



Synthetic Turf Playing Fields  
Planning & Environment Committee  
February 3, 2009

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | [vancouverparks.ca](http://vancouverparks.ca)

## Outline

- Sport Fields overview
- Sport Fields management
- Sport Fields Renewal Plan
- Meeting increasing demand
- Issues
- Discussion/Questions

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | [vancouverparks.ca](http://vancouverparks.ca)

## Overview



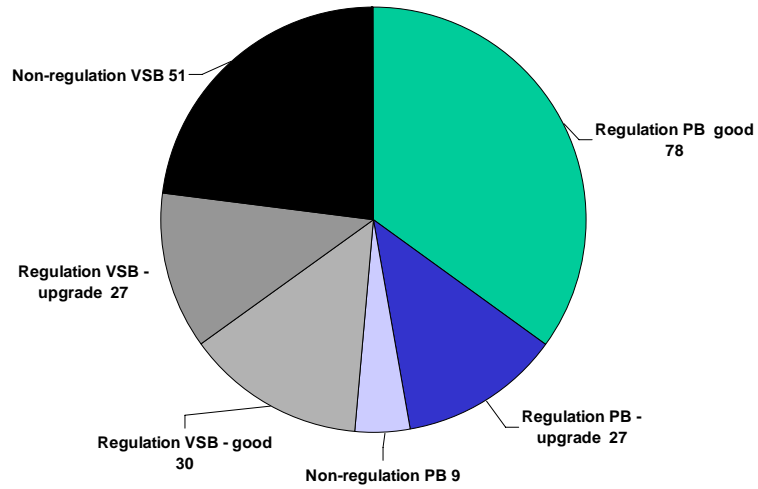
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | [vancouverparks.ca](http://vancouverparks.ca)

## The Sport Field Inventory

- 3 Types:
  - Natural Turf (135 PB )
  - Lit All-weather (7 PB)
  - Synthetic turf (5 PB)
- Providers
  - Park Board
  - VSB
- Seasonal Configurations

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | [vancouverparks.ca](http://vancouverparks.ca)

## Grass Playing Fields in Vancouver 2008

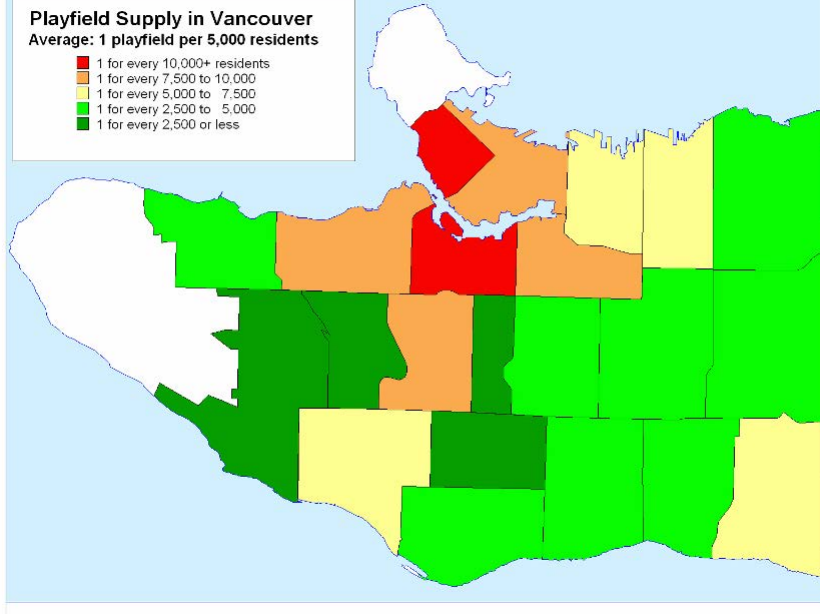


Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | [vancouverparks.ca](http://vancouverparks.ca)

### Playfield Supply in Vancouver

Average: 1 playfield per 5,000 residents

- 1 for every 10,000+ residents
- 1 for every 7,500 to 10,000
- 1 for every 5,000 to 7,500
- 1 for every 2,500 to 5,000
- 1 for every 2,500 or less



