of qualitative and quantitative analyses. The findings from the needs assessments inform future provision strategies moving forward.

The final phase involved the development of the Sports Field Development Strategy that summarizes all projects tasks, as well as the recommended sports field provision strategy.

<b>Phase One: Background Review</b>	<b>Phase Two: Needs Assessment</b>	<b>Phase Three: Strategy</b>
Community Profile	Stakeholder Consultation	Draft and Final Sports Field Development Strategy
Field Inventory and Usage	Needs Assessment	
Participation and Design Trends	Provision Strategy	

## 2. Planning Context

### 2.1 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Aurora’s 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update guides major capital decisions relating to the Town’s parks and recreation facilities over a five-year period, with consideration given to influencing factors such as demographics, trends, data, and public input. Table 1 summarizes the recommendations from the Master Plan Update that have relevance to the Sports Field Development Strategy.

**Table 1: Summary of Key Recommendations from the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update**

Sports Field Recommendations	Status
Establish a sports field complex containing a minimum of three lit full-size rectangular fields and supported by appropriate facilities oriented to further the player and/or spectator experience. One of these fields should be designed as a ‘multi-use’ field capable of accommodating field sports beyond soccer.	The development of a sports field complex has not yet been completed; however, the Town has expanded the artificial turf field at Sheppard’s Bush Conservation Area to accommodate a variety of sports including soccer, football, and rugby.
Construct one outdoor artificial turf field at Stewart Burnett Park, as per current municipal plans, to service a broad range of field sports while providing the Town with flexibility to accommodate future needs. Any additional artificial turf fields beyond this one should be subject to confirmation through municipal business planning exercises as per current practice.	In 2018, an artificial turf field for soccer was constructed at Stewart Burnett Park.
Continue to work with educational, industrial and other suitable partners to provide rectangular sports fields on non-municipal lands. Any adjustment to the supply of non-municipal fields should be considered and appropriately reconciled by the Town of Aurora using existing and/or future parks, and potentially through field capacity improvements such as lighting and/or artificial turf.	The Town continues to work with its partners to provide access to non-Town fields such as those located at St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS and St. Andrew’s College. While it is recognized that access will eventually be lost to the Magna soccer fields, the Town is actively seeking alternative rectangular sports field locations, which will be informed by the findings contained in the Sports Field Development Strategy.
Ball Diamond Recommendation	Status
In consultation with local ball associations, construct one new ball diamond that is designed to be ‘sport-friendly’ and employs a larger design template in order to accommodate use by adult leagues and/or hardball users.	The Town of Aurora purchased approximately 5.2 hectares (13 acres) of industrial land from Hallmark Cards in 2015 for the purposes of addressing a shortfall in Community Parkland. Over the past two years, the Town undertook a process that included consultation with stakeholders, usage and participation analysis, and concept design. In 2018, Council approved the development of two lit adult softball diamonds. A design process for the ball diamonds has recently been completed. No action has been taken on addressing the needs of hardball users.

Summarized below, the 10 Year Capital Investment Plan developed by Town staff and Council and informed by the Master Plan identifies specific projects related to the improvement or development of capital assets. Most projects have been deferred to the Sports Field Development Strategy.

**Table 2: Planned Outdoor Sports Field Projects, 10 Year Capital Investment Plan (2018)**

Year	Project Description	Status
2018	Field renovation to Norm Weller Park	On hold, pending Sports Field Development Strategy.
2019/20	Hallmark Lands baseball diamonds	Construction Tender closed. Council to review upon receipt of Sports Field Development Strategy.
2020	Field drainage improvements to the diamonds/soccer field at Willson Park	On hold, pending Sports Field Development Strategy and further condition assessment.
2020	Hardball Diamond	No location identified.

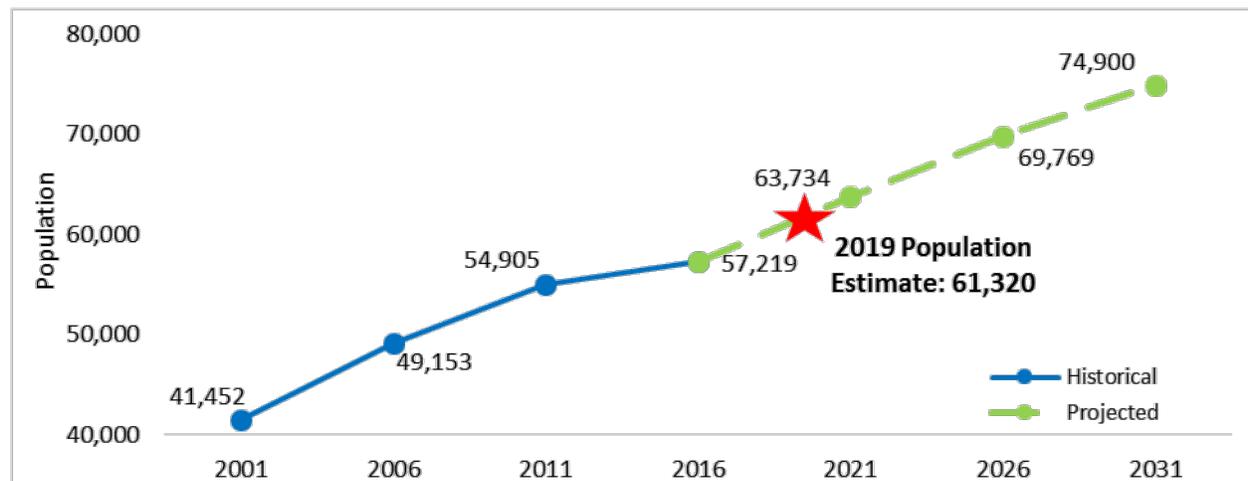
Source: 10 Year Capital Investment Plan, 2018

## 2.2 Population and Growth in Aurora

An understanding of Aurora’s demographic makeup and projected population growth is fundamental to ensuring that sports fields are available to respond to community needs. Aurora has grown at a moderate pace over the past two Census periods, though more slowly between the 2011 and 2016 Census when Aurora’s population grew by 4% to 57,219 (including Census undercount).<sup>1</sup>

Aurora’s Development Charges Background Study contains the Town’s population projections in five-year increments. For 2019, the Town’s population is estimated to be 61,320.<sup>2</sup> The Town’s population is estimated to grow by 22%, reaching 74,900 residents by 2031. A growth summary of historical and projected population growth is illustrated in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Historical and Projected Population Growth**



Source: Town of Aurora Development Charges Background Study (2019). Includes Census Undercount (3.2%).

<sup>1</sup> Census Undercount is 3.2%.

<sup>2</sup> Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. 2019. Development Charges Background Study (Draft).

Aurora’s age structure also provides key insights into the potential demand for outdoor sports fields. The focus of this Strategy centres around two age groups – children and youth (ages 5 to 19) and adults (ages 20 to 54) – as these segments account for the majority of sports field users. Over the past two Census periods, both of these age groups experienced marginal levels of decline. Between 2011 and 2016, the population of children and youth dropped by 5%, while adults declined by 1%.

Age cohort projections suggest that the proportion of children/youth and adults will decline between 2019 and 2031, although they will increase in total numbers by 10% and 13% respectively. A summary of age cohort projections is illustrated in Table 3.

**Table 3: Age Cohort Projections**

Age Group	2016 Census	2019 Estimate*	2031 Estimate*	Change (2019-2031)
Children and Youth (Age 5-19)	11,651	11,438	12,566	10%
Adults (Age 20-54)	27,234	28,783	32,517	13%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>57,219</b>	<b>61,320</b>	<b>74,900</b>	<b>22%</b>

Source: Adapted from Environics Analytics

\*2019 estimate is based on applying 19% (for children and youth) and 47% (for adults) to the total protected population. 2031 estimate is based on applying 17% (for children and youth) and 44% (for adults) to the total projected population. Includes Census Undercount (3.2%).

The projections assume that there will be growth among each of these age groups over the foreseeable future. While historical growth records indicated that this has not always been the case, it represents a reasonable scenario for long-term planning. Like many municipalities across the Province, Aurora is an aging community - its median age increased from 39.5 years to 41.5 years between the 2011 and 2016 Census. Another indicator is long-term accommodation planning studies prepared by area school boards, which estimate that student enrollment has plateaued in Aurora and forecast relatively stable enrollment until 2022, followed by a slow decline.<sup>3,4</sup>

There are other factors that will influence the demand for field sports. Research revealed that there is a softening emphasis on sport participation as there is a broadening interest in a variety of activities, particularly in non-sport opportunities. Coupling competing interests with the increasingly busy lifestyles of Canadians, many people are becoming too busy to participate in recreation and physical activities. Trends also suggest that newcomers and immigrants in the GTA are also less likely to participate in sports and recreation activities due to other priorities such as employment, education, and financial stability. Newcomers and immigrants that do participate in sports and recreation activities may also have a lower interest in participating in traditional North American sports such as baseball.

With these factors in mind, it will be prudent to continually monitor population growth (particularly children, youth and adults), together with participation trends in order to plan for the future of field sports.

<sup>3</sup> York Region District School Board. (2018). Capital Strategy 2018-2022.

<sup>4</sup> York Catholic District School Board. (2019). Long Term Accommodation Plan.

## 2.3 General Outdoor Sports Participation and Facility Design Trends

Broad trends impacting the provision and planning of sports fields are discussed below.

### Sports Field Renewal

The 2016 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card, which surveyed members of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, found that municipal sports fields across Canada are generally in good condition. While investment in recreation facilities has traditionally been under-funded, pressures have been reduced through recent provincial and federal stimulus programs. The Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program has recently allocated \$1.3 Billion in building, expanding or rehabilitating new recreation and sports facilities over a ten-year period.<sup>5</sup>



Stewart Burnett Park

With respect to local sports fields, the Town has been diligent in exploring strategies to maximize the use of existing sports fields to accommodate the needs of organizations. In 2018, the Town opened the new artificial turf soccer field at Stewart Burnett Park and in early 2019, the Town expanded the artificial turf field at Sheppard's Bush Conservation Area into a multi-purpose field that could accommodate field sports such as soccer and football.

### Barrier-Free Facilities

Municipalities have embraced the principles of inclusivity through facility design, which is guided by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and the Ontario Building Code. Local accessibility is guided by Aurora's 2014 – 2021 Accessibility Plan. The Town remains committed to removing participant barriers within its recreation facilities (where appropriate) to meet legislative requirements.

### Multi-Field Facilities

Many municipalities have experienced growing pressures for multi-field complexes. There are a number of benefits associated with co-locating several sports facilities on a single site. For example, multi-field sport complexes achieve efficiencies through having common infrastructure such as irrigation, lighting and drainage systems, parking, and washrooms, as well as centralized staff operations for maintenance. There are some multi-field locations examples found throughout Aurora including Magna Field, Sheppard's Bush, Machell Park, and St. Andrew's College, though most are not owned by the Town.

### Sports Tourism and Sport-Friendly Design

Sports tourism is an emerging trend in many communities across Ontario, driving the desire for high quality facilities and sport-friendly designs, such as complexes with multiple fields and supporting infrastructure. In order to accommodate tournaments, sport organizations generally desire the use of

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<sup>5</sup> Infrastructure Canada. (2018). Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. Retrieved from <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca>

multi-field sites with two to four sports fields, at a minimum, to support simultaneous games. Given that tournament-ready facilities would be used by teams from other communities, establishing a first impression of local facilities is imperative. As a result, tournament facilities must be high quality and be supported by a range of ancillary features that are typically found at multi-field sites such as parking, washrooms, spectator seating, concessions, lighting, fencing, and other desirable amenities that enhance the user experience.

Housing tournaments also draws economic spin-offs for restaurants, hotels, and other commercial proprietors, which are key considerations for visiting teams and municipal hosts. Lambert Willson Park is one example of a tournament-ready facility in Aurora. Plans are also underway to build hotels in Aurora, which should enable travel teams to stay locally.

### **Extending Playing Opportunities**

The Town has made efforts in providing field lighting and artificial turf fields, thereby enhancing its sports field supply and providing extended playing opportunities. As prime-time hours are finite and fields are most in demand during the weekday evenings, lighting sports fields is a common approach that may be employed to extend playing times, programming and improve maintenance efficiencies. In some communities, the provision of lit fields can also be more cost effective compared to acquiring new lands to provide additional unlit fields.



**Optimist Park**

Lit artificial turf fields can also provide enhanced playing experiences and respond to increasing demands for year-round play. Given that artificial turf fields are not susceptible to damage during the early spring and late fall and do not have usage restrictions, artificial turf fields can be utilized for extended playing seasons. They can accommodate multiple field activities including soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, field hockey, ultimate Frisbee, baseball, and others. By contrast, artificial turf fields may not be appropriate for all sport types as users may be subject to higher rates of injury or turf-rash.

### **Increased Focus on Skill Development and Competition**

Most sport governing bodies in Canada are shifting to a Long-Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity model that emphasizes quality experiences, optimal conditions, inclusion and collaboration. This model identifies the needs of participants at various stages of their development, including training and competition needs and also addresses the appropriate stages for the introduction and refinement of technical, physical, mental and tactical skills.

As a result of this and other factors (such as the amalgamation of organizations and changes to residency requirements that allow for greater player movement), competitive development experiences and opportunities are in high demand. The higher the level of play and the greater the focus on athlete development, the more time that is required for practices, games and camps. Many organizations are altering their standards of play in order to offer their registrants more facility time during all seasons. Training academies and other enhanced development experiences are turning soccer and other sports into year-round activities. While this model allows for more time on the field of play, it also coincides with growing demands for indoor turf.

### 3. Stakeholder Consultation

This section summarizes the input received from the consultation with Aurora sports field users. This information was critical to establishing a profile of sports field use and potential future demand.

Stakeholders were invited to participate in the study in the following ways:

1. Stakeholders were requested to complete an **organization-wide questionnaire** that examined participation levels, trends, and demand pressures. A summary of survey results can be found in **Appendix A**.
2. Two **stakeholder focus groups** were held with Aurora’s major sports field users on September 9, 2019 to introduce the project and the planning process and to collect input on matters relating to participation trends, opportunities to improve existing sports fields, and future needs. All regular renters and user groups were invited to attend the session and were circulated the session summary. A summary of input from rectangular sports field users is located in **Appendix B** and input from ball diamond users can be found in **Appendix C**.
3. **One-on-one interviews** were conducted with key agencies, municipalities, and landholders that help to support and provide sports fields in the community.

The following table identifies the organizations and stakeholders that participated in the consultation program and how they provided input.

**Table 4: Stakeholders Invited to Participate in the Consultation Process**

Organization	Submitted Survey	Attended Focus Group	Written Submission	Participated in Interview
<b>Rectangular Field Users</b>				
Aurora Rovers	✓			
Aurora Rugby Football Club	✓	✓	✓	
Aurora Soccer Club	✓	✓		
Aurora Special Olympics	✓	✓		
Aurora Summer Soccer	✓			
Aurora Youth Soccer Club	✓	✓		
Evolve Elite Lacrosse	✓	✓		
Extreme Goalkeepers Inc.	✓			
Redbirds Lacrosse				
Rising Stars Soccer Academy	✓			
York Region Lions Football	✓	✓		
<b>Ball Diamond Users</b>				
Aurora Diggers Softball	✓	✓		
Aurora King Baseball Association Inc.	✓		✓	
Aurora Ladies Softball Association	✓	✓		
Aurora Men's Slo-Pitch League	✓			
Aurora Mixed Slo-Pitch League	✓	✓		
Aurora Special Olympics		✓		
Oak Ridges Co-Ed Recreational Slow-Pitch	✓	✓		

Organization	Submitted Survey	Attended Focus Group	Written Submission	Participated in Interview
Seneca College	✓			
Sport Aurora		✓	✓	
St. Maximilian Kolbe C.H.S.	✓			
Team Ontario Astros	✓	✓		
Valhalla Mixed Slo-Pitch League	✓			
Yonge Aurora Co-ed Slo-Pitch				
York Region Athletic Association	✓			
York Region Men's Baseball League	✓			
<b>Other Stakeholders</b>				
ANB Futbol Academy*				✓
Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority				✓
King Township (Seneca College)**				✓
St. Andrew's College				✓
York Catholic District School Board				✓
York Region District School Board				✓
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>

\* Interview completed by Town

\*\*King Township also spoke on behalf of future facilities planned for Seneca College, which are to be operated by the Township.

### 3.1 Input from Rectangular Sports Field Users

Key findings from the focus group with rectangular sports field users are highlighted below.

1. Groups generally reported that **participation is increasing**, particularly in adult soccer, youth football and girls/competitive lacrosse. The majority of groups anticipate that participation will continue to increase over the next five years due to a variety of factors such as the strong popularity of rectangular field sports, local population increase, and greater promotion and raising awareness of sports groups. Participation in youth soccer and rugby is declining, though future growth is anticipated.
2. Parks with **multiple fields, artificial turf fields, or 11v11 fields** are the most popular locations such as Sheppard's Bush Soccer Fields, St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS, St. Andrew's College, Stewart Burnett Park, Fleury Park, Norm Weller Park, Optimist Park, and Highland Park.
3. The **growth of organizations is limited by access to rectangular sports fields**. Half of groups indicated that more field time is needed to accommodate increasing participation and the desired level of programming. As a result, groups have been required to rent fields outside of Aurora or indoor field time (which is costly during the off-season), as a result. There were **requests for additional full-size natural grass fields and artificial turf fields**. Some groups regularly use time outside of Aurora due to the regional nature of the organization.
4. Suggestions for **specific improvements** to rectangular sports field include:
  - a. Replace existing grass fields with artificial turf fields.
  - b. Enhance frequency of field maintenance (cutting and lining).

- c. Greater coordination between groups and schools to ensure goal netting is installed in advance of games.
- d. Use/upgrade/develop fields at the former Dr. GW Williams Secondary School.
- e. Install lights at 11v11 grass fields such as at Machell Park and Norm Weller Park to extend playing periods.
- f. Provide access to washrooms and change rooms to support elite level competitions.
- g. Improve deteriorating goal mouths.
- h. Provide supporting amenities to meet league regulations at key parks, such as multi-field sites, washrooms, change rooms, football/rugby uprights, parking, spectator seating. Scoreboards, audio and visual equipment, and other ancillaries. Suggested locations to provide these amenities include, but not limited to, Sheppard's Bush Soccer Fields, St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS, and Fleury Park.
- i. Ability to book fields online (and early in advance).
- j. Construct a second indoor artificial turf field dome for year-round activities.
- k. Ensure that indoor artificial turf field domes are equipped with air conditioning to support use during the summer months.

### **3.2 Input from Ball Diamond Users**

Key findings from the focus group with ball diamond users are highlighted below.

1. **Participation has been increasing** as a result of interest in adult ball. Participation in youth ball is increasing (especially at the competitive level), but at a slower rate. Interest in indoor/dome ball is also growing. The majority of groups anticipate that participation will remain stable over the next five years. This is largely due to factors such as limited diamond time availability and fewer youth participants.
2. **Adult ball diamonds** are the most popular facilities for groups to play at, including those located at Lambert Willson Park, Stewart Burnett Park, Optimist Park, Norm Weller Park, and Town Park.
3. Many groups indicated that **there is a need for more adult ball diamonds** to accommodate the growing number of adult players. **More early time slots for youth ball were also requested**, particularly to accommodate tournaments.
4. Suggestions for **specific improvements** to ball diamonds include:
  - a. Expand t-ball diamonds at Machell Park and Summit Park to accommodate other forms of baseball.
  - b. Improve the backstop and fencing at Optimist Park.
  - c. Improve the playing surface at senior diamonds such as at Stewart Burnett Park. Suggestions included a smoother infield to outfield transition, weeding, surface grading, improved dug-out security, mound improvements, etc. Positioning the diamond at Stewart Burnett Park as a stadium venue was also suggested, such as more spectator

seating, concessions, and controlled access that would potentially accommodate a semi-professional team.

- d. Improvements to the ball diamonds at Lambert Willson Park including netting, grading, and drainage.
- e. Multi-diamond tournament facility for adults. It was suggested that the proposed diamonds at the Hallmark lands would satisfy this need.
- f. Enlarge the ball diamonds at Norm Weller Park and Fleury Park to accommodate new adult playing standards.
- g. Install lighting at more adult ball diamonds.
- h. Explore the potential for hybrid fields (e.g., ball diamond overlapping a soccer field) with artificial turf.

### **3.3 Input from Schools and Agencies**

One-on-one interviews were conducted with school boards and agencies that help support the provision of sports fields in Aurora. These discussions underscored the need and interest in fostering and strengthening partnerships to optimize fields and maximize community access where the mandates of the Town and others are in alignment.

The Town's current sports field partnerships with the YCDSB, St. Andrew's College and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority were all viewed positively. While many of these schools and agencies have lands suitable for sports fields – particularly rectangular sports fields (few schools have ball diamonds) – they require municipal resources to develop and/or improve fields for community use. In cases where this can be achieved for everyone's benefit, it is a "win-win".

Various opportunities were discussed with the school boards as many local schools have unimproved rectangular fields that could be useful, especially when the Magna Fields become unavailable. For example, with additional municipal resourcing the Town could maintain and permit YRDSB fields, something that the Town currently does with several YCDSB fields. In addition, improving rectangular fields – including adding lights, artificial turf, and/or air-supported domes (where appropriate) – may be options for several secondary school properties; this is a model that has been used successfully in adjacent municipalities. New schools and/or under-utilized school properties (such as Dr. GW Williams Secondary School) also present potential opportunities for constructing fields that could serve both student and public needs, but would require funding from the Town.

## 4. Rectangular Sports Field Needs Assessment

This section examines rectangular sports field needs, which are informed by inputs such as inventories, trends, and usage. These inputs are also used to validate the input received from the stakeholder consultations. This information forms the building blocks for projecting future needs, taking into account projected population, participation figures and a market-based provision target. The results of the needs assessment were used to formulate facility development strategies and recommendations.

### 4.1 Inventory

Based on facility inventory data provided by the Town, Aurora has access to 60 rectangular sports fields that collectively accommodate a range of field sports including soccer, rugby, football, and lacrosse. This supply is comprised of 31 Town-owned fields and 29 permitted fields located at elementary schools, high schools, and agreements with private owners.

Recognizing that lit natural grass and artificial turf fields can accommodate extended play into the evening (thus increasing their capacity), an equivalency factor is applied. Based on the 2016 Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update, each lit natural grass and artificial turf field is assumed to provide an equivalent capacity of 1.5 and 2.5 unlit natural fields during peak season, respectively. With three lit natural grass fields and three artificial turf fields, **Aurora has an effective supply of 66 unlit equivalent rectangular fields.**

Since the 2016 Master Plan Update was completed, two notable changes occurred to the Town's rectangular field supply. First was the construction of the artificial turf field at Stewart Burnett Park, which has allowed the Town to extend playing periods during the evenings and shoulder seasons. Secondly, the Town expanded the size of the artificial turf field at Sheppard's Bush to accommodate multi-use sports (e.g., soccer, football, etc.), which resulted in the loss of two 7v7 natural grass fields. In addition to these projects, the Town has been diligent in reconfiguring existing rectangular sports fields to meet the Long-Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity requirements.



