



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 15.2.1**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**June 4, 2024**

**TO:** Mayor Savage Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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Councillor Cuttell, Chair, Community Planning and Economic Development  
Standing Committee

**DATE:** May 16, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Supplemental Report on Ball Diamonds

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**ORIGIN**

May 16, 2024 meeting of Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee, Item 13.1.1.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Legislative Authority is outlined in the attached staff report dated April 8, 2024.

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee – Terms of Reference

**Oversight – Economic and Immigration**

4. The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee shall oversee the Municipality's Economic Plan, Economic Prosperity Indicators and Immigration Action Plan by:
  - a. being involved in policy development and overseeing of policies appropriate to promote Community and Economic development throughout the municipality;
  - b. overseeing the progress of the Municipality's Economic Strategy and Outcome areas and related initiatives; and
  - c. overseeing the progress of the Municipality's Immigration Action Plan and related initiatives. – Terms of Reference

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to continue with the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Playing Field Strategy as they relate to ball diamonds.

## **BACKGROUND**

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee received a staff recommendation report dated April 8, 2024 to consider strategy related to managing municipal ball diamonds.

For further information refer to the attached staff report dated April 8, 2024.

## **DISCUSSION**

Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee considered the staff report dated April 8, 2024 and approved the recommendation to Halifax Regional Council as outlined in this report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial implications are outlined in the attached staff report dated April 8, 2024.

## **RISK CONSIDERATION**

Risk consideration is outlined in the attached staff report dated April 8, 2024.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Meetings of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee are open to public attendance and members of the public are invited to address the Standing Committee for up to five (5) minutes during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. Meetings are live webcast on Halifax.ca. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Standing Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

For further information on Community Engagement refer to the attached staff report dated April 8, 2024.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Environmental implications are outlined in the staff report dated April 8, 2024.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

Alternatives are outlined in the attached staff report dated April 8, 2024..

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Staff recommendation report dated April 8, 2024.

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.292.3962

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**Attachment 1**  
**Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee**  
**May 16, 2024**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

***-Original Signed-***

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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Cathie O'Toole, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** April 8, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Supplemental Report on Ball Diamonds

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**ORIGIN**

April 4, 2023, Halifax Regional Council motion (Item No. 18.1):

**MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Councillor Deagle Gammon**

THAT Halifax Regional Council request a staff report and staff recommendation on baseball infrastructure in HRM with associated classifications. This should include publicly owned, privately owned ball fields, school ball fields and those on military property; including consultation with the baseball associations, their real-world experiences in booking field time, the challenges of juggling adult and youth bookings and long-term plans HRM has for growing the number of assets and managing booking challenges.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

***Halifax Regional Municipality Charter***

Purposes of Municipality

Section 7A, the purposes of the Municipality are to

- (b) provide services, facilities and other things that, in the opinion of the Council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the Municipality;

Municipal Expenditures

Section 79A (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4), the Municipality may only spend money for municipal purposes

- (a) the expenditure is included in the Municipality's operating budget or capital budget or is otherwise authorized by the Municipality.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to continue with the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the Playing Field Strategy as they relate to ball diamonds.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Halifax Regional Municipality has seen significant population growth over the past number of years, resulting in increased demand and utilization of existing baseball infrastructure throughout the region. A number of ball organizations expressed concerns on access to ball diamonds, prompting a review of existing infrastructure and consultation within the ball community. A review of existing infrastructure was undertaken, and a list of ball diamond assets was compiled with current and new classifications as approved within the Playing Field Strategy. An engagement program was developed and facilitated in Summer 2023 where feedback was collected. Consultation identified several challenges faced by ball associations and opportunities that may alleviate pressure and enhance in how baseball associations accessed ball diamonds, all of which are addressed through recommendations of the Playing Field Strategy.

Although the municipality has a significant number of ball diamonds, many of these diamonds lack the recommended standard amenities and adequate field dimensions for baseball or softball play. Consulted ball associations suggest that although in some areas new infrastructure is needed, the Municipality has an opportunity to reduce access challenges by upgrading existing fields to a usable standard. Another consideration is to retrofit existing fields with lights and consider installation of lights on new field construction as an opportunity to alleviate demand. Lighted diamonds have a significantly wider booking window and can double capacity for evening use.

An allocation policy was also identified as an opportunity to prioritize younger age groups with earlier booking times, allowing for a more equitable and effective scheduling approach. In addition, feedback suggested a review of rain cancellation process should be completed, and consideration of the installation of artificial turf infields would help alleviate pressure on access during rain events.

The majority of surveyed stakeholders expressed the need for the construction of multi-diamond complexes, including accessible and all-weather facilities. These types of facilities are conducive to tournament play and would lessen the impact as currently experienced of games and practices held on existing diamonds.

## **BACKGROUND**

On April 4, 2023, Regional Council approved the Playing Field Strategy as the framework for reviewing existing playing fields within the municipality and identifying recommendations to ensure playing fields meet the current and future needs of the public and sport organizations. The strategy enables informed decisions and provides guidance for improvements to municipal playing fields in the coming years.

A staff report was requested through a motion of Council on April 4th, 2023, with a focus on baseball infrastructure and field classifications. In addition, further consultation with the baseball community was requested, to ensure their real-world experiences and challenges in booking ball diamonds were captured and taken into consideration when developing this staff report.