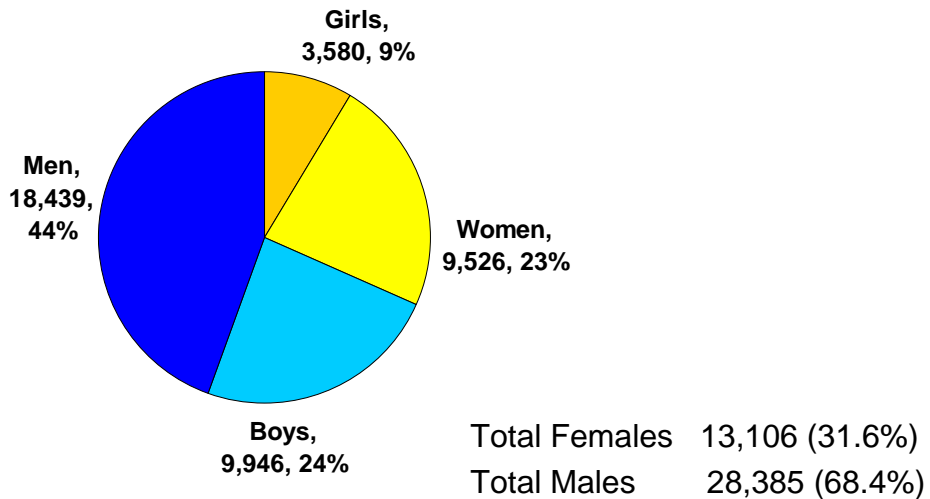
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | [vancouverparks.ca](http://vancouverparks.ca)

## Field Sports – Usage

| Sport                         | Season   | # of Players* |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|
| Softball                      | Summer   | 11,000        |
| Baseball, Cricket             | Summer   | 4,000         |
| Soccer                        | Winter   | 12,000        |
| Football, Rugby               | Winter   | 4,000         |
| Field Hockey                  | All year | 1,500         |
| Ultimate                      | All year | 3,000         |
| Volleyball                    | Summer   | 5,500         |
| Total (*in organized leagues) |          | 41,000        |

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

### Organized Field Sports Members Participation By Age and Gender (2002)



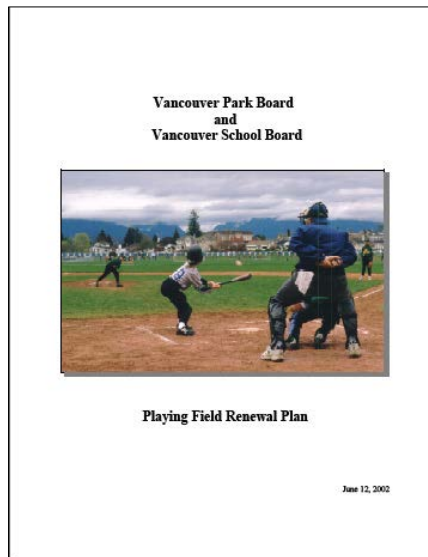
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | vancouverparks.ca

## Sport Field Management

- Permitting Process
- Permit Fees and Payment
- Allocation
- Vancouver Field Sports Federation



## Playing Field Renewal Plan



## Playing Field Review 2000 – 2002

- Vancouver Park Board (VPB)
- Vancouver School Board (VSB)
- Vancouver Field Sports Federation (VFSF)

### **Objective**

To ensure provision of an appropriate quantity and quality of playing fields in relation to current and future demands

## Review Recommendations

- Integrate/co-ordinate field management (Park Board & School Board)
- Improve fields' condition
- Increase field inventory

Approved by Park Board July 8, 2002

## Integrate/co-ordinate field management

### Progress to date:

- Park Rangers monitor both Park Board and School Board Fields
- Consistent Fees and Charges
- Consistent approach for allocating types and sizes of fields for age and level of play
- Shared use of Artificial Turf sites