Sheppard's Bush

Within the short term, it is anticipated that the Town will lose the Magna soccer fields. This will require the Town to seek solutions for relocating usage associated with 19 soccer fields, including two 11v11, two 7v7, two 9v9, ten 5v5, and three 3v3 fields. Replacing these 19 fields in their entirety would require a land base equivalent to 7.5 11v11 (full size) fields or approximately 7.0 hectares (plus parking and other amenities). Potential relocation options are considered through this Strategy.

The distribution of rectangular sports fields is illustrated in the figure below. The following tables summarize the Town’s rectangular sports field inventory by class and by field type (Town-owned and permitted).

Figure 2: Distribution of Rectangular Sports Fields

### Rectangular Sports Field Inventory

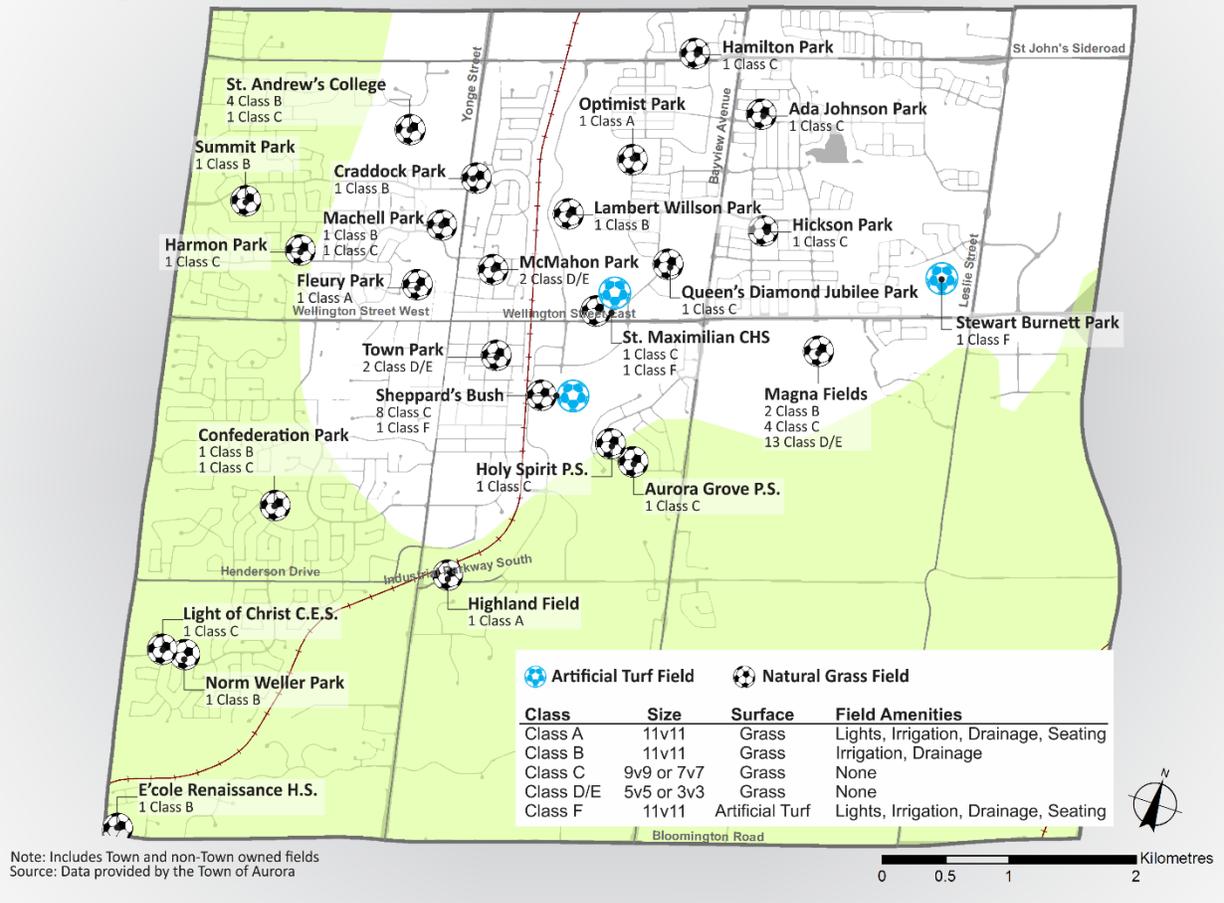


Table 5: Class A (Senior) Soccer Fields (Lights, Irrigation, and Drainage)

#	Name	Size	#	Name	Size
1.	Fleury Sr. Field	11 v 11	3.	Optimist Park	11 v 11
2.	Highland Field	11 v 11			

Table 6: Class B (Senior) Soccer Fields (Irrigation and Drainage)

#	Name	Size	#	Name	Size
1.	Confederation Park Sr. Field	11 v 11	8.	Norm Weller Park	11 v 11
2.	Craddock Park	11 v 11	9.	St. Andrew’s College Sr. #2*	11 v 11
3.	École Renaissance H.S. Field*	11 v 11	10.	St. Andrew’s College Sr. #3*	11 v 11
4.	Lambert Willson Legion Field	11 v 11	11.	St. Andrew’s College Sr. #4*	11 v 11
5.	Machell Sr. Field	11 v 11	12.	St. Andrew’s College Sr. #5*	11 v 11
6.	Magna #1 Sr.*	11 v 11	13.	Summit Park	11 v 11
7.	Magna #2 Sr.*	11 v 11			

\*Non-municipal rectangular sports field

**Table 7: Class C (Senior) Soccer Fields**

#	Name	Size	#	Name	Size
1.	Ada Johnson Park Field	7 v 7	13.	Queen's Diamond Jubilee Field	7 v 7
2.	Aurora Grove P.S. Field*	7 v 7	14.	St. Andrew's College Field*	7 v 7
3.	Confederation Field	7 v 7	15.	Sheppard's Bush #1	7 v 7
4.	Hamilton Park Field	9 v 9	16.	Sheppard's Bush #10	9 v 9
5.	Harmon Park Field	7 v 7	17.	Sheppard's Bush #2	7 v 7
6.	Hickson Park Field	7 v 7	18.	Sheppard's Bush #3	7 v 7
7.	Holy Spirit P.S. Field*	7 v 7	19.	Sheppard's Bush #4	7 v 7
8.	Light of Christ P.S. Field*	7 v 7	20.	Sheppard's Bush #7	9 v 9
9.	Magna #11*	7 v 7	21.	Sheppard's Bush #8	7 v 7
10.	Magna #12*	7 v 7	22.	Sheppard's Bush #9	9 v 9
11.	Magna #13*	9 v 9	23.	St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS Field*	7 v 7
12.	Magna #14*	9 v 9	24.	Sunoco Field (Machell Park)	7 v 7

\*Non-municipal rectangular sports field. Note: Excludes two 7v7 fields located at Sheppard's Bush remove in 2018 to accommodate artificial turf field.

**Table 8: Class D/E (Junior/Minor) Soccer Fields**

#	Name	Size	#	Name	Size
1.	Magna #1*	5 v 5	10.	Magna #10*	5 v 5
2.	Magna #2*	5 v 5	11.	Magna #15*	3 v 3
3.	Magna #3*	5 v 5	12.	Magna #16*	3 v 3
4.	Magna #4*	5 v 5	13.	Magna #17*	3 v 3
5.	Magna #5*	5 v 5	14.	McMahon #1	3 v 3
6.	Magna #6*	5 v 5	15.	McMahon #2	3 v 3
7.	Magna #7*	5 v 5	16.	Town Park #1	3 v 3
8.	Magna #8*	5 v 5	17.	Town Park #2	3 v 3
9.	Magna #9*	5 v 5			

\*Non-municipal rectangular sports field

**Table 9: Class F (Senior) Soccer or Multi-Use Fields (Lights, Artificial Turf, Seating, Drainage)**

#	Name	Size	#	Name	Size
1.	Sheppard's Bush Artificial Turf	11 v 11	3.	Stewart Burnett Artificial Turf	11 v 11
2.	St. Maximilian Kolbe Artificial Turf	11 v 11			

Note: Artificial turf fields at Sheppard's Bush and St. Maximilian Kolbe are multi-use fields with goal posts and uprights that can accommodate various activities including soccer, football, etc.

## 4.2 Key Trends

Based on background research as well as an understanding of best practices in similar communities, a number of soccer and sport trends were identified that will influence the provision of fields in Aurora.

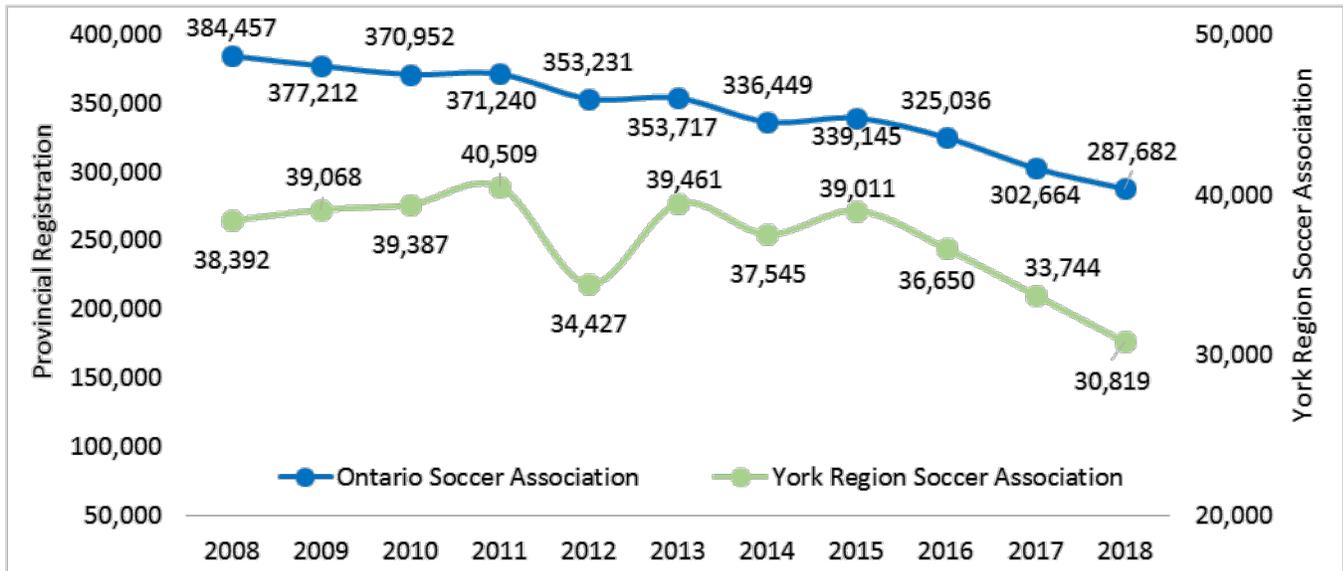
### Participation

#### Outdoor Soccer

At the national level, the number of participants registered with the Ontario Soccer Association (OSA) peaked in 2007 with 385,026 participants and has slowly declined each year since. For 2018, the organization reported a total of 287,682 participants, which is a decline of 25% from the 2007 peak (Figure 3).

The York Region Soccer Association is Aurora’s regional affiliate, which includes Aurora FC (youth), Aurora Soccer Club (adult), and similar clubs throughout the Region. The regional organization demonstrated a similar participation trend over the past decade. Regional participation peaked in 2011 with 40,509 participants. In 2018, the organization reported a total registration of 30,819 participants, which is a decline of 24% from the 2011 peak. Table 10 summarizes the change in regional soccer participation by age group since the participation peak in 2011. Participation in youth and adult soccer declined by 21% and 34%, respectively.

Figure 3: Participation in Provincial and Regional Outdoor Soccer, 2008 – 2018



Source: Ontario Soccer Association AGM Reports. Excludes players in non-OSA organizations such as casual leagues, academies, schools, etc.

Table 10: Participation in Regional Soccer by Age Group, 2011 - 2018

York Region Soccer Association	2011 (Peak Participation)	2018	Change
Youth Participants	32,572	25,592	-21%
Adult Participants	7,937	5,227	-34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,509</b>	<b>30,819</b>	<b>-17%</b>

Source: Ontario Soccer Association AGM Reports.

The overall decline in participation may be due to a number of factors such as demographic trends and the emergence of non-standard soccer clubs and academies that are not affiliated with the OSA. Despite the declining participation trends reported by the OSA, soccer continues to be the most popular organized sport among Canadian youth. The popularity of the sport is driven by its worldwide appeal, high fitness quotient, and relatively low cost to participate. As a result, soccer fields are in high demand in many municipalities.

### *Other Field Sports*

While soccer continues to dominate the popularity of field sports in Canada, other organized rectangular sports have experienced varying levels of growth and popularity, including football, lacrosse, field hockey and rugby. A high-level examination of each of these sports is highlighted below.

- **Football** is a sport with cyclical popularity and is generally played by minor age groups under the age of 20, although the sport is popular to follow among adults. Anecdotally, participation in the sport is steady or has grown marginally across different communities. The sport is often challenged by access to well-lit artificial turf fields (or dedicated football fields), as football is traditionally an autumn sport and night falls earlier during this time of year. Seasonal leagues that avoid the high school football season are emerging, which are leading to increased demand throughout the year.

Due to the lack of artificial turf fields in some communities, football games are played on natural turf, which tends to result in field damage in high traffic areas, thus limiting field use by other sports. Concerns over head injuries due to the nature of the sport has also been a limiting growth factor, although some community groups are adapting programs to reduce the likelihood of injuries such as non-contact football at the grassroots level. The York Region Lions Football Association is a regional group that has nearly 800 total participants. The organization uses the outdoor field at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School and the artificial turf field at Sheppard's Bush.

- **Field Hockey** is a sport that has many similarities to soccer and ice hockey. The sport is primarily played outdoors on a natural grass or artificial turf field, although some groups and programs also offer a more fast-paced version of the game in gymnasiums. Between 2015 and 2018, Field Hockey Ontario reported that participation has declined by 22%, although this does not include non-affiliated groups or school leagues.<sup>6</sup> The Dolphins Field Hockey Club is an Aurora-based group that plays at the Aurora Dome, as well as other indoor locations outside of the Town.
- **Field Lacrosse** is considered to be one of North America's oldest sport and while its popularity has not gained the same level of soccer, it is becoming more popular for children and youth between the ages of 5 and 18.<sup>7</sup> Local lacrosse groups include Redbirds, Elite Evolve, and Aurora Masters, which use the fields at Sheppard's Bush, St Andrew's College, and St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School. The sport is typically played during the early spring, although elite teams are seeking opportunities throughout the year.

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<sup>6</sup> Field Hockey Ontario. 2018. Annual General Meeting of Members 2018. Retrieved from <https://docs.wixstatic.com>

<sup>7</sup> The Canadian Business Journal. Canadian Lacrosse Association. Retrieved from <http://www.cbj.ca>

- **Rugby** participation fluctuates across the Province, with stable participation in communities with strong programs. The rugby season typically begins in May and continues through the summer. The Aurora Barbarians is the local organization that provides rugby to male and female participants of all ages (minor, junior and senior). The organization, which reported a total of 370 players in 2019, plays at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School in Aurora as well as in Markham.

*Registration Estimates for Aurora*

Consultation with rectangular sports field user groups in Aurora revealed that there are currently 6,238 participants, adjusted to 5,609 recognizing that some groups serve a regional membership and regularly use field time outside of Aurora (see table below). Input received through the consultation process found that participation in adult soccer, youth football and girls/competitive lacrosse is growing. It was reported that participation in youth soccer and rugby is declining; however, additional field time for youth soccer is being required to meet program requirements for practices and skill development.

**Table 11: Summary of Rectangular Sports Field User Group Participation, 2019**

Organization	Current Registration (TOTAL)	Adjusted Registration* (AURORA-BASED - proportional to field rentals)
Aurora Barbarians Rugby Football Club	370	240*
Aurora FC Youth Soccer Club	3,000	3,000
Aurora Men's Sunday Soccer Group	45	45
Aurora Soccer Club	1,179	1,179
Evolve Elite Lacrosse	350	116*
Extreme Goalkeepers Inc.	150	150
Redbirds Lacrosse	220	220
Rising Stars Soccer Academy	85	85
Rovers Soccer	45	45
York Region Lions Football Association	794	529*
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,238</b>	<b>5,609</b>

\* For groups serving a regional membership and using fields outside of Aurora, their total participation figures have been adjusted to reflect proportionality with field rentals in Aurora.

Source: Consultation with local rectangular sports field user groups.

**Field Design**

The OSA’s adoption of the Long-Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity model has evolved the delivery of soccer programs. This model focuses on improved coaching, fewer games, more ball time, and skill development, rather than emphasizing scoring and winning. Programming is tailored towards each age group and as a result, new standards have been developed, which includes varying coaching styles, number of players per team, playing time, field size, and other variables. Some of these new standards are having a direct impact on the provision of municipal soccer fields, particularly with respect to the standards in field size and the number of players, as well as reducing the number of players per team. These changes result in an increase in the number of teams and thus, have a direct impact on the demand for field time. Field dimensions are summarized in **Appendix D**.

Given that most rectangular fields were designed and constructed prior to these dimensions coming into effect, not all fields meet current specifications. Historically, most municipalities develop their fields as “full/regulation” size, “intermediate/junior” size, and “mini/micro” size. The full field – if designed to FIFA standards – is similar to the 11v11 dimensions and this type of field can generally accommodate smaller field sizes. Using existing line markings with cones and portable nets, one 11v11 field can accommodate eight 3v3 fields, five 5v5 fields, and one 7v7 field. 9v9 fields have been the most challenging field size to provide.

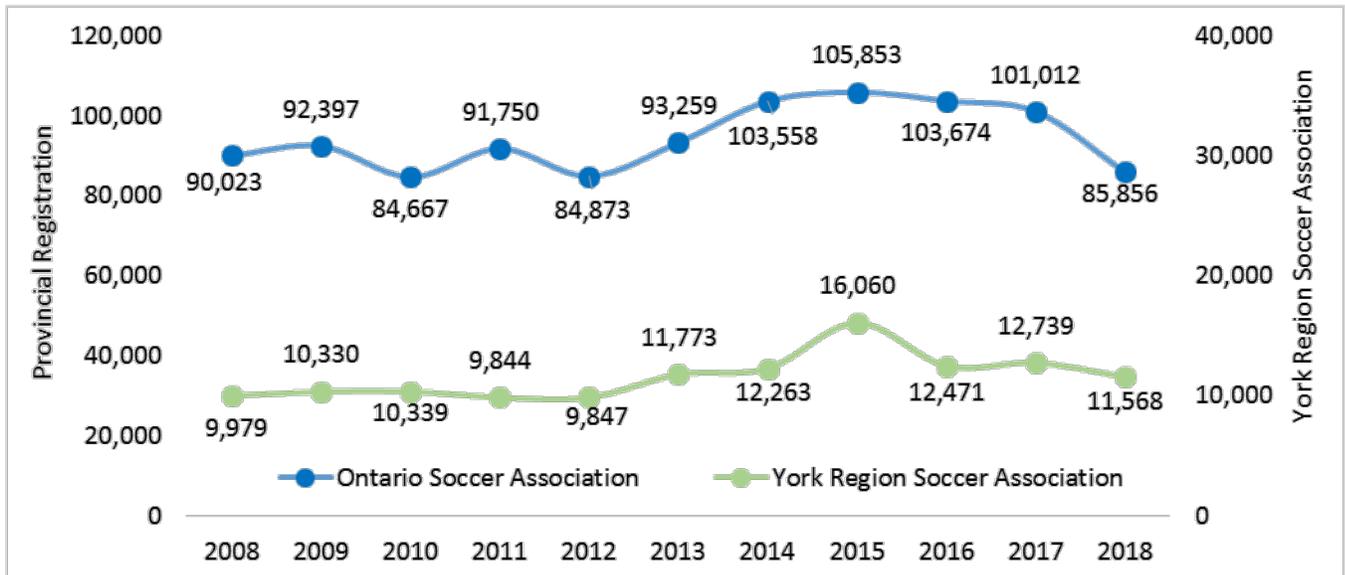
Aurora’s sports field classification system categorizes the Town’s rectangular sports fields in six classes. Each class describes the field size, maintenance standard, and level of amenity. Amenities vary by field class but may include lighting, irrigation, drainage, seating, parking, and washroom/change rooms.

### **Indoor Turf Facilities**

The following are key trends in artificial turf sport participation and facility management that are likely to be affecting local demand. These trends are based on research at the provincial and national levels, supplemented by the consulting team’s experience in jurisdictions across Canada.

- a) The development of indoor artificial turf facilities is a widespread trend across Canada. These facilities support extended and/or year-round training for competitive athletes of several sports (mainly soccer) and a variety of recreational activities. Indoor soccer appeals to a smaller market segment than the outdoor game, but has the potential to continue to grow in popularity, particularly with trends suggesting strong interest from adult participants and competitive youth groups.
- b) The way indoor sports field facilities are designed, funded and operated varies widely across Canada. The financial viability of an indoor turf facility is heavily influenced by its size, building model and operating model. For example, these facilities may be:
  - stand-alone structures or combined with other spaces within a multi-use sports complex;
  - comprised of individual indoor turf fields that range from small templates (ice pad size) to large templates (regulation FIFA); and
  - funded/operated by a municipality, not-for-profit group, public institution and/or private sector (sometimes through partnerships involving multiple sectors).
- c) The demand for turf facilities has been largely driven by an increased emphasis on year-round training, skill development and competition. Provincially, the number of indoor soccer players registered by the OSA has increased by 10% between 2007 and 2018 (compared to a 25% decline in outdoor registration in the same time period). However, provincial indoor soccer registration peaked in 2015 and has since declined 19% by 2018. Regionally, indoor soccer participation peaked in the same year, decreasing by 28% in 2018 (Figure 4). Indoor soccer attracts a smaller segment of the potential market compared to outdoor soccer, but seems to be increasing in popularity, especially among adults – in most communities, demand is constrained by the supply, making it difficult to capture a true understanding of needs.

**Figure 4: Participation in Provincial and Regional Indoor Soccer, 2008 – 2018**



Source: Ontario Soccer Association AGM Reports. Excludes players in non-OSA organizations such as casual leagues, academies, schools, etc.

