




# COMMUNICATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members City Council
<b>DATE:</b>	April 26, 2022
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Parks Turf Mowing Program – Service Level and Operation Schedule (ES22005) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Cynthia Graham Acting Director, Environmental Services Public Works Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

This update is being provided to highlight the annual Council approved mowing and trimming service levels in the City of Hamilton's (City) parks and sports fields, performed by the Parks and Cemeteries Section of the Environmental Services Division.

## Turf Management Program

Mowing and trimming of parks and sports fields is an important part of any Turf Management Program and plays an integral role in all Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programs. In 2022, City staff will service various park sites across the City. The goal of this program is to support healthy turf grass systems for safe and enjoyable public use of sports fields and general park grounds and amenities. The program includes monitoring and assessment of general turf health, the application of fertilizers, topdressing materials and grass seed, aeration of sports fields, ground litter/debris control and regular mowing activities.

Mowing and trimming activities are the foundation of our turf management and IPM Programs. Park mowing service levels are tiered relative to the type of playing fields or parks as outlined in the table below:

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Park Type	Mowing/Trimming Frequency Maintenance Standards	Anticipated Number of Cycles *
	Late April/May - October Only	
Class A and B Sports fields	1 time / 5 working days	21 or 22 cycles
Class C and D Sports fields	1 time / 7 working days	17 or 18 cycles
Citywide, Community, Neighbourhood general parklands	1 time / 7 working days	17 or 18 cycles
Parkette	1 time / 7 working days	17 or 18 cycles

\* Cycles completed per year are weather dependent and can be influenced by equipment breakdowns.

Parks staff will commence cutting once the fields are dry enough to support heavy equipment without causing damage to the turf. Damage caused by machinery tires will severely impact the quality of sports field for the entire season. Prior to the full commencement of the grass cutting program, full-time and seasonal staff will be utilized by completing infrastructure and asset inspections, litter and illegal dumping control, spring clean-up (which includes leaf and debris removal and small-scale pruning and trimming), storm clean up, over-seeding and fertilizing.

Mowing and trimming activities are performed by Parks maintenance staff and equipment/resources are shared across district boundaries where necessary to respond to issues such as equipment breakdowns or park event programming in order to maintain consistent program service levels. Please be aware all parks are being cut in order of the existing service delivery schedules. Weed growth in the coming month may impact on the visual aesthetics of the park, but for overall efficiency, service delivery schedules require strict adherence.

**Naturalized Areas**

The City of Hamilton is rich with natural open spaces that include valued natural heritage features, corridors and habitats. Many parks include naturalized areas or are adjacent to natural open spaces and require natural buffers. Maintenance in the natural areas or adjacent natural buffer areas is controlled to provide opportunities for self-sustaining native vegetation to thrive. Where requested, or associated with a particular naturalization initiative, signage may be present to help educate the residents.

Should you require further information, please contact Adriana Byrne, Senior Project Manager, Parks and Cemeteries at extension 2156.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Not Applicable