



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

Date	May 14, 2018	Report No:	PW-18-18
Directed To:	Mayor and Members of Council	Attachments:	~ Field Closures and Maintenance
Department:	Public Works	Policy References:	
Prepared By:	Mark Beggs – Manager Roads and Parks Tom Brydon- Supervisor of Parks		
Subject:	Sports Field Closures and Maintenance Procedures		

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receive the following report for information.

REPORT:

This report is prepared in response to Council questions arising from the May 8, 2018 Council meeting regarding the criteria and policies for closing ball diamonds and soccer fields due to weather conditions. This report will explain our current practice, as well as lead time needed to prepare fields, and our current communication protocol.

On a daily basis, the Parks Supervisor, within Public Works, reviews field conditions of both the Baseball and Soccer areas. In the absence of the Parks Supervisor, his designate reviews the field conditions. The supervisor is responsible to determine the status of sports fields within LaSalle, and has the authority to close any or all of the Fields whenever weather or field conditions dictate.

The Town of LaSalle is committed to preservation and maintenance of its sports fields for the benefits of its user groups and tax payers and preserving important Town assets. To determine if a field is safe and playable, the following factors are considered:

- a) If there is evidence of standing or surface water on the playing surface, the field is closed.
- b) If the field is saturated** with water, the field is closed.

- c) Fields may also be closed for maintenance or repairs required at any time.
- d) Fields may also be closed if there are safety or liability concerns with playing surface at any time.

***Saturated – the definition of a saturated field is one where the soil cannot absorb any additional moisture. The method to determine if a field is saturated is to walk on the playing surface. If water is present around the foot, then the field is deemed saturated.*

The Parks supervisor also monitors weather forecasts daily for more information in determining field closures. The final decision on a field closure is made on actual conditions at time of inspection, not forecasted conditions.

During normal weekly operations, the decision for field closures has been made at 2:00pm each day. Once any fields have been closed, the Parks supervisor or designate notifies members of the Cultural and Recreation Department as well as Corporate Communications for notifications to be sent to all user groups as well as communication through the Town social media outlets and website. This process has been successful to date.

Recently, because of increased rental use during the week, or tournaments, the decision to close fields may need to be made earlier than 2:00pm, and a new process has been implemented. When this occurs, a decision to close the specific field(s) being used is made either at 7:30am for AM events, or 12:00pm (noon) for afternoon events. If fields are closed and weather conditions dictate, parks staff will continue with efforts to allow fields to open for evening rentals. This may include but is not limited to working on baseball diamond infields to promote drying. At the request of user groups, the final decision for field closures has been pushed back to 3:00pm at which time if fields are closed, notifications are sent out as above.

On weekends, typically field rentals are throughout the day for both Soccer and Baseball. The Parks supervisor, along with designated staff determine if fields are playable at 7:30am. If any fields are deemed unplayable notifications are again sent out as above.

Once fields are closed, they will not be reopened unless approved based on a site visit by the Parks supervisor or his designate.

In a situation where fields are open, and inclement weather occurs, user groups must evaluate the field conditions to determine if they are considered unplayable. If any of the following criteria is met, they should, not use or stop using, a field:

- a) The presence of standing water.
- b) Water sponges up around your feet when you walk on a field
- c) If the games begin and the conditions deteriorate so that the field is being damaged

In the event of a large tournament or event of significance, further consideration and consultation with the Culture and Receptions Department as well as other administration will be made to accommodate these groups. This may involve allowing teams to play during inclement weather or other factors.

During normal weekly operations, Parks staff prepares baseball and soccer fields to be ready for play each night and weekend. This includes cutting grass, line painting, infield grooming, field setups, net maintenance and general cleanup. These operations are weather dependent and can influence field closures and level of service.

Typically baseball preparation work on the infields and lining takes 4-5 hours per day. The fields are cut between 1 and 2 times per week. Soccer fields are also cut 1 to 2 times per week depending on season, and are lined once per week. Based on the weather, there may be times when maintenance is delayed due to conditions. Depending on weather, there may also be situations where fields may remain open, however lining or baseball infield grooming could not be completed on a specific day. These items are typically completed the following day if weather improves.

In summary, LaSalle's sports fields are monitored daily by the Parks Department, through the Parks Supervisor. Each day, regular maintenance is planned for the fields depending on weather with the goal of opening the fields. Depending on user group schedules, a determination of field status is made at 7:30am, 12:00 noon and/or 3:00pm. There may be times when regular maintenance cannot be completed because of weather conditions, however if the field(s) are deemed playable, they will open. If there is inclement weather after the call has been made for a field to be open, it is the responsibility of the user group to determine playability, and once a decision has been made to close a field, it is to remain closed until the next decision opportunity occurs as noted above.

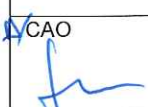
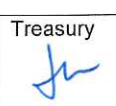

Respectfully submitted,



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Manager Roads and Parks



Tom Brydon
Supervisor of Parks

Reviewed by:							
CAO	Treasury	Clerks	Public Works	Planning	Cult. & Rec.	Building	Fire
							

Typical Daily Field Maintenance

Normal Dry Conditions

Fields Open

Operations						
Time	7:00am		12:00 noon		3:30pm	6:00 PM
	Regular Maintenance During Day					Rentals

Typical Daily Field Maintenance

Light/Minor Rain Overnight or in Day

Fields Open - Varried Maintenance

Operations						
Time	7:00am		12:00 noon		3:30pm	6:00 PM
	Wet Conditions - No Maintenance		Regular Maintenance		Overtime/Decreased LOS	Rentals

Note- Depending of severity of weather, time for maintencance varries and Level of Service may vary.

Note- If there is a morning or afternoon rental, field may be closed

Typical Daily Field Maintenance

Rain Overnight or Rain in Day

Fields Closed Typically

Operations						
Time	7:00am		12:00 noon		3:30pm	6:00 PM
	Wet Conditions - No Maintenance					Fields Closed