## Improve Sport Fields' Condition

### Care and Maintenance of Grass Turfs

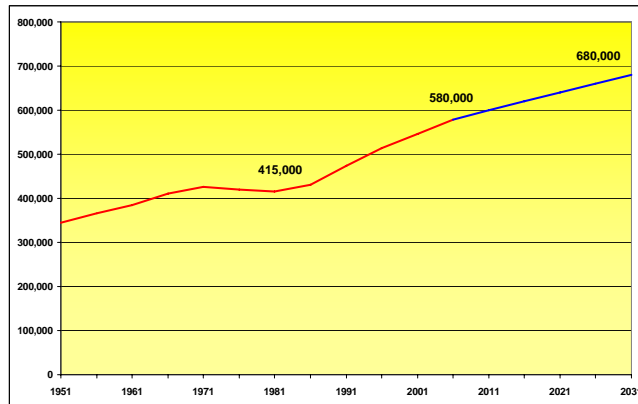
- Challenged by weather and overuse.
- \$360,000 in 09-11 Capital Plan for deep-tining and top dressing.
- \$1.39M in 09-11 Capital Plan for rebuilds.
- Investment paying off



## Increase Field Inventory

- Population growth
- Increasing participation in emerging sports like volleyball and ultimate
- Increasing participation by girls and women
- Outreach programs like MoreSports

## Field sport demand increase factors



In the next 20 – 25 years, Vancouver's population will increase at a rate of approximately 5000 per year.



## Field sport demand increase factors

Increasing participation in emerging sports like volleyball and ultimate



## Field sport demand increase factors

Increasing participation by girls and women



## Field sport demand increase factors

Outreach programs like MoreSports



Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | [vancouverparks.ca](http://vancouverparks.ca)

## Increasing field inventory – options

- Convert more park space and school grounds into playing fields
- Purchase land for new fields
- Develop lit synthetic turf fields

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | [vancouverparks.ca](http://vancouverparks.ca)

## Synthetic Turf



POINT GREY HIGH SCHOOL

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | [vancouverparks.ca](http://vancouverparks.ca)

## Comparing Synthetic to Grass

### **Synthetic Turf:**

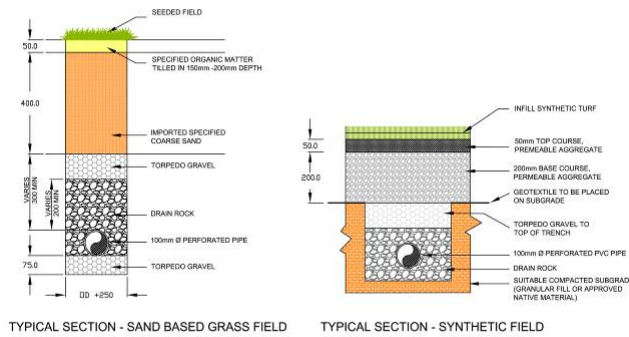
- Continuous & unlimited play
- 4-5x the capacity of grass (at least)
- About \$2M to build, with turf replacement every 10 -12 years
- Optimum annual maintenance = \$

### **Grass Turf:**

- Must be rested between games
- Often extended closures
- About \$2M to build five; need rebuilding after 20 years
- Annual maintenance (4 fields) = \$

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | [vancouverparks.ca](http://vancouverparks.ca)

- Comparing Field Types



## Growth of Synthetic Turf Inventory

- Total synthetic turfs prior to 2002 = 3
- Total after 2009-2011 Capital Plan = 9 (one carpet; eight in-fill):
  - Eric Hamber (carpet)
  - Andy Livingstone (2)
  - Point Grey
  - VanTech
  - Trillium Site (2)
  - 2 sites to be determined
- Equivalent capacity to 36+ regulation grass fields

## Synthetic Turf development considerations

- Ground stability is CRITICAL
- Turf costs more competitive; Engineering costs trending up
- Development permit required for lights
- Running track locations present unique challenges
- Extended public consultation has paid off

## Synthetic Turf installation steps

- Identify & secure site: Technical assessment; public consultation; Board, Council (and possibly VSB) approvals
- Development Permit for lighting
- Design Tender (Board approval)
- Construction Tender (Board approval)
- Construction

## Issues

- Neighbourhood Impact
- Sustainability
- Health & Safety



Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | [vancouverparks.ca](http://vancouverparks.ca)

## Questions?



Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation | [vancouverparks.ca](http://vancouverparks.ca)