- d) Adult sports leagues have proven to be a strong revenue generator for turf facilities. As of 2018, 36% of OSA registered indoor soccer participants were adults. The strength of adult soccer can be partially attributed to the aging of youth soccer participants from the 1990s and continuing participation in soccer.
- e) In many communities, the growth of soccer academies and camps has advanced the popularity of the sport and increased the demand for year-round turf facilities. Academies generally cater to the interests of children and youth players looking to gain increased soccer proficiency with a view to progressing to a higher level of competitive play. Soccer academies can be structured in many ways depending on the needs and market strength in the local community.
- f) Depending on their design, indoor turf fields can be used for sports such as baseball training, field hockey, football, lacrosse, rugby, ultimate frisbee and other sports or events. Participation in many of these field sports is growing; however, they collectively represent a much smaller market compared to soccer.
- g) A scan of comparator communities indicates that the average level of provision is one small-sided field (a full-size FIFA field can accommodate four small fields) per 50,000 to 75,000 population (regardless of provider) and that this ratio is changing as the development of turf facilities is outpacing population growth.

OSA registration data indicates that the current ratio of outdoor to indoor soccer players is 3 to 1 across the province, which is consistent with registration levels reported by the York Region Soccer Association – which serves Aurora and surrounding areas.

### 4.3 Usage Profile

Booking data for Aurora’s rectangular sports fields was examined to analyze trends over a three-year period (2017-2019). The data represents the allocation of rectangular sports fields during peak season – June 1 to August 31 for natural grass fields (13 weeks) and June 1 to September 30 for artificial turf fields (17 weeks). For the purposes of this assessment, the sampling period parameters in Table 12 were used. It should be noted that the Highland Field is excluded given that it is exclusively used by the Aurora Soccer Club through a user agreement (the Town will occasionally permit the field from time to time).

**Table 12: Rectangular Field Sampling Period**

	Lit Rectangular Fields	Unlit Rectangular Fields
<b>Season Length</b>	June 1 – August 31 or 13 weeks (natural grass fields) June 1 – September 30 or 17 weeks (artificial turf fields)	
<b>Typical Weekday Window</b>	7:00 pm to 11:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
<b>Typical Weekend Window</b>	9:00 am to 5:00 pm (Saturday) 9:00 am to 9:00 pm (Sunday)	9:00 am to 5:00 pm (Saturday) 9:00 am to 8:00 pm (Sunday)
<b>Typical Prime Time Availability (minus rest periods)</b>	<b>24 hours per week (Class A)</b> <b>40 hours per week (Class F)</b>	<b>12 hours per week (Class B)</b> <b>10 hours per week (Class C/D/E)</b>

**Note:** The usage and capacity figures quoted in this analysis should be interpreted with caution as it is not possible to use 100% of available field time due to a variety of factors:

- **Field resting requirements** – particularly for grass rectangular sports fields – generally prohibit fields from being used more than five days per week; these restrictions are in place to maintain safe and high quality playing surfaces; this represents up two days per week (often one weekday and one weekend) in addition to rainouts;
- **Rainouts and field conditions** impact field usage and can change from year to year;
- The **scheduling practices** of community organizations often result in early evening hours, selected evenings and weekends being underutilized;
- Although the Town works with groups to maximize rentals, **small gaps** in bookings and other scheduling nuances can all contribute to residual capacity; and
- **Field dimensions and amenities** strongly influence usage; for example, small fields are predominantly used for children’s sports and are not appropriate for adult play.

**In 2019, the Town’s rectangular sports fields were booked for a total of 8,054 hours during the sampling period, which is consistent with 2017 bookings.** The majority of booked time is during weekdays (6,356 total hours); weekends (1,696 total hours) have fewer bookings, which is common in many usage profiles across Ontario given that players may have other commitments or out-of-town tournaments. **This level of bookings translates into a Town-wide usage rate of 80% (90% on weekdays and 57% on weekends).** Based on industry practices and the above-noted considerations, these usage levels are generally considered to be fully utilized.

An examination of 2017-2019 data by field class for the defined sampling period revealed the following findings (Figure 5, Figure 6 and Figure 7). **In some cases, usage rates may exceed 100%, which is indicative of bookings outside the typical program period due to high demand.**

- **Class A senior rectangular sports fields (2 fields)** were booked for a total of 705 hours in 2019, resulting in a usage rate of 113%. Weekdays had 624 hours booked, yielding a 150% usage rate. Weekends were booked for 81 hours, translating into a usage rate of 39%.
- **Class B senior rectangular sports fields (13 fields)** were booked for a total of 1,649 hours in 2019, translating to a usage rate of 81%. Weekdays were booked at full capacity (100%) with 1,352 hours. More than half of these fields were not booked on the weekend (297 hours), resulting in a usage rate of 44%.
- **Class C senior rectangular sports fields (24 fields)** had a total of 2,400 hours booked for 2019 and a usage rate of 77%. The majority of this time is during the week with 2,100 hours, translating to a usage rate of 84%. The fields have limited bookings on weekends (with nine fields not booked), resulting in 314 hours and a usage rate of 50%.
- **Class D/E junior/minor rectangular sports fields (17 fields)** were booked for a total of 1,597 hours in 2019, resulting in a usage rate of 72%. Weekdays had 1,213 total hours booked and a usage rate of 69%. Weekends had a total of 384 hours booked and a usage rate of 87%.
- **Class F artificial turf fields (3 fields)** were booked for a total of 1,689 hours in 2019, resulting in a usage rate of 83%. Artificial turf field usage has doubled over the past three years by nearly 900 hours, partly due to the development of the turf field at Stewart Burnett Park. Weekdays were fully booked during the typical program period (100%) with 1,070 hours; 619 hours were booked during the weekend, yielding a usage rate of 61%.

**Figure 5: Summary of Total Rectangular Field Bookings by Field Class, 2017-2019 (June to August Sampling Period)**

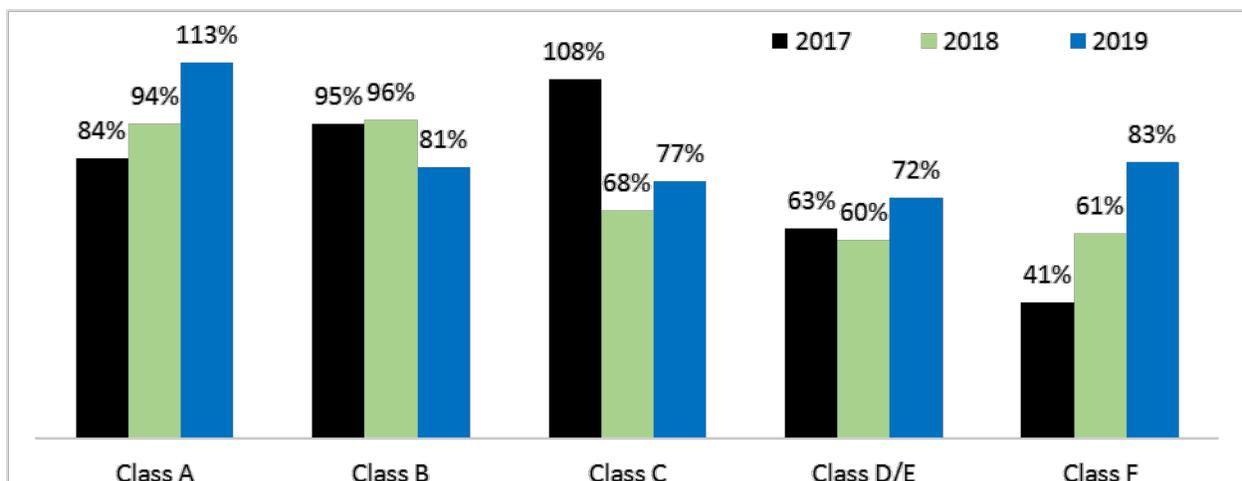


Figure 6: Summary of Weekday Rectangular Field Bookings by Field Class, 2017-2019 (June to August Sampling Period)

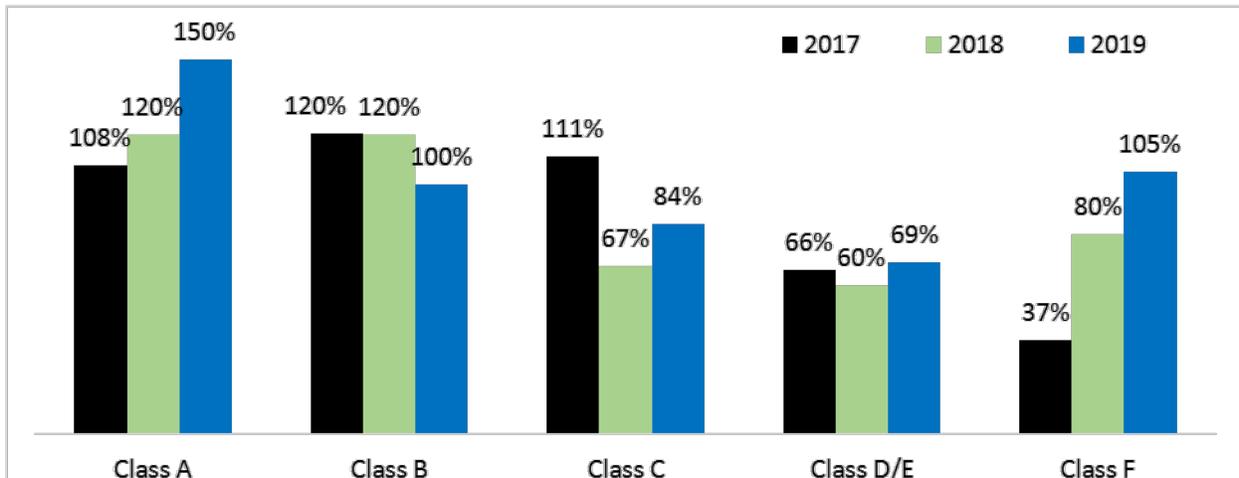
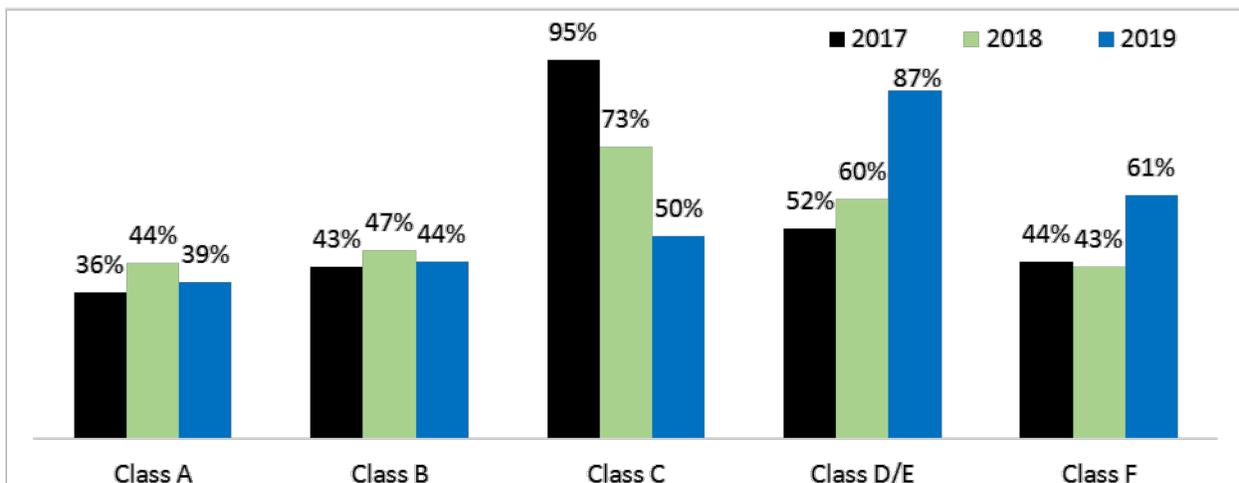


Figure 7: Summary of Weekend Rectangular Field Bookings by Field Class, 2017-2019 (June to August Sampling Period)



The following table shows that in 2019, 30% of usage occurred on Class A/F fields (full size fields with lights and/or turf), despite these fields only accounting for 8% of the inventory. Usage on Class B/C/D/E fields is low, amounting to approximately 105 hours on average during the three-month sampling period in 2019. During this time, the average Class A/F field accommodated 4.5 times as many bookings as the average Class B/C/D/E field. The highest quality grass fields (Class A) receive an acceptable level of use given field maintenance and rest requirements and are unable to accommodate substantially more usage. While there is additional capacity available on Class B/C/D/E fields, demand is substantially lower for these fields as many of them serve a narrower range of users.

Table 13: Summary of Usage by Field Class (2019) – Rectangular Sports Fields

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class D/E	Class F (Turf)	Total
<b>Lights</b>	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	--
<b>Total Fields Available (2019)*</b>	2**	13	24	17	3	<b>59</b>
<b>Percent of Total Inventory</b>	3%	22%	41%	29%	5%	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Bookings (June-Aug or Sept for Turf)</b>	705 hours	1,649 hours	2,415 hours	1,597 hours	1,689 hours	<b>8,054 hours</b>
<b>Average Bookings (June-Aug or Sept for Turf)</b>	353 hrs/field	127 hrs/field	101 hrs/field	94 hrs/field	563 hrs/field	<b>137 hrs/field</b>
<b>Percent of Total Bookings</b>	9%	20%	30%	20%	21%	<b>100%</b>

\* Not adjusted to account for unlit equivalents

\*\* Highland Field is excluded given that it is used exclusively by the Aurora Soccer Club under a lease agreement (the City will permit the field occasionally).

Table 14 and Table 15 examine 2019 bookings for the 19 Magna Fields and other Class B/C/D/E fields. **On average, the Magna Fields were used for a total of 94 hours each between June and August;** a similar level of use was experienced across the same field classes in Town parks. Should these fields need to be replaced elsewhere, a total of 1,800 hours of capacity across varying field sizes is required. Most of this usage (82% of hours booked at Magna Fields) is required on weekdays. From a field capacity perspective, accommodating this demand would be a challenge given that Class A/B/F fields are considered to be fully utilized during the weekdays, although there is weekday capacity available at other Class C/D/E fields. Adjustments to the scheduling practices of user groups may also be required to utilize available time during the weekends (times that have historically been difficult to fill).

Table 14: Summary of Usage (2019) – Magna Fields Only

	Class B	Class C	Class D/E	Total
<b>Lights</b>	No	No	No	--
<b>Total Fields Available (2019)</b>	2	4	13	<b>19</b>
<b>Percent of Total Inventory</b>	11%	21%	68%	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Bookings (June-Aug)</b>	196	376	1,223	<b>1,795</b>
<b>Average Bookings (June-Aug)</b>	98 hrs/field	94 hrs/field	94 hrs/field	<b>94 hrs/field</b>
<b>Percent of Total Bookings</b>	11%	21%	68%	<b>100%</b>

Table 15: Summary of Class B/C/D/E Field Usage (2019)

	Weekday		Weekend		Total
	Magna Fields	All Other Fields	Magna Fields	All Other Fields	
<b>Total Fields Available (2019)</b>	19	40	19	40	<b>59</b>
<b>Total Bookings (June-Aug)</b>	1,481 hours	3,183 hours	314 hours	682 hours	<b>5,660 hours</b>
<b>Average Bookings (June-Aug)</b>	78 hrs/field	80 hrs/field	17 hrs/field	17 hrs/field	<b>96 hrs/field</b>
<b>Percent of Total Bookings</b>	26%	56%	6%	12%	<b>100%</b>

#### 4.4 Needs Assessment

A market-based target is the preferred approach to determining current and future rectangular sports field requirements as it is able to reflect accepted standards of play, participation rates, local usage capacity, population growth, and demographic factors. The 2016 Master Plan Update utilized a target of one rectangular sports field per 80 participants based on guidelines used by similar communities (typically ranging from one field per 80 to 100 players) and a high level scan of usage.

While this ratio may have been appropriate at the time, this Sports Field Development Strategy allowed for a more detailed examination of usage rates and expressed demand. For the reasons outlined below, it is suggested that this target be adjusted to **one rectangular sports field (unlit equivalent) per 85 participants** :

- Usage is shifting towards more adult play, which allows for more players to be accommodated on fields on a weekly basis due to lesser practice requirements (compared to children/youth).
- Practice guidelines are also evolving, with more players practicing on the field at the same time; thereby increasing the capacity of fields
- To accommodate program standards, some of the Town’s fields can be sub-divided into multiple fields to facilitate simultaneous programs. As a result, youth-level organizations are able to accommodate more practices and games on the field during a single field booking.
- Although there is growing demand for larger and higher quality fields, there is available capacity within lower quality fields to accommodate additional bookings (subject to market demand). Generally speaking, the Town’s overall field supply matches demand, but will need to increase to meet growing needs over time and the replacement of the Magna fields.

There are currently 5,609 participants (adjusted) that regularly use rectangular sports fields in Aurora.<sup>8</sup> This includes 4,340 youth and 1,269 adults, which make up 38% and 4% of the Town’s estimated 2019 youth and adult population, respectively. **With 66 unlit equivalent fields, the current ratio is one field per 85 participants, matching the provision target (unlit equivalents).**

Applying these capture rates to the projected 2031 population, it is estimated that there will be a total of 6,202 rectangular sports field users (4,768 youth and 1,434 adults) if capture rates remain consistent.

<sup>8</sup> Current participation has been proportionally adjusted to recognize the fact that some regional groups regularly book time outside of Aurora.

Based on the recommended provision target, there will be need for a total of 73 unlit equivalent fields by 2031, seven more fields than the current inventory of 66 fields (unlit equivalents) (Table 16). Some of these new and/or reconfigured fields should allow for use by multiple sports, such as soccer, football, rugby and lacrosse. Approximately 20 hectares of land would be required to accommodate these additional fields unless alternatives can be found.

**Table 16: Projected Rectangular Sports Field Needs, 2019 - 2031**

	2019	2031
Total Children and Youth Population (Age 5-19)	11,438	12,566
<i>Estimated participants (Based on 38% of the child and youth population)</i>	4,340	4,768
Total Adult Population (Age 20-54)	28,783	32,517
<i>Estimated participants (Based on 4% of the adult population)</i>	1,269	1,434
Total Number of Participants (estimated)	5,609	6,202
<b>Number of Unlit Equivalent Rectangular Sports Fields Required</b> (Based on a target of one field per 85 participants, ULE)	<b>66.0</b>	<b>73.0</b>
Existing Supply of Unlit Equivalent Rectangular Sports Fields (ULE)		66.0
<b>Unlit Equivalent Surplus (Deficit), ULE</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>(7.0)</b>

Note: ULE = unlit equivalent

Recognizing that the Town is expected to lose access to Magna fields, it is anticipated that rectangular sports field needs will increase further. While there are 19 fields at Magna, a number of these are smaller in scale (e.g., 3v3 and 5v5) and are not used to capacity. If they were relocated to another location it is possible that they could be replaced with a smaller number of fields as some capacity exists within the current inventory to accommodate additional bookings at Class C/D/E fields and during the weekends (with some modification to scheduling) and if replacement fields were designed as on larger templates that could be lined and programmed to run multiple games and practices simultaneously. **It is estimated that the Town would require approximately 13 unlit equivalent rectangular sports fields of varying sizes to offset the loss of the Magna fields, which could occur as early as 2022/23; a strategic approach is necessary so as not to create a disruption in service.**

**Table 17: Summary of Rectangular Sports Field Needs, 2019 - 2031**

Field Demand	Current Needs	Future Needs (Projected to 2031)	Suggested Field Classes
Additional Fields to Serve Growth	0 ULE	7 ULE	Class F (up to 2)
Additional Fields to Replace Magna Fields	0 ULE	13 ULE	Class B (3), Class C (4), Class D/E (6)
<b>Total</b>	<b>0 ULE</b>	<b>20 ULE</b>	<b>Class A (11v11, lit): 0 (0 ULE)</b> <b>Class B (11v11, unlit): 5 (5 ULE)</b> <b>Class C (7v7, 9v9): 4 (4 ULE)</b> <b>Class D/E (3v3, 5v5): 6 (6 ULE)</b> <b>Class F (turf, lit): up to 2 (up to 5 ULE)</b>

Notes: The sizing/class of fields is subject to change based on project-specific assessments. ULE = unlit equivalent.

Section 6 contains a number of strategies to meet rectangular field demand, which includes a combination of new field development, improving existing fields, partnering with others and other strategies.

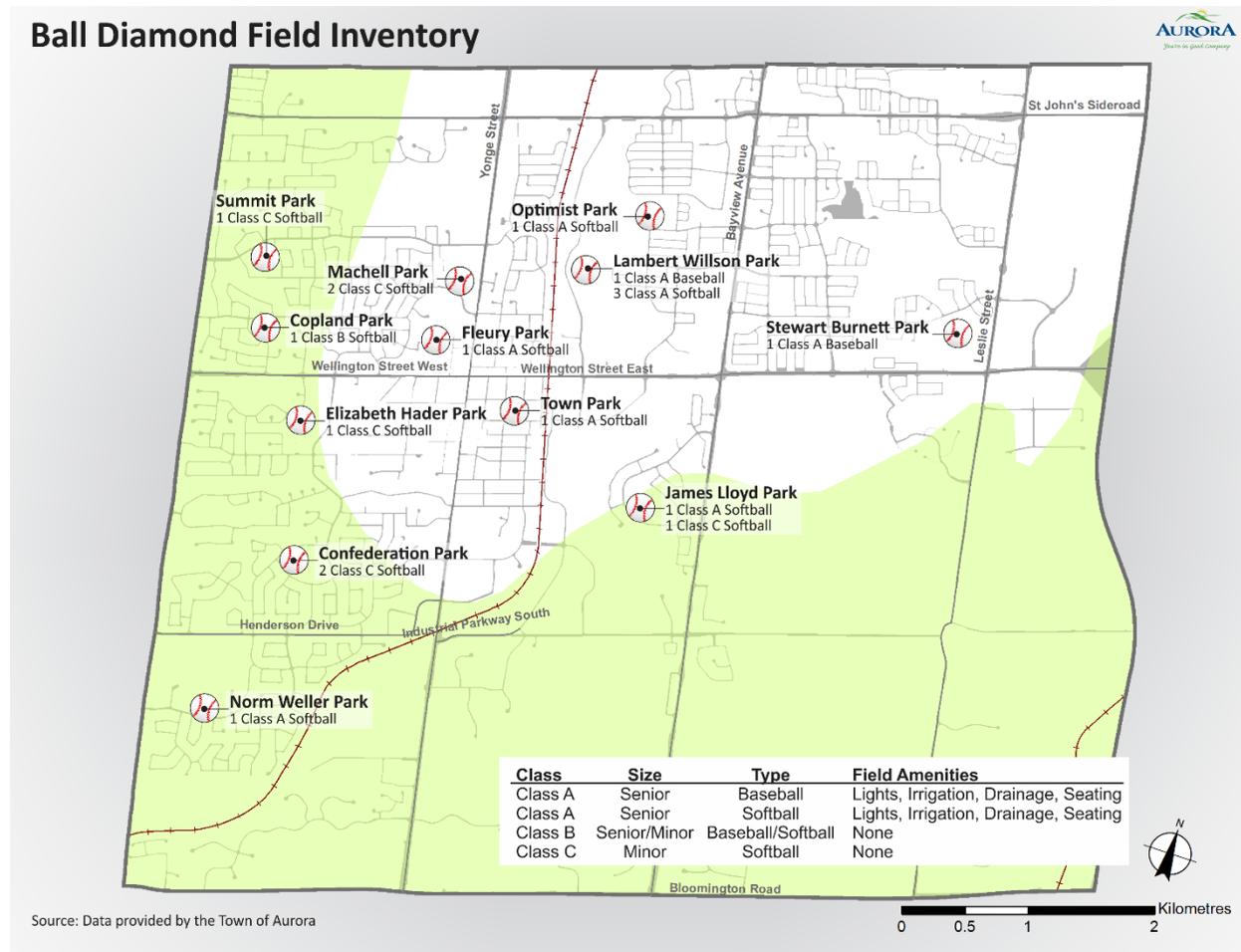
## 5. Ball Diamond Needs Assessment

This section examines rectangular ball diamond needs, which are informed by inputs such as inventories, trends, and usage. These inputs are also used to validate the input received from the stakeholder consultations. This information forms the building blocks for projecting future needs, taking into account projected population, participation figures and a market-based provision target. The results of the needs assessment were used to formulate facility development strategies and recommendations.

