

POLICY TITLE: TURF & SPORTS FIELD MAINTENANCE  
POLICY #: R-003-001  
EFFECTIVE DATE: May 11, 2009  
ADOPTED BY COUNCIL ON: May 11, 2009  
RESOLUTION #: 146.05.09  
SUPERCEDES: C-004-005

USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH: RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURE DEFINITIONS POLICY

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**POLICY STATEMENT:**

The Town of Sylvan Lake has a wide variety of parks, sports fields and open spaces and is responsible for the operation and maintenance of these areas. The Turf & Sports Field Maintenance Policy establishes the guidelines for turf maintenance within our community.

**THE PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY IS TO:**

To provide quality standards and priority levels to maintain turf economically, efficiently, and through environmentally sound practices in order to provide a pleasant and well kept appearance while maintaining optimum turf health.

**BENEFITS:**

An effective turf maintenance program will enhance the natural beauty and attractiveness of the Town; increase the turf's ability to withstand pests and disease; provide safe and playable sports fields; and create optimum turf and soil health throughout Town owned lands.

**PROCEDURES:**

Sylvan Lake's parks and open spaces are classified into four (4) priority levels for turf maintenance.

**Level 1: Community Parks, Cemeteries & Sports Fields**

**Community Parks & Cemeteries Maintenance Standards:**

Lions Legacy Park, Railway Park Promenade, Cenotaph Park, Library Grounds, Boat Park, Lakeview Cemetery, West Meadows Cemetery

- Grass cutting: Approximately once per week
- Grass Whipping: Approximately once per week
- Debris Removal: Approximately once per week
- Turf Height: Cut to 7.6 cm (3")

- Aeration: Every two years
- Top Dressing/Seeding: As Required
- Fertilization: Every two years
- Weed Control:
  - Community Parks Organic Turf Management Program
  - Cemeteries Herbicide Spraying

Sports Fields Maintenance Standards:

Class A Sports Fields

Four Seasons Park

- Grass cutting: Approximately once per week
- Grass Whipping: Approximately once per week
- Debris Removal: Approximately once per week
- Turf Height: Cut to 5.1 cm (2")
- Aeration: Once per year
- Top Dressing/Seeding: As Required
- Fertilization: Once per year
- Weed Control: Herbicide Spraying (if necessary)
- Line Marking: 4 times per year

Class B Sports Fields

Leader Field, Meadowview Park

- Grass cutting: Approximately once per week
- Grass Whipping: Approximately once per week
- Debris Removal: Approximately once per week
- Turf Height: Cut to 5.1 cm (2")
- Aeration: Every two years
- Top Dressing/Seeding: As Required
- Fertilization: Every two years
- Weed Control: Herbicide Spraying (if necessary)
- Line Marking: 4 times per year

Class C Sports Field

Fox Run, HJ Cody (soccer), Steffie Wioma, CP Blakely

- Grass cutting: Approximately once per week
- Grass Whipping: Approximately once per week
- Debris Removal: Approximately once per week
- Turf Height: Cut to 5.1 cm (2")
- Aeration: Every five years
- Top Dressing: As Required
- Fertilization: Every five years
- Weed Control: Herbicide Spraying (if necessary)
- Line Marking: 4 times per year

## **Level 2: Neighborhood Parks & Tot Lots**

Parks and playgrounds located in residential areas not listed above in Level 1. This category will expand as additional park space is accepted from new sub-division development.

- Grass cutting: Approximately once per week
- Grass Whipping: Approximately once per week
- Debris Removal: Approximately once per week
- Turf Height: Cut to 7.6 cm (3")
- Aeration: Every five years
- Top Dressing: As Required
- Fertilization: Every five years
- Weed Control: Herbicide Spraying (if necessary)
  - Willow Springs and Marina Bay subdivisions included in Organic Turf Management Pilot Program with no herbicide spraying

## **Level 3: Open / Green Spaces**

Boulevards, Buffers, Retention Ponds

- Grass cutting: Approximately once per week
- Grass Whipping: Approximately once per week
- Debris Removal: Approximately once per week
- Turf Height: Cut to 7.6 cm (3")
- Aeration: None
- Top Dressing: None
- Fertilization: None
- Weed Control: Herbicide Spraying (if necessary)

## **Level 4: Ditches**

Highway / Arterial Roadways

- Grass cutting: Approximately once per month
- Grass Whipping: Approximately once per month
- Debris Removal: Approximately once per month
- Turf Height: Cut to 12.7 cm (5") maximum
- Aeration: None
- Top Dressing: None
- Fertilization: None
- Weed Control: Herbicide Spraying (if necessary)

Standard Roadways

- Grass cutting: Approximately twice per year
- Grass Whipping: Approximately twice per year
- Debris Removal: Approximately twice per year
- Turf Height: Cut to 12.7 cm (5") maximum
- Aeration: None
- Top Dressing: None
- Fertilization: None
- Weed Control: Herbicide Spraying (if necessary)

The Town of Sylvan Lake may chose to employ contracted services to perform some turf maintenance.