### 5.1 Inventory

The Town permits to 18 ball diamonds, all of which are Town-owned. The supply includes two hardball and 16 softball diamonds. The 2016 Master Plan Update used an equivalency factor of 1.5 unlit ball diamonds for lit diamonds due to their extended capacity, which continues to be used for this Strategy. With 10 lit diamonds (8 unlit diamonds), **the Town has an effective supply of 23 unlit equivalent ball diamonds**. The distribution of ball diamonds is illustrated in Figure 8. The tables on the following page summarize the Town’s ball diamond inventory.

Figure 8: Distribution of Ball Diamonds



**Table 18: Class A (Senior) Baseball Diamonds (Lights, Irrigation and Drainage)**

#	Name	#	Name
1.	Lambert Willson Diamond #4	2.	Stewart Burnett Diamond

**Table 19: Class A (Senior) Softball Diamonds (Lights, Irrigation and Drainage)**

#	Name	#	Name
1.	Fleury Park Senior Diamond	5.	Lambert Willson Diamond #3
2.	James Lloyd Senior Diamond	6.	Norm Weller Diamond
3.	Lambert Willson Diamond #1	7.	Optimist Park Diamond
4.	Lambert Willson Diamond #2	8.	Town Park Diamond

**Table 20: Class B (Senior) Softball Diamonds**

#	Name
1.	Copland Park

**Table 21: Class C (Minor) Softball Diamonds**

#	Name	#	Name
1.	Confederation #1	5.	Machell Diamond
2.	Confederation #3	6.	Machell T Ball Diamond
3.	Elizabeth Hader Diamond	7.	Summit Park Diamond
4.	James Lloyd T Ball Diamond		

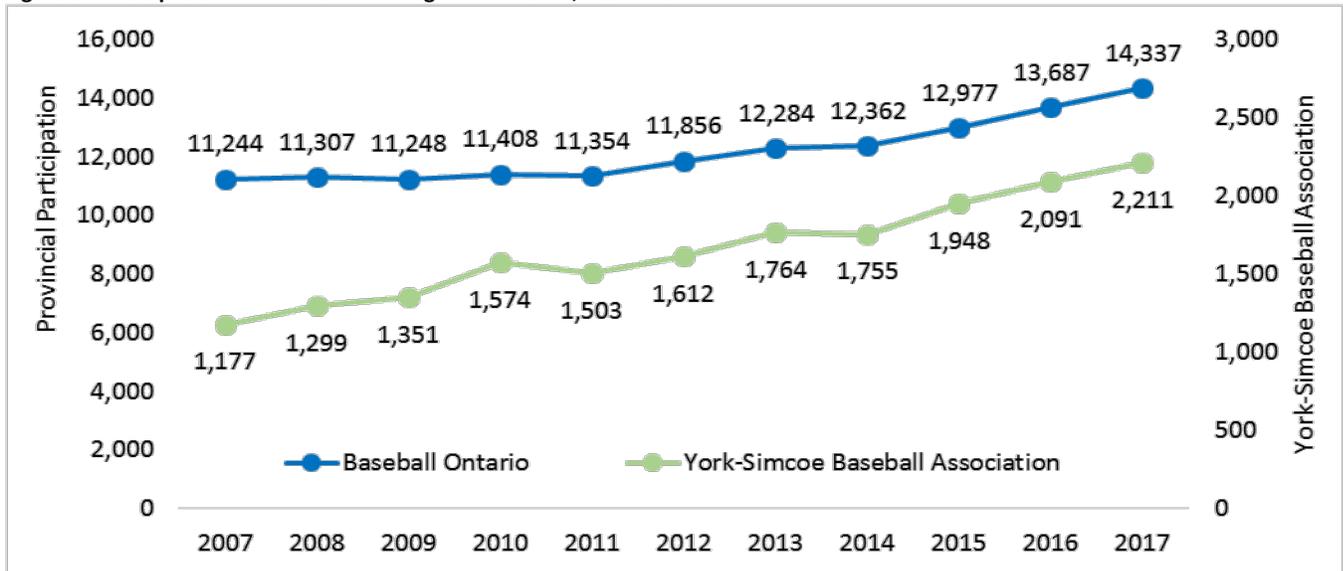
## 5.2 Key Trends

Through background research and an understanding of best practices in similar communities, a number of ball diamond trends were identified that will influence the provision of fields in Aurora.

### Participation

Participation in baseball (and related forms such as softball, slo-pitch and hardball) has been on the rise over the past ten years. Participation data collected by Baseball Ontario revealed that there were 14,337 registered participants in 2017, which is an increase of 28% from 2007 (11,244 participants) (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Participation in Provincial and Regional Baseball, 2007 - 2017



Source: Baseball Ontario AGM Reports.

A similar trend was observed in regional baseball participation. The York Simcoe Baseball Association is Aurora’s regional affiliate for Aurora King Minor Baseball Association. The regional organization reported a membership of 2,211 participants for 2017, which is an increase of 88% compared to 2007. It should be noted that registration reported by Baseball Ontario does not include recreational/house leagues and participants registered in non-affiliated ball groups and as a result, actual participation figures may be greater.



Town Park

At the local level, ball diamond user groups reported a total participation of 3,594 players; adjusted to 2,255 to recognize the fact that some groups serve a regional membership and regularly book time outside of Aurora (Table 22). Input received through the consultation process indicated that participation in the sport is increasing, particularly for adult ball, although many adult groups indicated that registration is currently being capped due to the lack of sufficient diamond time. Participation in youth ball is also increasing (especially at the competitive level), but at a slower rate.

**Table 22: Summary of Ball Diamond User Group Participation, 2019**

Organization	Current Registration (TOTAL)	Adjusted Registration (AURORA-BASED - proportional to field rentals)
Aurora Diggers Softball	117	117
Aurora King Minor Baseball Association	1,030	773*
Aurora Ladies Softball Association	55	55
Aurora Men's Slo-Pitch	310	310
Aurora Mixed Slo-Pitch League	400	400
Oak Ridges Co-Ed Recreational Slo-Pitch League	1,200	180*
Seneca College Varsity Baseball	35	35
Team Ontario Astros	84	84
Valhalla Mixed Slo-Pitch League	128	128
Yonge Aurora Co-Ed Slo-Pitch League**	120	120
York Region Baseball League	115	53*
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,594</b>	<b>2,255</b>

\*For groups serving a regional membership and using fields outside of Aurora, their total participation figures have been adjusted to reflect proportionality with field rentals in Aurora.

\*\* estimated based on prior submissions

Source: Consultation with local ball diamond user groups.

The renewed interest in baseball is driven by a number of factors such as a greater focus in skill development and grassroots programs to engage children and youth at a young age to participate in sport. The increased popularity of the Toronto Blue Jays is also likely a contributing factor. Since Baseball Canada adopted the Long-Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity model, the organization has focused on developing and honing skills and coaching styles, as well as fostering leadership and organization. Suitable competition formats and facility types are also core components of Baseball Canada's model.

### Diamond Design

The design of ball diamonds can vary considerably based on site conditions (including proximity of park boundaries and adjacent land uses), infield surface materials, and other specifications. These design guidelines only apply to competition level ball, which is in the minority of usage. According to the Baseball Canada, the current Long-Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity model identifies nine stages of play that are geared towards specific age groups to develop various skill sets. Seven of these playing stages use a specific ball diamond template, which is summarized in **Appendix D**.

Ball diamonds can feature a broad range of supporting amenities to enhance the player experience. The level of amenity at each diamond typically depends upon its intended function. Premier diamonds that may be suitable for competitive play tend to have higher quality clay-based infields with outfield fencing, player and spectator seating, batting cages, washrooms, parking, lighting and more. Town-wide ball diamonds may also feature a limited selection of amenities found at premier diamonds. Lower-order diamonds and those found in neighbourhood parks do not tend to have any amenities at all (aside from backstop fencing) as they typically facilitate lower level community play.

### 5.3 Usage Profile

Similar to rectangular sports fields, the Town’s ball diamond usage between 2017 and 2019 was analyzed. The following data represents the allocation of ball diamonds during peak season (June to September) using the same parameters as defined during the 2016 master planning process; actual usage may differ. As with rectangular sports fields, the Town is working towards minimizing block booking to reduce instances where diamond time is scheduled but not being used. For the purposes of this assessment, parameters for the sampling period is contained in Table 23.

**Table 23: Ball Diamond Sampling Period**

	Lit Ball Diamonds	Unlit Ball Diamonds
<b>Season Length</b>	June - August	
<b>Typical Weekday Window</b>	7:00 pm to 11:00 pm	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
<b>Typical Weekend Window</b>	9:00 am to 5:00 pm (Saturday)	9:00 am to 5:00 pm (Saturday)
	9:00 am to 9:00 pm (Sunday)	9:00 am to 8:00 pm (Sunday)
<b>Typical Prime Time Availability</b>	<b>40 hours per week</b>	<b>29 hours per week</b>

Note: The usage and capacity figures quoted in this analysis should be interpreted with caution as it is not possible to use 100% of available diamond time due to a variety of factors:

- **Rainouts and field conditions** impact field usage and can change from year to year;
- The **scheduling practices** of community organizations often result in early evening hours, selected evenings and weekends being underutilized;
- Although the Town works with groups to maximize rentals, **small gaps in bookings** and other scheduling nuances can all contribute to residual capacity; and
- **Diamond dimensions and amenities** strongly influence usage; for example, small diamonds are predominantly used for children’s sports and are not appropriate for adult play.

**On a system-wide basis, Aurora’s ball diamonds were booked for a total of 4,611 hours in 2019 during the sampling period, which is an increase of 12% from 2017.** This finding is consistent with broader trends and input from local ball organizations that suggest that interest and participation has been increasing over the past couple of years. Similar to rectangular field bookings, the majority of rentals occurred on weekdays (3,324 total hours), with fewer bookings on weekends (1,287 total hours). **These bookings translate into a Town-wide usage rate of 73% (61% on weekdays and 22% on weekends).** A summary of bookings by ball diamond class is illustrated in Figure 11 and Figure 12.

Based on industry practices, these usage levels are generally considered to be fully utilized based on the factors previously described (e.g., rainouts, etc.). Capacity is available at some underutilized Class B and C diamonds, as well as during the weekends; however as with rectangular sports fields, weekend usage is generally not favourable among ball diamond organizations due to other commitments, including out-of-town play for competitive teams. Input received through ball diamond organizations also revealed that some of the Town’s diamond locations receive low levels of use because they do not meet the needs of groups.

Figure 10: Summary of Total Ball Diamond Bookings by Diamond Class, 2017-2019 (June to August Sampling Period)

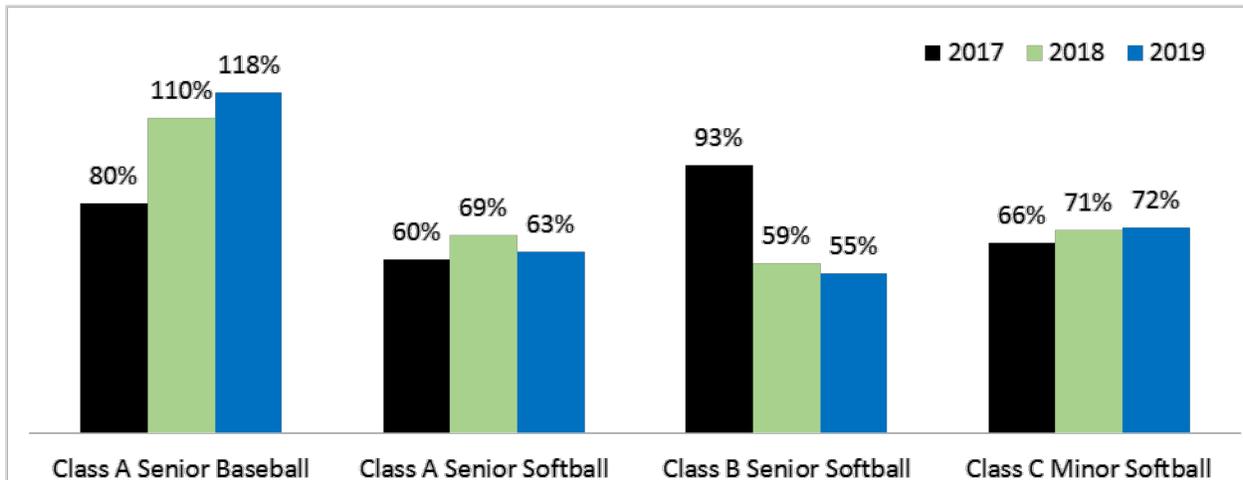


Figure 11: Summary of Weekday Ball Diamond Bookings by Diamond Class, 2017-2019 (June to August Sampling Period)

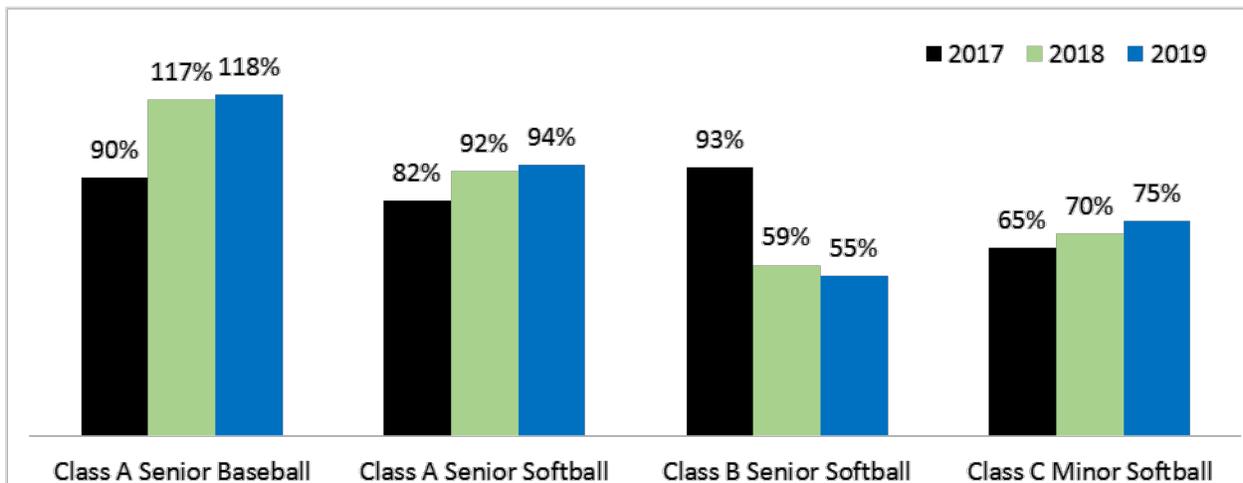
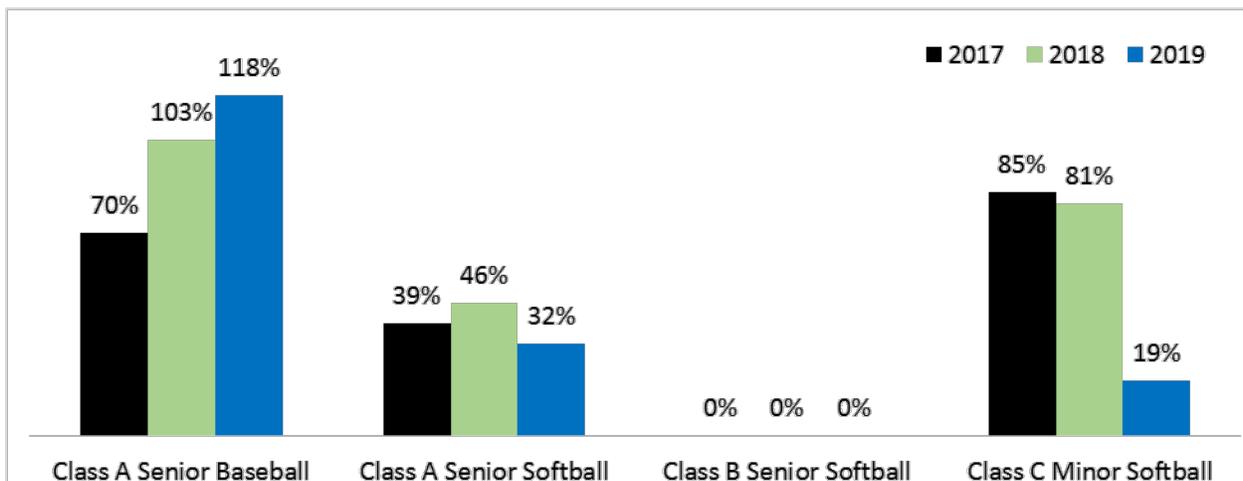


Figure 12: Summary of Weekend Ball Diamond Bookings by Diamond Class, 2017-2019 (June to August Sampling Period)



An examination of 2017-2019 ball diamond allocation data for the defined sampling period revealed the following findings. **In some cases, usage rates may exceed 100%, which is indicative of bookings outside the typical program period due to high demand.**

- **Class A senior hardball diamonds (2 diamonds)** were booked for a total of 1,231 hours in 2019, resulting in a usage rate of 118%. Weekdays and weekends each had 615 total hours booked and a usage rate of 118%. This level of usage highlights pressure for additional senior hardball diamonds in Aurora.
- **Class A senior softball diamonds (8 diamonds)** were booked for a total of 2,620 hours in 2019, representing a usage rate of 63%. These diamonds were nearly fully utilized during the week with 1,958 total hours booked and a usage rate of 94%; weekend bookings were lower with 662 total hours booked and a usage rate of 32%.
- **Class B senior (1 diamond) and Class C minor softball diamonds (7 diamonds)** generally have low levels of use as they are not suitable for all users. Weekdays had total bookings of 750 hours and weekends had total bookings of 10 hours (usage rates between 19% and 75%).

**Table 24 shows that in 2019, 84% of usage occurred on Class A diamonds, despite these fields only accounting for 55% of the inventory.** Usage on Class B and C diamonds is low, amounting to less than 100 hours on average during the three-month sampling period in 2019. During this time, the average Class A diamond accommodated at least 3 times as many bookings as the average Class B/C diamond. **There is additional capacity available on Class B and C diamonds; however, demand is substantially lower for these fields as many of them serve a narrower scope of users.**

Table 24: Summary of Usage by Field Class (2019) – Ball Diamonds

	Class A (Hardball)	Class A (Softball)	Class B	Class C	Total
<b>Lights</b>	Yes	Yes	No	No	--
<b>Total Diamonds Available (2019)*</b>	2	8	1	7	<b>18</b>
<b>Percent of Total Inventory</b>	11%	44%	6%	39%	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Bookings (June-Aug)</b>	1,231 hours	2,620 hours	72 hours	689 hours	<b>4,611 hours</b>
<b>Average Bookings (June-Aug)</b>	616 hrs/field	328 hrs/field	72 hrs/field	98 hrs/field	<b>256 hrs/field</b>
<b>Percent of Total Bookings</b>	27%	57%	2%	15%	<b>100%</b>

\* Not adjusted to account for unlit equivalents

## 5.4 Needs Assessment

The Town’s 2016 Master Plan Update used a per capita based target of one ball diamond per 3,000 residents as reliable participation data (for application of a market-driven target) was not available at the time. A participant-based, market-driven target is preferred because it is able to more accurately capture Aurora-specific demand as it considers factors such as standards of play, participation rates, local usage capacity, and market trends. Through the preparation of this Strategy, participation data was collected from the Town’s major ball diamond users, which provides a sufficient basis for using a market-based target.

With 23 unlit equivalent diamonds, the Town’s current ratio is one diamond per 98 participants. Communities in the GTA generally utilize a target of one ball diamond per 90 to 100 participants. In light of increasing local participation (including youth and competitive streams, which require more diamond time per player) and pressures for additional diamond time (particularly during the week), it is recommended that the Town utilize a target at the low end of this range – that being **one ball diamond per 90 participants**. Application of this target suggests that **the Town currently has a deficit of two ball diamonds (unlit equivalents)**.

Participation data indicates that there are currently 2,255 ball participants that can be attributed to Aurora diamonds.<sup>9</sup> This includes 974 youth and 1,281 adult players, which translates into a capture rate of 9% and 4% (respectively) of the estimated 2019 youth and adult population. Applying these capture rates to the projected 2031 population suggests that there will be a total of 2,517 players – 1,070 youth and 1,447 adults (assuming that capture and participation rates remain steady). **Application of the recommended provision target suggests that there will be a need for 28 total unlit equivalent ball diamonds by 2031. This is five more diamonds than the Town’s supply of 23 unlit equivalent diamonds (Table 25)**. Approximately 12 hectares of land would be required to accommodate these additional diamonds unless alternatives can be found.

**Table 25: Projected Ball Diamond Needs, 2019 - 2031**

	2019	2031
Total Children and Youth Population (Age 5-19)	11,438	12,566
<i>Estimated participants (Based on 9% of the child and youth population)</i>	974	1,070
Total Adult Population (Age 20-54)	28,783	32,517
<i>Estimated participants (Based on 4% of the adult population)</i>	1,281	1,447
Total Number of Participants (estimated)	2,255	2,517
<b>Number of Unlit Equivalent Ball Diamonds Required</b> (Based on a target of one field per 90 participants)	<b>25.0</b>	<b>28.0</b>
Existing Supply of Unlit Equivalent Ball Diamonds	23.0	
<b>Unlit Equivalent Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>(2.0)</b>	<b>(5.0)</b>

Projected ball diamond needs exclude the two adult ball diamonds planned for the Hallmark lands.

Note: ULE = unlit equivalent

<sup>9</sup> Current participation is adjusted to recognize the fact that some regional groups regularly book time outside of Aurora.

While the 2016 Master Plan Update recognized the fact that participation in ball diamond sports is increasing, the recommendation to construct **one new hardball diamond** has not yet been implemented but remains a priority. As a result, pressures have continued to increase for this and other varieties of the sport.

**Table 26: Summary of Ball Diamond Needs, 2019 - 2031**

Field Demand	Current Needs	Future Needs (2031)	Suggested Field Classes
<b>Additional Diamonds to Serve Growth</b>	<b>2 ULE</b>	<b>5 ULE</b>	<b>Class A (lit hardball): 1 (1.5 ULE)</b> <b>Class A (lit softball): 2 (3.0 ULE)</b> <b>Class B (unlit adult): 1 (1.0 ULE)</b> <b>Class C (unlit junior): 0</b>

Notes: The sizing/class of fields is subject to change based on project-specific assessments. ULE = unlit equivalent.

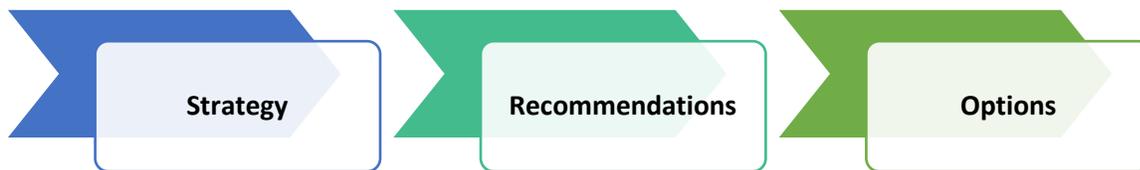
The following section contains number of strategies to meet ball diamond demand, which includes a combination of new diamond development, improving existing diamonds, partnering with others and other strategies.

## 6. Sports Field Development Strategies

The needs assessment in Section 4 identified that an additional seven rectangular sports fields (unlit equivalents) will be required by 2031, phased in over time. Factoring in the eventual loss of Magna fields, this need could increase to **up to 20 rectangular sports fields** (unlit equivalents) of varying sizes, although it is recognized that the majority of Magna fields are smaller in size; timing of replacement fields is currently unknown, but could be as soon as 2022/23. During the same period, the Town will also require up to **five additional ball diamonds** (unlit equivalents), as noted in Section 5. These sport field needs amount to a substantial shortfall given that the Town is not expected to acquire or develop large quantities of parkland over the foreseeable future.

### 6.1 Implementation Framework

Several high-level strategies to improve public access to improved and new sports fields have been identified based on overall themes and potential approaches. Recommendations and options have been developed for each strategy.



The following strategies have been identified to guide implementation:

**Strategy 1: Improve and Re-purpose Existing Sports Fields**

**Strategy 2: Develop New Fields and/or Permit Fields within Existing and New Parks**

**Strategy 3: Expand Partnerships**

**Strategy 4: Modify Operational Practices**

Elements of several strategies will be required to enable the Town to respond to community needs over the long-term, although not all recommendations or options may need to be implemented in order to satisfy current and future needs. The timing and cost of the strategies presented will influence implementation – for example, some can be achieved more quickly and at a lower cost than others. It is recommended that the Town regularly monitor field usage and registration to ensure that changes in demand are identified and to inform ongoing planning.

Through the establishment of recommendations, all Town parks and school properties were evaluated to identify options (e.g., candidate sites) that may support sports field development or improvement opportunities (including a facility fit exercise). The site reviews identified several parks and schools that have the potential to be enhanced to bolster the Town’s sports field supply and meet the needs of user groups; privately-owned sites were not considered as part of this review. Options are not presented for all Town parks as some were not found to be suitable for sport field development or enhancements.

An evaluation system was developed in order to assess options and to prioritize implementation. Seven criteria were identified to determine the benefit and practicality of implementation.

- High priority projects are those that:
- a) Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users, etc.);
  - b) Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields);
  - c) Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school);
  - d) Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or creates multi-field complexes;
  - e) Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition;
  - f) Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (e.g., lighting, parking impacts, etc.); and
  - g) Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.).

**It is important to note that not all options will be required to meet the needs identified in this report, nor will all options ultimately be viable. The options represent a starting point for further analysis or partner discussions. New options may emerge over time and should be evaluated against the assessment criteria identified above.**

**In addition, recommended strategies exclude minor maintenance and/or improvements such as repairs or upgrades that do not enhance overall field capacity (e.g., re-sodding, drainage, etc.); however, these should continue to be assessed and implemented by the Town on an as-needed basis.**

Timing and priority have been identified for each option. In many cases, the higher the priority, the sooner the option should be implemented. There are, however, higher priority options that are not likely to be implemented until the long term due to various factors such as timing of park/school development, partnerships that require further coordination, complexity, and funding. The proposed timing and priority should only be interpreted as a guide in order to inform planning processes. The approaches may be altered or accelerated to respond to emerging park redevelopment, partnership, and funding opportunities.

The priority and timing of the options is organized in the following categories.

Timing	Priority
<b>Short-Term:</b> 2020-2023	<b>High:</b> meets the majority of the criteria
<b>Mid-Term:</b> 2024-2027	<b>Medium:</b> meets some of the criteria
<b>Long-Term:</b> 2028+	<b>Low:</b> meets few of criteria

## 6.2 Focusing on Alternatives to Land Acquisition

Due to their size and ancillary requirements, sports fields require lands that are large and relatively flat. This is amplified by the objective and efficiency associated with accommodating multiple fields on a single site. Aurora’s 2C lands represent the last remaining greenfield lands of any notable size in the town; the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act and Greenbelt Act largely restrict large-scale development beyond these lands. In the future, growth will be focused on intensifying existing neighbourhoods, making park redevelopment and enhancement a priority. No additional community

parks (i.e., larger parks typically associated with sports fields) are anticipated to be conveyed through the land development process.

As a result, sports field development must focus on improving what we have, optimizing our sites, acquiring land, and working in partnership with owners of other large sites. Options for gaining access to new lands may include surplus schools or underutilized/ vacant industrial land, as was the case with Hallmark. These opportunities are few and far between, and Town staff regularly explore and monitor such options. However, due to the constrained land supply and growing market, the cost of land acquisition can be high.

**If the Town were to secure land to accommodate all of the field needs identified in this Strategy (projecting out to 2031), it is estimated that up to an additional 32 hectares of parkland would be required (20 hectares for rectangular sports fields and 12 hectares for ball diamonds).** These amounts of land are simply not available in Aurora, thus other options are required (although some land acquisition may be required to achieve full implementation of this Strategy).

In addition to limited land supplies, full implementation of this report may be impacted by other restrictions such as the capacity of sites to accommodate larger fields and fields with lights, competing priorities for parkland, partnership agreements, funding and community support. As a result, the Town will be required to be creative in its approach to meeting the needs of its sports field groups.

### 6.3 Rectangular Sports Field Development Strategy

The four strategies have the combined potential to add **up to 37.0 unlit equivalents** to the rectangular sports field supply through new fields, access agreements, and enhancements (Figure 13). **Not all will be required to meet community needs.** The Town is encouraged to validate the options and pursue the highest priority projects, with consideration to project feasibility. The options identified in this section should not be considered exhaustive; additional opportunities may emerge and should be assessed at the appropriate time.

Note: Some options are not mutually exclusive as certain parks may be capable of accommodating additional or improved rectangular sports fields at the expense of ball diamonds, or vice versa.

Figure 13: Summary of Rectangular Sports Field Development Strategies



## Strategy 1: Improve and Re-purpose Existing Sports Fields

Through the consultation process and site visits with staff, several opportunities to improve the Town's existing sports fields were identified in order to enhance usage. As some of the Town's rectangular sports fields are not optimized due to factors such as size and quality, improving these assets is the first step in maximizing the use of existing facilities.

The following recommendations and options would increase the Town's field supply by up to **7.0 unlit equivalents**. Each potential option is evaluated further on the following pages.

Note: The Town is encouraged to work with sports field organizations to identify and prioritize upgrades and improvements to existing fields in order to improve playing conditions (e.g., turf quality, amenities, etc.). However, upgrading fields (such as adding lights) is not feasible at all locations due to neighbourhood concerns, park capacities, etc. This has been factored into the analysis to the degree possible; however, site-specific investigations and/or public consultation may be required for major upgrades.

### Recommendation 1.1: Convert fields to better match dimensions and uses with demands.

Consider the following options:

- a. Convert the existing ball diamond at **Confederation Park** to a 7v7 field.
- b. Convert the 11v11 field at **Craddock Park** to a lit artificial turf field.
- c. Convert the two overlapping ball diamonds at **Machell Park** to a 9v9 field and construct two 5v5 fields.
- d. Convert the two 3v3 fields at **McMahon Park** to one 7v7 field.
- e. Convert the 11v11 field at **Norm Weller Park** to a lit artificial turf field.

### Recommendation 1.2: Add lighting to extend play opportunities.

Consider the following options:

- a. Add lights to the 11v11 field at **Machell Park**.
- b. Add lights to the 11v11 Legion Field at **Lambert Willson Park**.

### Recommendation 1.3: Improve fields to enhance playability and address areas of demand.

Consider the following options:

- a. Add goal uprights to the 11v11 fields at **Confederation Park** to accommodate rugby and/or football games and practices.

## 1.1a. Confederation Park (Option 1)

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Convert the existing ball diamond at Confederation Park to a 7v7 field
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+1.0 unlit equivalent
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Medium-Term 2024-2027
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	Yes
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



**Notes:**

The existing ball diamond and 11v11 field overlap, causing a conflict. The development of a new 7v7 field would further bolster the site as a multi-field venue.

The proposed strategy would require the removal of a ball diamond, which was booked for 104 hours in 2019.

An alternate option (Option 2) has been proposed in the Ball Diamond strategies that would convert the existing diamond into a senior adult diamond. The preparation of a site master plan may assist in determining the most appropriate course of action.

See also Option 2.3b (adding goal uprights to 11v11 field)

*Note: Cannot be combined with Ball Diamond Option 1.1a.*

## 1.1b. Craddock Park

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Convert the 11v11 field at Craddock Park to a lit artificial turf field
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+1.5 unlit equivalents
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Long-Term 2028+
<b>Project Priority</b>	Low Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	No
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	No



**Craddock Park**

**Notes:**

While the proposed strategy replaces a full-size field that was booked for 64 hours in 2019, an artificial turf field at this location would provide an enhanced level of use.

The proposed footprint for the artificial turf field includes provisions for light fixtures and spectator seating. Further investigation would be required to confirm facility fit due to the presence of a floodplain, limited parking opportunity, and proximity to the residential area. Changes to existing vegetation features may also be required.

### 1.1c. Machell Park (Option 1)

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Convert the two overlapping ball diamonds at Machell Park to a 9v9 field and construct two 5v5 fields
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+3.0 unlit equivalents (loss of 2 ULE Ball diamonds)
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	High Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	Yes
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



**Notes:**

Under this option, two ball diamonds (booked for 150 hours in 2019) with overlapping outfields are proposed to be replaced with a 9v9 field. Two 5v5 fields are also proposed to be constructed, creating a multi-field complex (together with the existing 11v11 field to remain).

An alternate option (Option 2) has been proposed in the Ball Diamond strategies that would convert the existing diamonds into a senior adult diamond. The preparation of a site master plan may assist in determining the most appropriate course of action.

See also Option 2.2a (adding lights to 11v11 field)

*Note: Cannot be combined with Ball Diamond Option 1.1c.*

### 1.1d. McMahon Park

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Convert the two 3v3 fields at McMahon Park to one 7v7 field
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	-1.0 unlit equivalent
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Long-Term 2028+
<b>Project Priority</b>	Low Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	No
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



**McMahon Park**

**Notes:**

While replacing two 3v3 fields with one 7v7 field at McMahon Park would result in a net loss of one unlit equivalent field, the larger field size would provide for the field to be used by older age groups.

## 1.1e. Norm Weller Park

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Convert the 11v11 field at <b>Norm Weller Park</b> to a lit artificial turf field.
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+1.5 unlit equivalent
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	High Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	No



**Norm Weller Park**

**Notes:**

While the proposed strategy replaces a full-size field that was booked for 127 hours in 2019, an artificial turf field at this location would provide an enhanced level of use.

The proposed footprint for the artificial turf field includes provisions for light fixtures and spectator seating. Further investigation may be required to confirm that the appropriate infrastructure services are available in the area. A partnership opportunity may also exist with the adjacent schools.

## 1.2a. Machell Park

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Add lights to the 11v11 field at Machell Park
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+0.5 unlit equivalent
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Medium-Term 2024-2027
<b>Project Priority</b>	Low Priority

### Project Evaluation Criteria

1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	No
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



Machell Park

#### Notes:

Further investigation may be required to confirm that the appropriate infrastructure services are available in the area. Concerns over proximity of lighting to the adjacent residential area may require mitigation.

See also Option 1.1c (converting ball diamonds to mini fields).

## 1.2b. Lambert Willson Park

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Add lights to the 11v11 Legion Field at Lambert Willson Park
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+0.5 unlit equivalent
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



**Lambert Willson Park**

**Notes:**

Further investigation may be required to confirm that the appropriate infrastructure services are available in the area.

### 1.3a. Confederation Park

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Add goal uprights to the 11v11 fields at Confederation Park to accommodate rugby and/or football games and practices.
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	None
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	No
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



**Notes:**

The addition of goal uprights to the 11v11 fields at Confederation Park would allow rugby and/or football users to utilize the field for games, thereby bolstering usage. At present, these groups can only use the field for practices due to the lack of goal uprights.

An alternate option (Option 2) has been proposed in the Ball Diamond strategies that would convert the existing diamond into a senior adult diamond.

See also Option 1.1a (converting ball diamond to 7v7 field).

*Note: Cannot be combined with Ball Diamond Option 1.1a.*

## Strategy 2: Develop New Fields and/or Permit Fields within Existing and New Parks

A combination of park tours with Town staff and high-level scans of aerial imagery provided insight into potential locations where new rectangular sports fields may be developed, either at existing or new parks. Additional investigation will be required to assess the feasibility of constructing fields at these locations. Full implementation of these recommendations would increase the Town's supply by up to **8.0 fields** (unlit equivalents). Each potential option listed under recommendations 2.1 and 2.2 is evaluated further on the following pages.

As a best practice, opportunities to develop multi-field sports fields at a single location to accommodate league play and tournaments should be encouraged. Where possible, new sports field development should generally be full-size with goal posts (with consideration given to uprights), and supporting amenities such as lighting, parking, spectator seating, etc.

### Recommendation 2.1: Construct new fields to strengthen the supply of rectangular sports fields.

Consider the following options:

- a. Construct one 3v3 field at **Chapman Park**.
- b. Construct two 5v5 fields at the future **Edward Coltham Park**.
- c. Construct two 5v5 fields at the future park at **Hartwell Way and Roth Street**.
- d. Construct two 5v5 fields at **Trent Park**.

### Recommendation 2.2: Permit more fields in existing parks.

Consider the following options:

- a. Program the 7v7 field at **Lions Park** (YRDSB lands).

### Recommendation 2.3: Consider opportunity-based acquisition for sports field development.

Consider the following options:

- a. Regularly review and respond to opportunities to acquire lands within Aurora that are large enough to construct multiple sports fields in a single location, as well as to accommodate supporting infrastructure and amenities. This may include under-utilized lands, undeveloped lands, surplus schools, etc.

## 2.1a. Chapman Park

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Construct one 3v3 field at Chapman Park
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+1.0 unlit equivalent
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Medium-Term 2024-2027
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



Chapman Park

**Notes:**

While this area is currently not programmed, it was historically permitted for soccer. Due to its small size and lack of on-site parking, programming opportunities may be limited.

## 2.1b. Edward Coltham Park

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Construct two 5v5 fields at the future Edward Coltham Park
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+2.0 unlit equivalents
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	Yes
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



**Edward Coltham Park**

**Notes:**

Two 5v5 fields should be considered in the design of the future Edward Coltham Park. Consideration should be given to supporting amenities such as parking, landscape screening, and other features that bolster the site as a sport-friendly venue, while balancing community needs.

### 2.1c. Hartwell Way and Roth Street (Future Park)

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Construct two 5v5 fields at a future park at Hartwell Way and Roth Street
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+2.0 unlit equivalents
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	Yes
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



Future Park (Hartwell Way and Roth Street)

**Notes:**

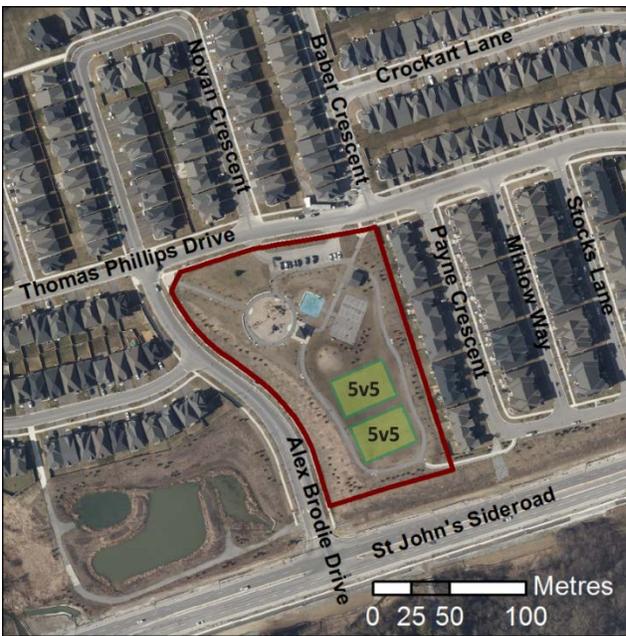
Two 5v5 fields should be considered in the design of the future park located at Hartwell Way and Roth Street. Consideration should be given to supporting amenities such as parking, landscape screening, and other features that bolster the site as a sport-friendly venue, while balancing community needs.

## 2.1d. Trent Park

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Construct two 5v5 fields at Trent Park
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+2.0 unlit equivalents
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Medium-Term 2024-2027
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

### Project Evaluation Criteria

1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	Yes
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



Trent Park

### Notes:

High level observations of Trent Park indicated that there is adequate space for two 5v5 fields. This site would be a suitable location for minor games and practices due to the presence of on-site parking and washroom facilities.

## 2.2a. Lions Park

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Program the 7v7 field at Lions Park
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+1.0 unlit equivalent
<b>Site Ownership</b>	York Region District School Board
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Medium-Term 2024-2027
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



Lions Park

**Notes:**

While a one 7v7 field currently exists at Lions Park, it is not programmed. Permitting the field would expand the Town-wide sports field capacity.

It is understood that the sports field is located on lands owned by the York Region District School Board. Coordination with the school board may be required to ensure that this field is accessible.

### Strategy 3: Expand Partnerships

With a limited land base available to construct new sports fields, there will be a need to expand existing partnerships and/or form new partnerships with non-municipal organizations that provide outdoor space. To meet future needs, the Town must build on its past success in providing or accessing outdoor sports fields with partners, such as school boards, St. Andrew's College, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, and others. Some of these options – particularly those involving artificial turf – present the best opportunity for the Town to address not only soccer needs, but also the growing demand of sports such as football, rugby and lacrosse.

The following recommendations would increase the Town's supply by up to **22.0 unlit equivalents**. Each potential option is evaluated further on the following pages.

Any municipal investment in third-party fields should be accompanied by a suitable agreement that protects the municipal investment and guarantees appropriate community access.

**Recommendation 3.1: Partner with School Boards to permit available school fields, most notably the York Region District School Board. This would require the Town to allocate additional operating funding toward field maintenance, in agreement with the respective school boards.**

*Note: This option may be a short-term solution to the loss of the Magna fields as it could be implemented quickly and most school fields are smaller templates.*

Consider the following options (schools with under-utilized rectangular fields):

- a. Access and improve the 7v7 field at **Aurora Montessori School**.
- b. Access and improve the existing 11v11 field at **Cardinal Carter Catholic Elementary School** (YCDSB) and seek opportunities to convert the field it to lit artificial turf.
- c. Access and improve the 7v7 field at **École Elementaire Catholique Saint-Jean** (MonAvenir Catholic School Board).
- d. Access and improve the 7v7 field at **Northern Lights Public School** (YRDSB).
- e. Access and improve the 7v7 field at **Our Lady of Grace Catholic School** (YCDSB).
- f. Improve community access to the artificial turf field at **St. Andrews College**. An opportunity may also exist to add lights to the turf field.

**Recommendation 3.2: Partner with School Boards to improve and/or construct fields.**

Consider the following options:

- a. Construct up to two lit artificial turf fields and one grass fields at the **Dr. GW Williams Secondary School** (YRDSB). Other field development options may also be considered (e.g., 2 rectangular fields and 1 ball diamond).

- b. Permit fields at **future schools**, including:
  - i. The **replacement school for Dr. GW Williams Secondary School on Bayview Avenue** (YRDSB; anticipated opening in 2023) – one 11v11 field; and
  - ii. The two **proposed elementary schools** in Northeast Aurora (one YRDSC, one YCDSB; anticipated opening in 2023).
- c. Permit the 11v11 field at **Aurora High School** (YRDSB).
- d. Construct two 7v7 fields at **Devins Drive Public School** (YRDSB).
- e. Construct one 5v5 field at **St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School** (YCDSB).
- f. Add uprights to **École Renaissance High School** (MonAvenir Catholic School Board) so that it can be used for rugby games and practices.

### 3.1a. Aurora Montessori School

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Work with Aurora Montessori School to access and improve the 7v7 field
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+1.0 unlit equivalent
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Aurora Montessori
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



**Notes:**

A 7v7 field is located at Aurora Montessori School. An opportunity may exist to work with the school to access the sports field – particularly as a partial replacement for Magna fields – potentially through a user or reciprocal agreement.

### 3.1b. Cardinal Carter Catholic High School

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Work with the York Catholic District School Board to access and improve the 11v11 field at Cardinal Carter Catholic High School and seek opportunities to convert it to lit artificial turf
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+1.0 to 2.5 unlit equivalents
<b>Site Ownership</b>	York Catholic District School Board
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Medium-Term 2024-2027
<b>Project Priority</b>	High Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



Cardinal Carter Catholic High School

**Notes:**

Cardinal Carter Catholic High School would be a good candidate for converting the existing field to lit artificial turf. The school board has expressed interest in this opportunity, as well as the potential to install a dome. Town funding would likely be required.

### 3.1c. École Elementaire Catholique Saint-Jean

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Work with the French language school board to access and improve the 7v7 field at École Elementaire Catholique Saint-Jean
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+1.0 unlit equivalent
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



École Elementaire Catholique Saint-Jean

**Notes:**

An opportunity may exist to work with the school to access the sports field – particularly as a partial replacement for Magna fields – potentially through a user or reciprocal agreement. Improvements to the existing sports field may be required in order to accommodate regular permitted use.

### 3.1d. Northern Lights Public School

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Work with the York Region District School Board to access and improve the 7v7 soccer field at Northern Lights Public School
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+1.0 unlit equivalent
<b>Site Ownership</b>	York Region District School Board
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	High Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	Yes
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



Northern Lights Public School

**Notes:**

An opportunity may exist to work with the school to access the sports field, particularly as a partial replacement for Magna fields.

The proposed strategy provides an opportunity to create a multi-field venue given the presence of the adjacent 11v11 field located at Optimist Park.

### 3.1e. Our Lady of Grace Catholic School

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Work with the York Catholic District School Board to access and improve the 7v7 soccer field at Our Lady of Grace Catholic School
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+1.0 unlit equivalent
<b>Site Ownership</b>	York Catholic District School Board
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	High Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	Yes
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



**Our Lady of Grace Catholic School**

**Notes:**

An opportunity may exist to work with the school to access the sports field, particularly as a partial replacement for Magna fields.

The proposed strategy provides an opportunity to create a multi-field venue given the presence of the adjacent 7v7 field located at Harmon Park.

### 3.1f. St. Andrew’s College

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Work with St. Andrew’s College to improve community access the artificial turf field; an opportunity may also exist to add lights to the turf field
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	Up to +2.5 unlit equivalents
<b>Site Ownership</b>	St. Andrew’s College
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	No



**Notes:**

The existing artificial turf field is booked by the College and well used during the school months. Some available capacity exists in the summer; greater coordination with the Town may assist in maximizing community access to this existing field.

The field is not lit, though this may present an opportunity for extended use. Concerns over proximity of lighting to the adjacent residential area may require mitigation.

### 3.2a. Dr. GW Williams Secondary School

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Work with the York Region District School Board to construct two lit artificial turf fields and one grass field at Dr. GW Williams Secondary School
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	up to +6.0 unlit equivalents
<b>Site Ownership</b>	York Region District School Board
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Medium-Term 2024-2027
<b>Project Priority</b>	High Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	Yes
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



Dr. GW Williams Secondary School

**Notes:**

It is anticipated that this school will close as a secondary school in 2023 (a replacement school is being built on Bayview Avenue), but it will remain in the ownership of YRDSB.

**Further discussions with the school board will be required to determine the feasibility of field improvements and community access.**

This site has the potential for up to two lit artificial turf fields and one natural grass field, although other field development options may also be considered (e.g., 2 rectangular fields and 1 ball diamond). The preparation of a site master plan may assist in determining the most appropriate course of action.

All options must ensure the availability of sufficient parking, buffering between adjacent land uses, and other supporting amenities. This site has the potential to become a premiere sports complex, strengthening local athletics and sport tournament potential.

### 3.2b. Future Elementary and High Schools

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Permit fields at future schools including the replacement of Dr. GW Williams Secondary School on Bayview Avenue and two elementary schools (one YRDSB and one YCDSB)
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	Up to +3.0 unlit equivalents
<b>Site Ownership</b>	York Region District School Board and York Catholic District School Board
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	High Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



Replacement of Dr. GW Williams Secondary School

**Notes:**

The replacement of Dr. GW Williams Secondary School is expected to open in 2023, which will be located on the northwest corner of Bayview and Borealis Avenue (at left). Due to the size of this site and proximity to residential neighbourhoods, it is not a candidate for lights or artificial turf.

The YRDSB and YCDSB are also both slated to build elementary schools in the northeast area of Aurora (2C Lands) during the same year. Once these schools are constructed, the Town is encouraged to permit these fields as they may service as partial replacements for Magna fields.

*The location of the two future elementary schools in the 2C Lands have not been illustrated.*

### 3.2c. Aurora High School

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Work with the York Region District School Board to permit the 11v11 field at Aurora High School
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+1.0 unlit equivalents
<b>Site Ownership</b>	York Region District School Board
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	High Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



**Notes:**

The 11v11 field at Aurora High School is a good candidate for increased community use. However, due to its proximity to the adjacent residential area, the location is not suitable for lights.

### 3.2d. Devins Drive Public School

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Work with the York Region District School Board to construct two 7v7 fields at Devins Drive Public School
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+2.0 unlit equivalents
<b>Site Ownership</b>	York Region District School Board
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	Yes
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



Devins Drive Public School

**Notes:**

The school currently does not have any sports fields on site. An opportunity may exist to work with the school board to construct two 7v7 fields at this location, particularly as a partial replacement for Magna fields.

### 3.2e. St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Work with the York Catholic District School Board to develop one 5v5 field at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+1.0 unlit equivalent
<b>Site Ownership</b>	York Catholic District School Board
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



**St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School**

**Notes:**

A high level review of the site revealed that there is not currently a soccer field at this school. An opportunity may exist to work with the school to create a 5v5 field to offset the loss of the Magna fields.

### 3.2f. École Renaissance High School

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Add uprights to École Renaissance High School (MonAvenir Catholic School Board) so that it can be used for rugby games and practices
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	None
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	No
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



Ecole Renaissance High School

**Notes:**

The Town currently permits the field located at École Renaissance High School. Additional opportunities may exist to enhance usage by adding goal uprights so that the field can be programmed for rugby/football games.

#### Strategy 4: Modify Operational Practices

In addition to developing and securing access to rectangular sports fields, there are new approaches that the Town may consider to better utilize its sports field supply through policy and coordinating with others. These options can generally be implemented immediately and thus they are considered to be high priorities. Most of these options apply equally to rectangular sports fields and ball diamonds.

**Recommendation 4.1:** Identify and circulate opportunities amongst affiliated groups for **last minute sports field rentals**.

**Recommendation 4.2:** Work with **surrounding municipalities** to ensure that cross-border sports organizations that serve regional players have coordinated access to fields within and outside of Aurora and that field capacity is properly managed. Consider restricting usage from organizations representing memberships having a high percentage of non-Aurora residents.

**Recommendation 4.3:** Upon termination of the third-party lease agreement, resume Town-operations of the **Aurora Sports Dome** and investigate the potential to add air conditioning to maximize usage during the summer months. Adding air conditioning will add capacity equivalent to 1.0 field during the summer, while assuming operation of the facility will allow the Town to manage and maximize community access.

## 6.4 Ball Diamond Development Strategy

The following recommendations have the potential to add up to **4.5 unlit equivalents** to the Town's ball diamond supply (Figure 14). The Town is encouraged to validate the options and pursue the highest priority projects, with consideration to project feasibility. The options identified in this section should not be considered exhaustive; additional opportunities may emerge and should be assessed at the appropriate time.

Figure 14: Summary of Ball Diamond Development Strategies



### Strategy 1: Improve and Re-purpose Existing Sports Fields

Note: The Town is encouraged to work with ball diamond organizations to identify and prioritize upgrades and improvements to existing ball diamonds in order to improve playing conditions (e.g., infield and outfield quality, amenities, etc.) and facilitate adult play. However, upgrading fields (such as adding lights) is not feasible at all locations due to neighbourhood concerns, park capacities, etc. This has been factored into the analysis to the degree possible; however, site-specific investigations and/or public consultation may be required for major upgrades.

Each potential option is evaluated further on the following pages.

#### Recommendation 1.1: Improve fields to enhance playability and address areas of demand.

Consider the following options:

- Re-orient and enlarge the existing ball diamond at **Confederation Park** to a senior diamond to facilitate youth/adult play.
- Enlarge the existing ball diamond at **Fleury Park** to facilitate youth/adult play.
- Convert the two overlapping ball diamonds at **Machell Park** to an enlarged senior ball diamond.
- Enlarge the existing ball diamond at **Summit Park** to facilitate youth/adult play.
- Convert the **Stewart Burnett Park** ball diamond to a stadium in order to attract an Intercounty Baseball League team.

## 1.1a. Confederation Park (Option 2)

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Re-orient and enlarge the existing ball diamond at Confederation Park to a senior diamond to facilitate youth/adult play
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	Loss of 1.0 ULE rectangular sports field
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Medium-Term 2024-2027
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	No
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	Yes
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



**Notes:**

The existing ball diamond and 11v11 field overlap, causing a conflict.

The proposed strategy would replace the existing ball diamond and remove an 11v11 field (booked for 60 hours in 2019). An enlarged ball diamond (with a centre field distance of approximately 280 feet) would accommodate additional usage by facilitating youth/adult ball play. The strategy would require repositioning the diamond and would require re-routing the existing pathway. Due to the proximity of surrounding residential area, the field may not be a suitable candidate for lighting.

An alternate option (Option 1) has been proposed in the Rectangular Field strategies that would convert the existing diamond into a 7v7 field. The preparation of a site master plan may assist in determining the most appropriate course of action.

*Note: Cannot be combined with Rectangular Sports Field Option 1.1a or 1.3b.*

## 1.1b. Fleury Park

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Enlarge the existing ball diamond at Fleury Park to facilitate youth/adult play
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	None
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Medium-Term 2024-2027
<b>Project Priority</b>	Low Priority

### Project Evaluation Criteria

1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	No
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	No



Fleury Park

**Notes:**

The proposed senior ball diamond is based on a centre field distance of approximately 280 feet.

Further investigation may be required to confirm facility fit due to the proximity to the soccer field and woodlot. Some woodlot clearing that may also be required to accommodate an enlarged ball diamond.

Due to the proximity of surrounding residential area, the diamond may not be a suitable candidate for lighting.

### 1.1c. Machell Park (Option 2)

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Convert the two overlapping ball diamonds at Machell Park to an enlarged senior ball diamond
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	-1.0 unlit equivalent
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	High Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	No
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	Yes
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



**Notes:**

The park currently contains two overlapping ball diamonds (booked for a total of 150 hours in 2019). Developing an enlarged senior diamond (with a center field distance of approximately 280 feet) provides the potential to accommodate more use through facilitating youth and adult play. Due to the proximity of surrounding residential area, the diamond may not be a suitable candidate for lighting.

An alternate option (Option 1) has been proposed in the Rectangular Fields strategies that would convert the existing diamonds into three smaller soccer fields. The preparation of a site master plan may assist in determining the most appropriate course of action.

*Note: Cannot be combined with Rectangular Sports Field Option 1.1c.*

## 1.1d. Summit Park

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Enlarge the existing ball diamond at Summit Park to facilitate youth/adult play
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	None
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Medium-Term 2024-2027
<b>Project Priority</b>	Low Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	No
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	Yes
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	No
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



**Summit Park**

**Notes:**

The proposed senior ball diamond is based on a centre field distance of approximately 280 feet. It is recognized that this strategy may result in overlapping fields with the existing soccer field; further assessment would be required.

Due to the proximity of surrounding residential area, the diamond may not be a suitable candidate for lighting.

### 1.1e. Stewart Burnett Park

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Convert the Stewart Burnett Park ball diamond to a stadium venue in order to attract an Intercounty Baseball League team.
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	None
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Long-Term 2028+
<b>Project Priority</b>	Low Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	No
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	No
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	No



**Notes:**

A user group requested that the ball diamond be upgraded to a stadium field that could support an Intercounty Baseball League team. This option may include (but not be limited to) more spectator seating, concessions, washrooms, controlled access, etc.

## Strategy 2: Develop New Fields and/or Permit Fields within Existing and New Parks

Due to their size and buffering requirements, there are few options for developing new ball diamonds and all available diamonds in Town parks are currently permitted. Full implementation of these recommendations would increase the Town's supply by up to **4.5 ball diamonds** (unlit equivalents).

The options below are evaluated further on the following pages.

### Recommendation 2.1: Construct new fields. This would require land acquisition (aside from the Hallmark Lands).

Consider the following options:

- a. Construct two lit ball diamonds at **Hallmark Lands**.
- b. Select a location for the development of a **lit hardball diamond** as recommended in the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

## 2.1a. Hallmark Lands

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Construct two lit ball diamonds at Hallmark Lands
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	3.0 unlit equivalents
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	High Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	No
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	Yes
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	Yes



**Hallmark Lands**

**Notes:**

Two lit senior ball diamonds are planned to be constructed at Hallmark Lands. Senior ball diamonds are based on a centre field distance of approximately 280 feet. Based on a high level review of the site, there should be sufficient space for supporting amenities including, but not limited to, parking, washrooms and change rooms, spectator seating, concession, and ancillary open space.

## 2.1b. Future Park, Acquisition or Partnership (Location TBD)

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Select a location for the development of a lit hardball diamond.
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	+1.5 unlit equivalents
<b>Site Ownership</b>	Town of Aurora
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	High Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	-
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	-
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	-
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	-
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	-

**Site**

To be determined

**Notes:**

The Town’s 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommended that a location be selected to construct a lit hardball diamond. This may be located at a future park, require land acquisition or partnership, or potentially be achieved through converting an existing softball diamond to hardball.

### Strategy 3: Expand Partnerships

Most schools in Aurora do not have ball diamonds within their inventory, thus the options for gaining access to non-municipal ball diamonds are limited.

**Recommendation 3.1: Work with St. Andrew’s College to improve community access to the hardball diamond.**

### 3.1. St. Andrew’s College

<b>Proposed Strategy</b>	Work with St. Andrew’s College to improve community access the hardball diamond
<b>Change in Capacity</b>	Up to +1.0 unlit equivalent
<b>Site Ownership</b>	St. Andrew’s College
<b>Potential Timeframe</b>	Short-Term 2020-2023
<b>Project Priority</b>	Medium Priority

Project Evaluation Criteria	
1. Add capacity (e.g., lights, turf, new supply, accommodate additional users)	Yes
2. Address a high priority need (e.g., large fields)	Yes
3. Leverage a community partnership (e.g., school)	Yes
4. Reduce conflicts (e.g., overlapping fields) and/or create multi-field complexes	No
5. Replace a facility(ies) that is underused or in poor condition	No
6. Appear to be compatible with the surrounding uses (lighting, parking impacts)	Yes
7. Have a reasonable chance of being implemented (e.g., cost, approvals, etc.)	No



**Notes:**

This diamond is maintained and permitted by the College. Weekend use of this diamond is currently limited due to the lack of maintenance staff. There may be potential for further community use (up to +1.0 unlit equivalent) if additional resources were available.

#### Strategy 4: Modify Operational Practices

In addition to developing and securing access to ball diamonds, there are new approaches that the Town may consider to better utilize its ball diamond supply through policy and coordinating with others. These options can generally be implemented immediately and thus they are considered to be high priorities. These options apply equally to ball diamonds and rectangular sports fields.

**Recommendation 4.1:** Identify and circulate opportunities amongst affiliated groups for **last minute sports field rentals**.

**Recommendation 4.2:** Work with **surrounding municipalities** to ensure that cross-border sports organizations that serve regional players have coordinated access to fields within and outside of Aurora and that field capacity is properly managed. Consider restricting usage from organizations representing memberships having a high percentage of non-Aurora residents.

### 6.5 Summary of Proposed Strategies and Phasing

Table 27 and Table 28 summarizes the proposed strategies and phasing for rectangular sports fields and ball diamonds, respectively.

**Table 27: Summary of Proposed Strategies and Phasing for Rectangular Sports Fields**

Location	Timing	Priority	Potential Additions / Improvements							Potential Removals / Re-purposing	
			Lights	Turf	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5	3v3		
<b>Strategy 1: Improve and Re-purpose Existing Sports Fields</b>											
1.1a	Confederation Park (Option 1)	Medium	Medium					1			1 minor ball diamond
1.1b	Craddock Park	Long	Low	1	1						1 11v11
1.1c	Machell Park (Option 1)	Short	High				1		2		2 minor ball diamonds
1.1d	McMahon Park	Long	Low					1			2 3v3 fields
1.1e	Norm Weller Park	Short	High	1	1						1 11v11
1.2a	Machell Park	Medium	Low	1							
1.2b	Lambert Willson Park	Short	Medium	1							
1.3a	Confederation Park	Short	Medium	Add goal uprights to 11v11 field							
<b>Strategy 2: Develop New Fields and/or Permit Fields within Existing and New Parks</b>											
2.1a	Chapman Park	Medium	Medium							1	
2.1b	Edward Coltham Park	Short	Medium						2		
2.1c	Hartwell Way and Roth Street (Future Park)	Short	Medium						2		
2.1d	Trent Park	Medium	Medium						2		
2.2a	Lions Park	Medium	Medium					1			
<b>Strategy 3: Expand Partnerships</b>											
3.1a	Aurora Montessori School	Short	Medium					1			
3.1b	Cardinal Carter Catholic High School	Medium	High	1	1						
3.1c	École Elementaire Catholique Saint-Jean	Short	Medium					1			
3.1d	Northern Lights Public School	Short	High					1			
3.1e	Our Lady Grace Catholic School	Short	High					1			

**Town of Aurora  
Sports Field Development Strategy**

Location	Timing	Priority	Potential Additions / Improvements							Potential Removals /		
			Lights	Turf	11v11	9v9	7v7	5v5	3v3	Re-purposing		
3.1f	St. Andrew's College	Short	Medium	1	1							
3.2a	Dr. GW Williams Secondary School	Medium	High	2	2	1						
3.2b	Future Elementary and High Schools	Short	High			1		2				
3.2c	Aurora High School	Short	High			1						
3.2d	Devins Drive Public School	Short	Medium					2				
3.2e	St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School	Short	Medium						1			
3.2f	École Renaissance High School	Short	Medium	Add goal uprights to the 11v11 field								
<b>Total</b>				<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>		
				<b>ULE</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>+12</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>+11</b>	<b>+9</b>	<b>+1</b>	<b>-4 rectangular sports fields</b>
				<b>Total</b>	<b>Up to +37.0 rectangular sports fields</b>							

Table 28: Summary of Proposed Strategies and Phasing for Ball Diamonds

Location		Timing	Priority	Potential Additions / Improvements			Potential Removals / Re-purposing
				Lights	Senior	Minor	
<b>Strategy 1: Improve and Re-purpose Existing Sports Fields</b>							
1.1a	Confederation Park (Option 2)	Medium	Medium		1		1 minor ball diamond and 1 11v11 field
1.1b	Fleury Park	Medium	Low		1		1 minor ball diamond
1.1c	Machell Park (Option 2)	Short	High		1		2 minor ball diamonds (overlapping)
1.1d	Summit Park	Medium	Low		1		1 minor ball diamond
1.1e	Stewart Burnett Park	Long	Low	Convert to Stadium Field			
<b>Strategy 2: Develop New Fields and/or Permit Fields within Existing and New Parks</b>							
2.1a	Hallmark Lands	Short	High	2	2		
2.1b	Future Park, Acquisition or Partnership (Location TBD)	Medium	High	1	1		
<b>Strategy 3: Expand Partnerships</b>							
3.1	St. Andrew's College	Short	Medium		1		
<b>Total</b>				<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	
				<b>ULE +1.5</b>	<b>+8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-5 diamonds</b>
				<b>Total Up to +4.5 ball diamonds</b>			

## Appendix A: Stakeholder Survey Results

*Note: The following is a **verbatim transcript** of input received from sports field user groups. Efforts have not been made to verify the accuracy of the written information; however, issues, concerns and improvements were discussed in more detail through in-person focus groups and the participation data used in this study has been adjusted where necessary (in the consultants' best judgement) to reflect local circumstances.*

### Rectangular Sports Field User Group Responses

Name	Mandate	2019 Registration	2019 Waitlist	2018 Registration	2018 Waitlist	2017 Registration	2017 Waitlist	Age Range	% Aurora Residents
Aurora Barbarians RFC	To develop and promote the game of rugby for ages 4 to 64 (sometimes higher). We're 'a club for all.' no cuts, no experience required	370	0	420		435	0	4-64	25%
Aurora FC (Aurora Youth Soccer Club)	The Aurora Youth Soccer Club (Aurora FC) provides our members the highest level of soccer development possible and the opportunity to develop friendships in a healthy, inclusive, enjoyable and safe environment by embracing the concepts of good sportsmanship and Fair Play. We provide well-organized and administered Recreational, Developmental, Competitive and High Performance Programs that meet our members' needs and embrace Community values. We represent the sport of soccer in an ethical and responsible manner.	3000	1%	3000		3188	1%	4-29	73-75%
Aurora Men's Sunday Soccer Group	Our group runs a Sunday pick up soccer match for men 18+, from May to October. Our mandate: Ensure a venue for men who want to play friendly, non-competitive soccer - Promote healthy lifestyle among men; Foster friendships among local adult men; Develop a broader sense of community, allowing families of players to meet and create networks	45	5	45		40	0	18-55	95%
Aurora Soccer Club	The Aurora Soccer Club inspires individuals and teams to develop a passion for soccer through an environment of sport, comradery, learning, belonging, and fun for all through our broad array of competitive and recreational adult soccer, charitable initiatives and social programming. Our quality soccer field, player and team experience generates pride in our members, and our social environment welcomes all who want to ignite passion for the world's most popular sport.	1179	n/a	987		850	n/a		70%
Aurora Special Olympics	We currently have athletes participating in many sports including (basketball, softball, soccer, bocce and swimming)	125	20	110		115	15	8-60	95%
Evolve Elite Lacrosse	We are an Elite travel lacrosse program. We draw local athletes as well as those from across the province to train to participate in the US. The end goal for most is to play at the collegiate level either in the NCAA or here at home in Canada.	350	n/a	320		300	n/a	7-18	10%
Extreme Goalkeepers Inc.	Are mandated to train as many young boys and girls as soccer goal keepers in our local area helping them to achieve scholarships and professional trials.	150		150		150		9-15	20%
Rising Stars Soccer Academy	Rising Stars Soccer Academy places emphasis on fitness, skill development, and character building while maintaining focus on the core value that keeps children motivated to excel; having fun. We believe that improving physical fitness while having fun will instill a passion for soccer, and healthy active living overall that continues to grow along with our children.	85		25		0		2-8	75-80%
Rovers Soccer	To promote and provide organized Men's soccer geared towards older players. To promote and provide organized Ladies soccer after the Youth years are over.	45	45	30		30	30	Men:- 40 Ladies:- 25	75%
York Region Lions Football Association	Our goal is to organize, develop and promote minor football for all youth (ages 5 to 19) of York Region. Leagues are divided into 4 groups: Development, Flag, Spring/Summer Competitive and Fall Competitive. We promote football as a pathway to post-secondary, developing a love of academics and sport at a young age. We primarily run football programs for youth, but also provide football education and introductory demonstrations with exceptional needs groups. We are proud to provide ALL equipment necessary to participate, and ensure that single parent and at-risk youth are able to participate in sports.	794	803	747	751	683	693	6-19	40%

## Town of Aurora Sports Field Development Strategy

Name	Over the next 5 years, do you expect your total membership or number of participants to:	What are the main reasons that contribute to your future membership or participant expectations?	Which parks and sports fields in the Town of Aurora does your group use the most? This may include spaces owned or leased by the Town of Aurora or those provided by others such as schools, conservation areas or private property.
Aurora Barbarians RFC	Increase	Rugby Ontario will be moving the age groups back to even years. The past two years have been odds and many of the grade 12 students stop playing. We hope to rebound from this. Also our numbers of players under the age of 15 are at record highs. The normal entry point in rugby is 15 (grade 9) who start to play in school. We have over 125 players under 15 already which is a good sign for the future.	St. Max of Kolbe CHS has been our home base since the fields opened at the school. The only issue we have now is all the female coaches unlucky wish to practice on the turf as it has taken its toll on the players. It was great for us to get the Grass field at St. Max this year as our U13 and U15 Girls have been using it but hopefully in 2020 we can add a full size grass field with rugby markings.
Aurora FC (Aurora Youth Soccer Club)	Increase	Largest participation sport in Aurora Soccer in Aurora is one of the largest per capita participation sport in Canada Expected population Increase Greater attraction to the sport by the changing Aurora demographic Initiatives focusing on promoting more active community/population Upcoming World Cup of Soccer (hosted in Canada/North America) Promotion related to hosting of more prestigious/elite level of competition events by the Club	Outdoor: Turf Fields (Stewart Burnett, Sheppard's Bush) Lit Grass Fields (Fleury, Optimist) Grass Fields (Machell, Magna (19 fields used at least 4 days a week), Sheppard's Bush, St Andrews, Craddock, Norm Weller, School Fields)  Indoor: Aurora Sports Dome, School Gyms
Aurora Men's Sunday Soccer Group	Increase	Word of mouth, as more players tell others; Unmet demand in Aurora	Aurora Grove Public School soccer field. In the past, we have played at Optimist Park, Sheppard's Bush, St. Maximilian Kolbe grass pitch, and Centennial Park.
Aurora Soccer Club	Increase	Apart from the fact that demographically we are dealing with an ever increasing adult cohort, the comprehensive programming that the ASC offers its members provides an opportunity for all skill levels and adult age group to participate at the club. 2020 will see the organization introduce a co-ed program which will drive even higher demand for field time both in our Summer and Winter programs.	The ASC utilizes Highland Park Mon – Fri 7pm – 11pm, however we also utilize other facilities both in Aurora and in surrounding towns to accommodate the demand for both our competitive and recreational programs. Aurora Parks: Highland Park, Sheppard's Bush, St. Maximilian, Fleury Park Non-Aurora Parks: YRP Policy Shed, Ray Twinney, Lions Park (Mount Albert)
Aurora Special Olympics	Increase	The growing need for athlete programs amongst the intellectual disability community.	Basketball- no permits available therefore both programs are run out of Newmarket Softball - The York Regional police she - due to the same reason as above Swim - Stronach Center Soccer - St Andrews College
Evolve Elite Lacrosse	Increase	Overall experience. Quality training facilities. Location. Positive word of mouth.	St. Max, Sheppard's Bush, Aurora Sports Dome St. Andrew's College Lower fields. Other full size soccer fields.
Extreme Goalkeepers Inc.	Increase	My work is bringing me back to my local neighbourhoods thus attracting many more local kids from the area.	Shepherds Bush, Saint Maximilian turf, Burnett turf
Rising Stars Soccer Academy	Increase	We have over tripled our registration with just over one year active so we believe our numbers will continue to rise.	Sheppard's Bush and Cardinal Carter
Rovers Soccer	Stay the same / Remain stable	An outlet to continue playing from Youth, or Open age Soccer.	Fleury { grass } St. Max ( Turf ).....early and late season
York Region Lions Football Association	Increase	We actively promote our organization, and have partnered with not only York University's Varsity Football Program, but also MLSE/Toronto Argos. We're working to increase our field time in surrounding towns which should help increase our numbers.	St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS, Aurora; Shepherd's Bush Aurora, The Dome

**Town of Aurora  
Sports Field Development Strategy**

Name	Do you feel that your organization is able to rent sufficient time at fields or diamonds to meet your needs? If not, please explain.	How can we improve existing fields or diamonds to better meet your group's needs?	Overall, what is the most pressing sports field need or concern currently facing your group?
Aurora Barbarians RFC	The town staff have been great over the years. We have been in a pinch a number of times this year- due to the weather and have been bailed out by the ability to have last minute bookings. As mentioned above, we would love to be about to get one full sized grass rugby pitch in the future for our female teams. We have request Williams from the school board the past 4 years but still haven't had any luck.	We are very happy with the level of service- we currently receive. Thank you!	Full sized Grass Field. Currently we have rented 2 in Markham (Fletcher's Field) but would love to keep our presence in Aurora.
Aurora FC (Aurora Youth Soccer Club)	We are not able to rent any grass fields time before May 15 We are not able to rent sufficient time in March/April/May for our year round High Performance/Competitive programs We are forced to rent very expensive Indoor Dome time for outdoor programs. School fields not practically available for first half of the season. No adequate replacement fields during partial fields cancellations due to rain/flooding	Fields maintenance cycles (cutting and lining) needs to be performed more often to improve quality and safety of the participants especially during the start of the season. Better coordination with school boards to provide better maintenance cycles and allow for netting to be placed on goals starting in May. With improved year round maintenance, GW Williams fields can be made into excellent soccer venue. Lights at Machell Park would increase the availability of the existing field complex. Provide access to proper change rooms and washrooms as mandated by Elite Level provincial competitions. Provide more lit grass fields and more turf fields to provide longer access during the day.	Greater availability of higher quality grass fields (through increased maintenance cycles or availability of new fields). Planning/replacement of the Magna field complex (19 grass fields). Access to significantly more rental time at Sheppard's Bush for our outdoor programs especially at the start of the season in March/April/May Access to some rental time at St Max Kolbe Turf field Adequate access to Stewart Burnett change rooms for semi-pro League 1 games Adequate access to drinking water required for competition hydration stations. Indoor Dome time is prohibitively expensive – the for-profit business presently operating the Dome should be acquired by the Town and managed by the soccer club. Availability/access to an affordable Club House
Aurora Men's Sunday Soccer Group	Yes	Overall, we fell the pitch is usable and good. If possible, improvements would include: more frequent painting of sidelines; fixing the grass at the mouths of the goals	Fix the grass in front of the goal mouths.
Aurora Soccer Club	Unfortunately we are required to rent space outside of town	The ASC's primary user group is adult, who are required by league regulations to play between 7pm – 11pm. This drives the necessity of floodlights for most of the season which starts in May and ends at the beginning of October. We schedule ASC cup's, Youth Soccer Cup's, play-off's and charity events on weekends, respecting the need to also rest the field. With regards to existing fields, the Town can certainly look to some existing parks to introduce floodlights, however the size of these fields needs to be reviewed as many of them such as Norm Weller are not large enough for either Adult or Youth competitive play.	More field time between 7pm – 11pm. May – October. Floodlight More indoor Dome time Thu/Fri 8pm- 11pm. October – April.
Aurora Special Olympics	Currently I do not we are creating programs and currently do not have the permit history other programs do. We attempt to apply however many of the established programs already seem to have the majority of the permits. We would be willing to use the Leisure Complex however have been told that it is not available and night at any time and is very costly to our organization.	Availability our athletes often just require a safe place to practice and play their sport	Basketball Facility as we currently run Aurora special Olympics in a very small Newmarket public school through another association.
Evolve Elite Lacrosse	Generally yes. Staff has been very accommodating. The one challenge we do have is booking the Dome in May as we need the whole dome and the town controls 2 fields and the dome 1.	More garbage cans as St. Max and Sheppards Bush. Ability to book further in advance.	More turf fields. So there are not limits during the spring and fall when fields are not accessible. Also open up more availability

**Town of Aurora  
Sports Field Development Strategy**

Name	Do you feel that your organization is able to rent sufficient time at fields or diamonds to meet your needs? If not, please explain.	How can we improve existing fields or diamonds to better meet your group's needs?	Overall, what is the most pressing sports field need or concern currently facing your group?
	Generally it has worked out, but there is always a day or two that are challenges and we are forced to look outside Aurora (Bradford) for fields.	Online availability to allow for planning. Not online booking as that should be centralized to avoid groups over booking.	during the summer when fields do not have maximum use quotas so that they cannot be rented due to evening soccer use.
Extreme Goalkeepers Inc.	Yes I have always been relatively fortunate to find proper fields.	Change rooms and washrooms	We need more Fields to grow.
Rising Stars Soccer Academy	Yes, we have been very happy with the fields and the representative at the town, Shauna.	Honestly, we are currently fully satisfied with the fields.	At this point, there are no pressing needs other than ensuring regular maintenance.
Rovers Soccer	Yes, we feel that we have sufficient time.	With the Rovers, I have used Fleury for the last 35 years. Apart from a couple of seasons where the North end was getting a face lift, the field has been in excellent shape. Over the years, there has been a variety of different seating provided at the field. For whatever reason, 2018 / 2019 has seen zero seating at the field. Not suggesting we get big crowds, but the teams need a bench of some sort. Substitutes are not allowed to stand during games.	Being a very small organization, we are very happy with the service and allocation from the Town. Except somewhere to sit!!!!!!
York Region Lions Football Association	No - while I do expect our programming to increase, this is due to field access in surrounding areas. Specifically the Dome we have trouble getting time that we can afford. As a non-profit, we are subject to regular rates through them and cannot afford the time. We also compete with other organizations for prime indoor time that are FOR profit - they have more resources, so they get the time.	Ensure better access for non-profit groups over the winter.	We have two. Indoor field time is one during the winter. The other are changerooms. Leagues mandate changerooms for older players, but we are in a position where we need to rent out classrooms at St. Max for this, which aren't always available, carry very high rates as custodians need to be on duty, and do not reflect a non-profit rate.

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**Ball Diamond User Group Responses**

Name	Mandate	2019 Registration	2019 Waitlist	2018 Registration	2018 Waitlist	2017 Registration	2017 Waitlist	Age Range	% Aurora Residents
AURORA DIGGERS GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION	TO PROVIDE SOFTBALL ACTIVITIES TO GIRLS AGED 5 TO 18. TO PROMOTE LEARNING, TEAMWORK, FAIR PLAY, PHYSICAL LITERACY, AND PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR GIRLS TO HAVE FUN AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS WHILE ENJOYING THE SPORT OF SOFTBALL. PROMOTE COMPETITION IN GIRLS SOFTBALL AT THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE LEVEL THUS ENSURING THAT LEARNING TECHNIQUES ARE CONSTANTLY IMPROVING. OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO COMPETE AT ALL LEVELS OF GIRLS SOFTBALL WHERE THERE IS SUFFICIENT INTEREST AND COMPETITIVE ABILITY.	117		148		138		5 - 18	65%
Aurora King Baseball	To provide an opportunity to Aurora residents the opportunity to participate in physical activity through the sport of baseball and to provide the opportunity for those participants to develop to the highest level they desire to achieve.	1030	0	1047	35	985	0	4 – 18	75%
Aurora Ladies Softball	18+ semi-competitive ladies fast pitch	55	0	65	3	65	10	25 – 45	75%
Aurora Men's Slo-Pitch League	Men's Slo-Pitch baseball. Two divisions: a) Masters, over 40 b) open, over 19	310	10	305	8	317	.?	19 to 40+	60%
AURORA MIXED SLO PITCH LEAGUE	Providing adult slo-pitch, for both men and woman (adult families) across Aurora and surrounding areas.	400	80	350	25	250	0	28 – 50	80%
OAK RIDGES COED RECREATIONAL SLOPITCH LEAGUE (ORCRSL)	We are a slo-pitch softball league. Our mandate is to provide a safe and fun place where players can play the game they love to play.	1200	NONE	1200		1200		20 – 45	100%
Seneca College - Varsity Baseball	Varsity Baseball team practices and games	35	n/a	35	n/a	35	n/a	17 – 24	Varies
St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS	Provide programs (engaging opportunities) for our students to expand their comfort level, and introduce them to sports/activities that expand their ability and likelihood of being Healthy Active Participants for life.	400	n/a	400	n/a	400	n/a	14 – 18	40%
Team Ontario Astros Elite Baseball Club-- Affiliated with the Canadian Premier Baseball League	Our group's mandate is the prepare York-Simcoe and GTA-area student-athletes for the rigors of US College and Canadian University baseball and academic programs. Our motto is "Training Student-Athletes to be Future Champions". Our primary baseball activities include 32 league games in the CPBL for which we need senior and junior diamond times for our 5 teams (14U-18U), four tournaments in the USA annually, an annual March Break Spring Training trip to West Palm to prepare our teams for the upcoming season, and hosting at least one CPBL Championship Playoff per year at Stewart Burnett for which we have procured Mayor Tom Mrakas to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. We also have a working relationship with the AKBA to provide player and coaches clinics to boost the quality of baseball in Aurora and King. We also have a working relationship with the Town of Aurora to provide maintenance expertise with Stewart Burnett Park (cutting the infield, bricking mounds, grading the basepaths, prepping the bullpen mounds we built for the Town).	84	n/a	82	n/a	94	n/a	13 – 17	20%
York Region Athletic Association	Provide Inter-school athletics for high schools in York Region.	23000	n/a	2300	n/a	22500		14 – 19	15%
York Region Baseball League	Baseball League	115	21	100	14	85		29 – 39	30%
Valhalla Mixed Slo-Pitch League	Baseball	128	n/a	124	n/a	124		25 – 78	90%

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Name	Over the next 5 years, do you expect your total membership or number of participants to:	What are the main reasons that contribute to your future membership or participant expectations?	Which parks and sports fields in the Town of Aurora does your group use the most? This may include spaces owned or leased by the Town of Aurora or those provided by others such as schools, conservation areas or private property.
AURORA DIGGERS GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION	Stay the same / Remain stable	LACK OF DIAMONDS HAS LIMITED OUR MEMBERSHIP AND HAS CAUSED A DECREASE IN MEMBERSHIP. WE SAW A DROP IN MEMBERSHIP IN 2019 BECAUSE WE COULD NOT PROVIDE AN EARLY DIAMOND TIME TO A YOUNGER AGE GROUP. WE DO NOT HAVE A WAIT LIST. WHEN WE ARE FULL WE REFER KIDS TO NEWMARKET OR OTHER NEIGHBOURING TOWNS. WE CANNOT GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF FACILITIES.	FLEURY, MACHELL, SUMMIT, AND TOWN PARK DIAMONDS. LOCAL SCHOOLS FOR INDOOR WINTER TRAINING.
Aurora King Baseball	Increase	There are two contributing factors to our projected growth in participation numbers. 1) Like all other sports, the popularity of a sport is predicated on the success of that sports professional franchise or Canada's success in that sport in the most recent Olympics. While the Toronto Blue Jays have had a dip in success the last couple of years, the future of the team and their young prospects are bright, therefore we anticipate a spike in our participation numbers as a reflection. 2) The AKBA Board is making structural changes which will be leading to change in programming to adjust to the needs of the community and attract more players to the sport.	Stewart Burnett; Lambert Willson (Diamond 3 and 4), would love diamond 1 or 2 more often; Town Park; Optimist Park; James Lloyd; Norm Weller; Confederation diamond 1 and 3 Elizabeth Hader We also use other smaller diamonds once or twice a week that are important.
Aurora Ladies Softball	Stay the same / Remain stable	16-18 year olds graduating out of softball, numbers for the younger teams has risen over the years.	Town Park
Aurora Men's Slo-Pitch League	Don't Know	Playing time availability. We are in hold mode for adding new teams and/or players. Attrition from existing teams is the only mechanism to add new players.	Lambert Willson 1, 2 and 3.
AURORA MIXED SLO PITCH LEAGUE	Increase	We are the only Coed Adult, fully sanctioned, slo-pitch league in Aurora. I am a director with slo-pitch national and also able to host provincial qualifying tournaments (if we had diamond space and availability to do so). We provide the adult family members, a place to come out, play an amazing sport with their local coworkers, neighbors, spouses and friends.	Lambert 1, 2 and 3...(when available) we have been forced to obtain Newmarket permits (2 to 3 parks per week) to accommodate our growth. Other diamonds offered, such as Fleury, are way too small for adults. Optimist and James Lloyd aren't available for us, as they would be our options to keep all games in aurora, weekly.
OAK RIDGES COED RECREATIONAL SLOPITCH LEAGUE (ORCRSL)		The affinity and popularity of the sport of slo-pitch/softball has exploded over the last 5 years. Also many players are starting to play more and playing in 2 or 3 Leagues. If the growth continues at current pace more ball diamonds will be needed.	James Lloyd Park, Optimist Park, Norm Weller Park, Lambert Willson Park
Seneca College - Varsity Baseball	Stay the same / Remain stable	One team - this will not change	Stewart Burnett Lambert Willson #4
St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS	Stay the same / Remain stable	1. A staff member - to organize and provide the opportunity; 2. Facility - Space to provide the activity; 3. Participant sign-up - students that decide to join the event/activity/sport	Judy Sherin - Arena Willson Lambert diamonds - Baseball, Slo-Pitch AFLC - Beach Volleyball Courts AFLC - Trails and pathways - Running routes AFLC - Squash Courts AFLC - Pool (Triathlon, and swimming) Flurry Courts - Tennis
Team Ontario Astros Elite Baseball Club-- Affiliated with the Canadian Premier Baseball League	Increase	We provide academic and athletic support to our players to help them attain their goal of playing US College or Canadian University Baseball. Our program is tied for the oldest Elite baseball program in Ontario. We are a member of the best Elite league in Ontario--the Canadian Premier Baseball League that annually has 6-10 of its players drafted directly into Major League Baseball and produces annually over 150 scholarships and placements to US Colleges and Canadian Universities. In the last two years, the Team Ontario Astros have placed 30 of its graduating players in US Colleges in eleven different states including Florida, Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa,	We use two fields: Stewart Burnett Park and Lambert Willson Park.

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Name	Over the next 5 years, do you expect your total membership or number of participants to:	What are the main reasons that contribute to your future membership or participant expectations?	Which parks and sports fields in the Town of Aurora does your group use the most? This may include spaces owned or leased by the Town of Aurora or those provided by others such as schools, conservation areas or private property.
		Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Alabama, and Michigan. We are also proud of our placements of players at Ontario universities including Brock, Western, McMaster, and Carleton in the last two years. We have placing players in these destinations for 21 years and are proud of our franchise's history of helping Ontario ballplayers achieve their student-athlete goals. Please see our Media Guide that has been presented to Mayor Mrakas and Shauna Young. Our program is growing and we need ballfields in Aurora.	
York Region Athletic Association	Stay the same / Remain stable	No new schools planned in Aurora area	Sheppard's Bush, Lambert Willson Baseball,
York Region Baseball League	Increase	Consistent diamond availability year to year in Aurora.	Lambert Willson Park(LC4), Stewart Burnett Park
Valhalla Mixed Slo-Pitch League	Stay the same / Remain stable	Returning participants Advertisement Having fun Clean and maintained fields	Leisure complex- Diamond 1-2

Name	Do you feel that your organization is able to rent sufficient time at fields or diamonds to meet your needs? If not, please explain.	How can we improve existing fields or diamonds to better meet your group's needs?	Overall, what is the most pressing sports field need or concern currently facing your group?
AURORA DIGGERS GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION	NO. THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH TIME SLOTS AVAILABLE FOR US ESPECIALLY IN THE EARLY TIME SLOTS FOR YOUNGER PARTICIPANTS. IN ADDITION WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO HOST TOURNAMENTS AS WE CANNOT RENT ENOUGH DIAMONDS TO BRING IN TEAMS FROM OUT OF TOWN. SCHOOLS HAVE REMOVED ALL OF THEIR DIAMONDS CAUSING A SIGNIFICANT SHORTAGE.	THE SMALL DIAMONDS AT MACHELL AND SUMMIT COULD HAVE THE INFIELD EXTENDED INCLUDING THE FENCES SO IT CAN BE USED FOR MORE THAN JUST T BALL.	HAVING MORE DIAMONDS TOGETHER IN ONE PARK LIKE LAMBERT WILLSON SO WE CAN HOST MULTIPLE TEAMS FROM OUT OF TOWN IN TOURNAMENTS. WE ALSO NEED MORE EARLY TIMES FOR OUR YOUNGER PLAYERS AS THESE ARE THE GRASS ROOTS THAT WILL GROW OUR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP.
Aurora King Baseball	"The number of both competitive and recreational teams that we have that require playing on senior diamonds is increasing and there are numbers coming up the pipeline to maintain those numbers. We do not have adequate time on the senior diamonds with the likes of Sr. Men's Rec. league taking time, a league that is based out of North York. In addition we do not run very many tournaments because the infrastructure is not set up to support, a tournament and the additional activities to support the cost of running a tournament. While Lambert Willson diamonds are nice, the distance between them, and the fact that all three diamonds use a different parking lot, means there is limited foot traffic near the picnic shelter to attract people to come and buy concession stand items, or for a team to run a bbq for a fundraiser. With a growing amount of competitive teams, we are also struggling to find adequate diamond time on appropriate diamonds for teams to play and practice. While we get game times in, practice time is limited and that is where players develop. Most of our time is pushed up against Slo-Pitch times		

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Name	Do you feel that your organization is able to rent sufficient time at fields or diamonds to meet your needs? If not, please explain.	How can we improve existing fields or diamonds to better meet your group's needs?	Overall, what is the most pressing sports field need or concern currently facing your group?
	and on some occasions we start practices at 5:30pm to get 2hrs in before Sp gets on.		
Aurora Ladies Softball			
Aurora Men's Slo-Pitch League	NO!! Our representative teams are continually having to squeeze games and practices in before the Slo-pitch groups come to play on the diamonds. Men's Senior HL program (based out of North York) takes away time that we need on the Senior Hardball diamonds. While Lambert Willson park has adequate diamonds, having diamond structure where diamonds are closer in proximity we would be able to have more weekend tournament in town."	1) We need the two Hallmark diamonds which will be in close proximity to each other to run tournaments into town. 2) We need Optimist to be fixed, the backstop is a huge liability for the leagues playing on it and the Town because of the huge whole in the back stop. The diamond is one of the newest in town and looks the worst. Fences along both sides have gaps at the bottom etc. 3) We need to have better control (of the Town does) of who uses Stewart Burnett. It is one of the nicest diamonds in York Region and unless users treat it better, it will not last. 4) We need Lambert Willson diamonds fixed so that the grading is such that pools and ponds are not created after a rain storm. This has been a long standing issue. Too many rainouts after a morning rain because the diamonds are not graded properly. Diamond #3 is the biggest priority. I am sure there are other items not listed, but these would be the top four.	Appropriate diamond time for all ages.
AURORA MIXED SLO PITCH LEAGUE	No, we are unable to secure a second night with a 4 hr time slot at the same park, limiting our league to 4 teams. Another diamond is not an option as Town Park is the only suitable diamond for women's fastball.	Groups need to play where it makes sense. Kids at small diamonds, adult's slo-pitch at large diamonds where balls can be contained in the field.	That we always fear losing our diamond time.
OAK RIDGES COED RECREATIONAL SLOPITCH LEAGUE (ORCRSL)	Yes, based on current size of our league.	"Netting for left field on diamond 3 and right field on diamond 1.	
Seneca College - Varsity Baseball	Drainage at home plate on diamond 3 is very poor. Even though diamonds were open after heavy rain, diamond 3 was unplayable where diamonds 1 and 2 were ok."	Probably netting. Diamond 3 grading improvement for drainage.	
St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS	Our league isn't offered sufficient time or parks as they're not available for us (see comment above)	To have more adult diamonds, with lights, that we can use, so we can keep our growing league within the community and not have to outsource.	Not enough adult, class A diamonds, we need more so our teams can play.
Team Ontario Astros Elite Baseball Club-- Affiliated with the Canadian Premier Baseball League	At current time there are just enough diamonds to cover league play and the ability to cover off rained-out makeup games. With the current growth rate more diamonds will be needed in the very near future to meet demand.	Diamonds such as Norm Weller and Fleury Park are too small for today's Adult Standards....they need to made to be bigger, at least 265/70 feet at the corners.	The need for more ball diamonds at today's Adult Standards. Most municipalities have current adult play standards of 250 from the backstop which ends up being 238 feet to the corners from the plate which is placed 12 feet out on most diamonds.
York Region Athletic Association	time works - more weekend availability would be great	Mound rebuild on both diamonds would be great	Home game availability for September. diamond time into October

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Name	Do you feel that your organization is able to rent sufficient time at fields or diamonds to meet your needs? If not, please explain.	How can we improve existing fields or diamonds to better meet your group's needs?	Overall, what is the most pressing sports field need or concern currently facing your group?
York Region Baseball League	Usually it is not a problem, sometimes our times are a little different then on the hour. But the Parks staff have always been good at accommodating to the best of their abilities. Bookings during the school day hours can be difficult at times.	Longer seasons for permit use. As a school permit user our seasons and use are different then your regular permit users.	Diamonds - opening and closing
Valhalla Mixed Slo-Pitch League	We do not have sufficient time at these parks. This Fall, we lost time and space to the Titans Baseball Club--a faux elite organization that doesn't even have an Elite League to play in. We also lost time to the Seneca Sting. Neither of these teams put in the time we do to maintain Stewart Burnett Park. Neither of these teams provide free baseball clinics as we have for the AKBA over the last four years. In 2018 alone, we ran 17 free clinics for the AKBA both in King City and in Aurora. We were very disappointed with our allotment of field time this Fall at these parks. To be supplanted by these organizations was disappointing. We were satisfied with our field time during this past Spring and Summer and Shauna was very helpful in getting our teams on the field at Burnett and LC4. We are adding a 17U team this coming season so we will need 33% more senior field time. We were also pleased to host the Canadian Premier Baseball League 16U championships this past July for which Shauna was extremely helpful. Some of the best baseball players in the country played in Aurora for four days (Aug1-4). We would like to continue to host high-level, truly Elite baseball events in Aurora.	Stewart Burnett needs a full maintenance schedule and we have provided top ten lists of things to do to Burnett to make it safer for participants. Dangerous turf lips have formed all over the infield at Burnett. Dangerous glare off the tennis dome needs to be blocked out to keep right fielders, first basemen, and umpires safe. The entire playing surface needs to be rolled annually to take out all the bumps in the grass. Weeding needs to be maintained around the fence lines. Clay needs to be added to the channel and home plate area to facilitate proper drainage. Mounds need to be maintained monthly both on the infield and the bullpens. Dugouts need better locks to keep people from vandalizing the park, specifically the infield. A scoreboard, press box with washrooms, and more bleachers and trees would make the park of IBL quality. We would be glad to submit our annual plan to help with maintenance.	Assured diamond time from the Town of Aurora. We have a growing program and need senior baseball field time. Burnett and LC4 are sufficient but another senior diamond would be great.

## Appendix B: Input from Rectangular Sports Field Users

The following is a record of input received from the Town of Aurora Rectangular Sports Field Stakeholder Focus Group held on September 9, 2019. The session was facilitated by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants in support of the Sports Field Development Strategy. Along with usage trends, research, and input from other stakeholders, this input was considered for the purposes of identifying future directions and strategies for developing and improving sports fields in Aurora.

At each workshop, participants were provided with an overview of the planning process and recent achievements that have taken place since the completion of the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update such as the completion of the lit artificial turf field at Stewart Burnett Park, as well as broader changes to trends and factors that impact the sport and the provision of rectangular sports fields. Following this presentation, participants engaged in facilitated discussions guided by a series of focus questions (see below).

This summary was prepared by Monteith Brown and is not intended to provide a verbatim transcript of the meeting but instead captures the perspectives and advice provided by participants. These notes were distributed to all invited workshop participants, who were afforded an opportunity to clarify or add new information. All written input received after the workshop has been inserted into this summary.

### Attendance

Eight representatives from following six groups. A written submission was also received from the Aurora Rugby Football Club.

Organization	Attended	Registration
Aurora Rovers	No	n/a
Aurora Barbarians Rugby Football Club	Yes	370
Aurora Soccer Club	Yes	1,179
Aurora Summer Soccer	No	n/a
Aurora Youth Soccer Club	Yes	3,000
Evolve Elite Lacrosse	Yes	350
Extreme Goalkeepers Inc.	No	n/a
Redbirds Lacrosse	No	n/a
Rising Stars Soccer Academy	No	n/a
Special Olympics Ontario – Aurora	Yes	125
York Region Lions Football	Yes	794

### 1. What registration trends are you experiencing?

- Participation in adult soccer, youth football and girls/competitive lacrosse is growing. Participation in youth soccer and rugby is declining, though future growth is anticipated.
- The adult soccer group is having to turn away new participants because they are unable to accommodate new players within their existing program. The Town is aging and adults are attracted to the sport as it combines socializing and physical activity.
- The youth football group actively promotes the organization to attract new players and have partnered with the York University Varsity Football program as well as MLSE/Toronto Argos.

- Evolve Elite Lacrosse identified that participation is growing because it attracts users from all over Ontario – they are an elite travel team. It is believed that registration in the local boys minor lacrosse organization is declining. The minor lacrosse group was not in attendance to confirm this trend.
- Registration in youth soccer has declined; this is correlated to the decline in Aurora’s youth population. However, there continues to be growing field requirements to meet Long Term Player Development regulations.
- Participation in rugby is declining overall due to fewer adult players. Factors include more injuries, the lack of field time, and participants moving to other areas. The lack of certified rugby coaches also limits the ability for the organization to provide programming. Youth rugby is increasing, particularly among girls and the group is unable to expand further without access to additional fields.
- The Aurora Special Olympics chapter indicated that they provide new sports activities when there is sufficient demand to form teams. With respect to field sports, the group indicated that there is a growing demand for soccer as there is a need for athletic programs for persons with disabilities.

## **2. Is your organization getting the hours that you need?**

- Generally speaking, most groups are not getting sufficient field time to accommodate their programming and participation. This is expected to become a larger issue as the Town grows.
- Soccer
  - Due to the popularity of adult soccer, the organization is required to seek time outside of Aurora (discussed further in Question 3).
  - Youth soccer expressed the desire to access fields earlier in the season but in place of this, they rent time at the indoor field, which is very costly.
- Rugby
  - Access to adequate and appropriate fields has been a constraint to the rugby group. It was indicated that upright posts are required for games; however, there are only two fields in Aurora that has uprights – St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS and Sheppard’s Bush. Full-size grass fields (with goal uprights) are preferred.
- Lacrosse
  - Evolve Elite Lacrosse identified that more access to artificial turf is always ideal.
- Football
  - The youth football organization does not get enough access to fields – there is a desire for more access to turf fields with uprights and football lines. It was mentioned that the group uses the indoor field in Aurora, although it is very costly.

### **3. Does your organization use sports fields outside of Aurora?**

- Due to the lack of available time in Aurora, most groups indicated that they use sports fields in other communities.
- Soccer
  - Adult soccer reported the use of fields in Mount Albert (East Gwillimbury) and Newmarket. It was recognized that one of the fields in Newmarket (The Shed – York Region Police Association) will no longer be available after 2020 or 2021 due to development and as a result, the group will be required to find field time elsewhere.
  - The youth soccer group is restricted to playing within the boundaries of Aurora. When additional field time is required; the group resorts to using the indoor field, which is very costly during the off-season (summer rental costs are comparable to outdoor turf fields). Additional outdoor field time would reduce the reliance on the indoor field and provide better rescheduling opportunities for rainouts.
- Lacrosse
  - Evolve Elite Lacrosse identified that due to the traveling nature of the team, the group trains in Aurora and travels to the United States for games.
- Football
  - As the group serves all of York Region, the group travels outside of Aurora to access fields.

### **4. How might access to fields be affected by the eventual loss of the 19 Magna fields?**

- The youth soccer group is the exclusive user of the Magna fields.
- Magna is a great multi-field site, particularly as it is the only location with side-by-side fields and multiple 5v5 fields, which is ideal for hosting games and tournaments. All this will be lost when the fields are no longer available.
- Concern was expressed that the loss of these fields will result in a chain reaction as users will be to be accommodated on other fields.
- Similar concerns were expressed over the St. Andrews College fields as these are also not under municipal control.

### **5. What specific strategies should we consider to meet current and future needs?**

- New field development:
  - Construct a new artificial turf field that could accommodate a dome. It was mentioned that York University is regularly seeking access to an indoor field, which could present a potential partnership or major user opportunity.
  - Construct a new full size natural grass field. Some organizations mentioned that they prefer to play on natural grass as this type of playing surface is less prone to causing injuries.
  - Create hybrid fields (e.g., ball diamond overlapping a soccer field) at strategic locations to offer multi-programs at one location.

- Work with the York Region District School Board to gain access to the fields at Dr. GW Williams Secondary School, Aurora High School and the proposed new high school on Bayview Avenue.
- Improve existing fields:
  - Construct a removable dome at an existing artificial turf field (such as at St. Maximilian Kolbe CHS or Stewart Burnett Park). It was recognized that there are challenges with respect to doming an outdoor artificial turf field that was not originally designed for a dome.
  - Replace existing grass fields with artificial turf fields.
  - Add lights to grass fields located at Machell Park or Norm Weller Park.
  - More frequent field grooming to maintain grass at an appropriate height.
- The development/redevelopment of sports fields should give consideration to supporting amenities to meet league regulations, such as multi-field sites, washrooms, change rooms, football/rugby uprights, parking, spectator seating, scoreboards, audio and visual equipment, and other ancillaries as necessary. The provision of high quality fields also lends itself to attracting tournaments.
- It was suggested that the Town implement a new program that informs groups of what sports fields are available over a given period in the event that new time slots open up during the season. While groups are looking for consistent rental periods, last minute transfer allows for fields to be maximized.
- Town staff to continue to be proactive in minimizing block booking/over-booking of sports fields to free up opportunities for groups that are looking for more time.
- Some groups expressed the desire to begin using fields in early May. While the Town tries to accommodate this, the decision is usually weather dependent.

## **6. To summarize, what are your highest priority concerns or suggestions?**

- There is a desire for affordable access to an indoor field in Aurora, particularly during the winter season.
- There is a need for at least two or three lit artificial turf fields (with goal uprights) to relieve pressures at existing fields, to accommodate new programs and new participants. Full-size grass fields would also be welcomed.
- Future development or redevelopment of sports fields should have consideration for “sport-friendly” amenities to attract tournaments.

## Appendix C: Input from Ball Diamond Users

The following is a record of input received from the Town of Aurora Ball Diamond Stakeholder Focus Group held on September 9, 2019. The session was facilitated by Monteith Brown Planning Consultants in support of the Sports Field Development Strategy. Along with usage trends, research, and input from other involved stakeholders, this input was considered for the purposes of identifying future directions and strategies for developing and improving sports fields in Aurora.

At each workshop, participants were provided with an overview of the planning process and recent achievements that have taken place since the completion of the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update such as the proposed development of the Hallmark Lands, as well as broader changes to trends and factors that impact the sport and the provision of ball diamonds. Following this presentation, participants engaged in facilitated discussions guided by a series of focus questions (see below).

This summary was prepared by Monteith Brown and is not intended to provide a verbatim transcript of the meeting but instead captures the perspectives and advice provided by participants. These notes were distributed to all invited workshop participants, who were afforded an opportunity to clarify or add new information. All written input received after the workshop has been inserted into this summary.

### Attendance

Ten representatives from seven groups were in attendance. A written submission was also provided by the Aurora King Minor Baseball Association.

Organization	Attended	Registration
Aurora Diggers Softball	Yes	117
Aurora King Minor Baseball Association	No	1,030
Aurora Ladies Softball Association	Yes	55
Aurora Men's Slo-Pitch League	No	n/a
Aurora Mixed Slo-Pitch League	Yes	400
Aurora Preparatory Academy	No	n/a
Central Jays	No	n/a
Oak Ridges Co-Ed Recreational Slo-Pitch League	Yes	1,200
Rookies Hockey School	No	n/a
Seneca College	No	n/a
Special Olympics Ontario - Aurora	Yes	125
Sport Aurora	Yes	n/a
St. Maximilian Kolbe C.H.S.	No	n/a
Team Ontario Astros	Yes	84
Transcontinental Markham	No	n/a
Valhalla Mixed Slo-Pitch League	No	n/a
Yonge Aurora Co-ed Slo-Pitch	No	n/a
York Region Athletic Association	No	n/a
YR Men's Baseball League	No	n/a

## **1. What registration trends are you experiencing?**

- Participation is generally increasing, which is primarily due to the growth of adult ball. Participation in youth ball is also increasing (especially in competitive levels), but at a slower rate. Interest in indoor/dome ball is growing.
- The popularity of adult ball is expected to continue over the foreseeable future as the population is aging and there is a desire to participate in physical activity and socialize with others. It is anticipated that the popularity of adult ball will translate into growing youth participation as parents want their kids to have the same physical and social experiences.
- Most groups have capped registration as they reported challenges with securing sufficient time at adult ball diamonds and as a result, groups have a waitlist for teams and individual players.
- There was a general consensus that groups would like to grow their programming and accommodate more participants, although access to ball diamonds is a constraint.
- There is a concern that due to the lack of access to ball diamonds, teams/participants that are waitlisted will go play elsewhere (outside of Aurora), although there is a shortage across York Region.

## **2. Is your organization getting the hours that you need?**

- Groups generally reported that the existing hours that they are allocated work well; however, there is always a desire for more hours to accommodate growth.
- 7pm to 9pm or 7pm to 11pm time slots are common. Groups generally do not want 5pm to 7pm time slots (which are sometimes available) due to the commuting lifestyle of many participants, particularly adults.
- Some groups expressed the desire to extend the ball diamond season from the beginning of May until October/November; however, it was indicated that the early spring season is unpredictable with respect to flooded sports fields. Operational challenges were also identified during the fall as down time is typically required for sports field rehabilitation and repair.
- Adult groups that cannot get sufficient time in Aurora may go to other communities; however, minor ball groups are constrained by municipal boundaries. Girls' softball reported the lack of sufficient diamond time, particularly since they no longer have access to school diamonds, all of which have been removed over time through attrition.
- The youth ball organization reported that they are not getting sufficient access to adequately-sized ball diamonds, particularly at the competitive level for older age groups. Due to the lack of sufficient access, teams have less training time and are not as competitive as desired. As a result, the group is concerned that they would lose players to other organizations.
- Holding tournaments has been a challenge due to many groups due to the lack of multi-diamond sites, as well as the availability of supporting amenities such as a hotel (it is recognized that two hotels are currently being planned). Organizations are also cognizant that other groups use diamonds during the weekend and do not want to bump them for a tournament.

### **3. Does your organization use ball diamonds outside of Aurora?**

- Due to the lack of available ball diamonds in Aurora, some groups indicated that they use ball diamonds in adjacent communities such as East Gwillimbury, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Markham, and King. Due to the elite level of play, one group also indicated that they frequently travel to the United States.
- For groups using diamonds in Newmarket, it was noted that fields at “The Shed” (York Region Police Association) will no longer be available after 2020 or 2021 due to development.

### **4. What specific strategies should we consider to meet current and future needs?**

- Suggestions were received to improve the drainage conditions at ball diamonds including Lambert Willson Park and Stewart Burnett Park.
- There may be opportunities to enlarge existing t-ball and/or minor ball diamonds to accommodate a broader variety of users. Enlarging the infields and backstop fencing at t-ball diamonds or minor diamonds may accommodate older youth and adults. At present, it was mentioned that both minor and adult groups use undersized diamonds, although there is a greater risk of injury as portions of the outfield are used as the infield. Groups suggested enlarging the infield and expanding the outfield for ball diamonds located at Fleury Park, Machell Park, Summit Park, and Confederation Park.
- Some suggested that the Town should create hybrid fields (e.g., ball diamond overlapping a soccer field) at locations such as the Sheppard’s Bush artificial turf field.
- Consideration should be given to the use of artificial turf as an infield surface. There are many benefits associated with the use of artificial turf compared to traditional surfacing including reduced maintenance requirements, improved drainage, and extended playing periods.
- The Town should give consideration to constructing larger diamonds to recognize the advancements in new ball equipment and the athletic ability of some adult players (e.g., hitting the ball further).
- Interest was expressed in upgrading the ball diamond at Stewart Burnett Park in order to attract an Intercounty Baseball League team (e.g., stadium location).
- It was suggested that a permanent home be established for the Aurora King Baseball Association that would allow the group to have priority space and first right of refusal. The organization indicated that there are other communities that have this type of agreement such as in Newmarket. By having a permanent diamond facility, this would allow the group to consolidate usage to one location, while freeing up time at other diamonds for groups seeking time.
- Consideration should be given to locating special events in other areas that do not interfere with the use of ball diamonds. There was concern that groups may be bumped for special events (e.g., Town Park).
- It was suggested that the Town implement a new program that informs groups of what diamonds are available over a given period in the event that new time slots open up during the season. While groups are looking for consistent rental periods, last minute transfer allows for fields to be maximized.

- Town staff to continue to be proactive in minimizing block booking/over-booking of diamonds to free up opportunities for groups that are looking for more time.
- Some groups expressed the desire to begin using fields in early May. While the Town tries to accommodate this, the decision is usually weather dependent.

**5. To summarize, what are your highest priority concerns or suggestions?**

- There is a demand for lit adult ball diamonds in order to alleviate current pressures to accommodate participants and to provide additional programming.
- There may be opportunities to improve and/or enlarge existing ball diamonds that are appropriate for adult slo-pitch/fastball and hardball.
- Construct a new lit adult hardball diamond.
- Consideration should be given to the design of “sport friendly” ball diamonds in order to attract sport tourism, particularly at Lambert Willson Park and Stewart Burnett Park. This would include the provision of multi-diamond sites with supporting amenities including, but not limited to, change rooms and washrooms, spectator seating, lighting, parking, scoreboard, audio and video equipment, and other ancillaries that are required by affiliated leagues in order to host games and tournaments.

## Appendix D: Field Dimensions

### Soccer Fields

The Long-Term Development in Sport and Physical Activity model tailors field dimensions specifically to the age and ability of players, recognizing the various stages of physical and cognitive development.

#### Typical Soccer Field Dimensions

Age Group	Format	Field Width	Field Length	Goal Size
<b>U5 – U9</b>	3 v 3	18 m to 22 m (59 ft to 72 ft)	25 m to 30 m (82 ft to 98 ft)	
	4 v 4	20 m to 25 m (66 ft to 82 ft)	30 m to 36 m (98 ft to 118 ft)	1.5 m x 2.4 m (5 ft x 8 ft)
	5 v 5	25 m to 30 m (82 ft to 98 ft)	30 m to 36 m (98 ft to 118 ft)	
<b>U8 – U12</b>	6 v 6 / 7 v 7	30 m to 36 m (98 ft to 118 ft)	40 m to 55 m (131 ft to 180 ft)	1.8 m x 4.8 m (6 ft x 16 ft)
<b>U11 – U 16</b>	8 v 8 / 9 v 9	42 m to 55 m (138 ft to 180 ft)	60 m to 75 m (197 ft to 246 ft)	1.8 m x 5.5 m (6 ft x 18 ft)
<b>U15 – U 20</b>	11 v 11	FIFA reg.	FIFA reg.	2.5 m x 7.3 m (8 ft x 24 ft)

Source: Canadian Soccer Association Long Term Player Development, 2009.

### Ball Diamonds

Seven of the nine stages of play utilize a specific ball diamond template, as depicted in Table 32.

#### Typical Ball Diamond Dimensions

Stage	Age Group	Distance to Foul Pole (m / ft)	Distance to Centre Field (m / ft)	Distance to First Base (m / ft)	Distance to Pitcher (m / ft)
<b>(1) Active Start</b>	Ages 0 – 6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>(2) Fundamentals</b>	Ages 5 – 9	N/A	N/A	18 m / 60 ft.	12 m / 40 ft.
<b>(3) Learn to Train</b>	Ages 8 – 12	55 m / 180 ft.	61 m / 200 ft.	18 m / 60 ft.	13 m / 44 ft.
<b>(4) Train to Train</b>	Ages 11 – 16	66 m / 215 ft.	80 m / 260 ft.	24 m / 80 ft.	16 m / 54 ft.
<b>(5) Learn to Compete</b>	Ages 15 – 18	100 m / 325 ft.	122 m / 400 ft.	27 m / 90 ft.	18 m / 60 ft.
<b>(6) Train to Compete</b>	U23	100 m / 325 ft.	122 m / 400 ft.	27 m / 90 ft.	18 m / 60 ft.
<b>(7) Learn to Win</b>	Ages 18+	100 m / 325 ft.	122 m / 400 ft.	27 m / 90 ft.	18 m / 60 ft.
<b>(8) Train to Win</b>	Ages 18+	100 m / 325 ft.	122 m / 400 ft.	27 m / 90 ft.	18 m / 60 ft.
<b>(9) Active for Life</b>	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies

Note: All distances from home plate.

Source: Baseball Canada Long Term Athlete Development, 2007.