The municipality has seen significant population growth in recent years. The 2014 Regional Plan projected population growth at a rate of one percent, however, based on data from Statistics Canada, the region has seen an average of two percent over the past few years, growing from 425,871 people in 2016 to 480,582 people in 2022, as shown within Table 1; with the growth rate at the end of that period and anticipated for 2023 significantly higher than the two percent average. With the population of the municipality increasing at this rate, there are implications to service delivery and an increase in demand on existing infrastructure, such as ball diamonds. The municipality has seen a 27% increase in the usage hours for ball diamonds between 2019 and 2022, increasing from 22,000 to 28,000 in those four years.

Year	Population Growth
2016	425,871
2018	429,893
2019	439,835
2020	450,910
2021	459,869
2022	480,582

The municipality has 156 municipal owned diamonds. A high number of these (34) are maintained and/or managed in partnership with community organizations, leaving 122 ball diamonds to be scheduled and maintained by HRM. There are also 15 privately owned facilities, for a total of 171 ball diamonds within the municipality. Ball diamonds that are scheduled by HRM Facility Scheduling staff are allocated from season to season based on their historical usage. Ball diamonds managed through partnership are scheduled by the community and the field allocation is managed by them on behalf of HRM. Private ball diamonds, not owned by HRM, are an important part of the overall baseball infrastructure within the municipality and provide much needed access to ball associations in many regions, however, they operate independently of the municipality.

The Playing Field Strategy recommended a change to the field classification system used by the municipality to provide greater clarity around field quality, amenities, and service standards. The new field classification system streamlines the classification categories to five levels: Premier, All-Weather, A, B, and Greenspace. Each classification is defined within Appendix D of the Playing Field Strategy as shown in Attachment 1.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Ball Diamond Classification**

The implementation of a new field classification system was one of the deliverables as outlined in the Playing Field Strategy, adopted by Regional Council in April 2023. Currently, the Municipality maintains playing fields to service standards based on seven levels of asset types: AAA, AA, A, B, C, D, and greenspace. Fields are typically assigned a classification relative to their condition, amenities, intended use, and expected maintenance. With so many field classifications, and broad definitions of each, it often becomes difficult to identify what class a particular asset should be assigned and creates a level of subjectivity when determining how a given asset should be classified.

The new approach to the classification of field assets recommended in the Playing Field Strategy is based on industry best practices and will streamline the number of overall classifications to only five. The new classifications that have been developed, and a general description of each, are outlined in Appendix D of Attachment 1. This will provide residents and staff with well-defined classification criteria, a framework and greater clarity around field service.

From July to October 2023, Park Operations staff completed a review of the ball diamonds and sport field inventory. Each asset was validated against the Parks Asset Registry, duplicate and decommissioned assets were removed, and the list of fields was revised to reflect current and accurate data. Using the new classification standards and definitions, each asset in the listing was evaluated based on set criteria, including field quality, amenities, state of good repair, and intended use. From that evaluation, each field was then assigned a new classification. In applying the new classifications to existing ball diamond assets, the municipality identified three Premier diamonds, 28 Class A, 103 Class B and 22 Greenspaces in the reclassification project. A summarized list of current and new classifications is shown below in Table 2 and Table 3. A complete playing field inventory list with their respective new classifications can be found in Attachment 2.

Table 2: Current Baseball Diamond Classification Summary	
Classification	# Ball Diamonds
AAA	0
AA	5
A	22
B	32
C	37
D	48
Non Classified	12
Total	156

Table 3: Reclassified Ball Diamond Summary for 2025 Implementation	
Classification	# Ball Diamonds
Premier	3
All Weather	0
A	28
B	103
Greenspace	22
Total	156

**Access Challenges**

The municipality has a 156 ball diamonds, yet over 62% of stakeholders surveyed reported challenges in accessing field time for ball diamonds. HRM scheduling staff have also experienced increasing challenges in providing alternative fields to groups due to tournament bumping and rainouts, also in accommodating additional requests for field time. Although there is a perception that the municipality has an adequate number of ball diamonds per capita, not all diamonds are suitable for each level of play which limits the number of available assets for a given use. As identified in the Playing Field Strategy, 85% of diamonds do not meet the recommended standards for baseball or softball and over half of the existing diamonds lack necessary amenities such as fencing and adequate field dimensions.

As referenced in the Playing Field Strategy, HRM must recognize the importance in defining softball and baseball as distinct sports with each having unique field dimensions and requirements. With most other asset types, e.g. arenas, each facility can accommodate a wide range in the age level of play, however, ball diamonds are not one size fits all, compounding access and allocation challenges. As such, when sport specific requirements are taken into consideration, there are a limited number of baseball diamonds within the municipality. Many fields do not meet the requirements for play based on sport and the age level of play. For example, out of 156 diamonds the municipality has only six ball diamonds (3.5% of total diamonds) that meet the requirements for participants in the older age categories, from 15 years of age to adults. A listing of these ball diamonds showing the 2022 utilization numbers can be found within Table 4.

Table 4: 2023 Utilization of Ball Diamond Suitable for Participants 15 & Above		
Baseball Diamond	Location	Hours Used (2022)
Big Beazley	Dartmouth	589
Weir	Middle Sackville	703
Robert Lenihan	Bedford	904
Conrad Memorial	Westphal	676
BJ Higgins	Cole Harbour	602
Mainland Commons	Halifax	773

Due to the limited number of appropriate ball diamonds for these age levels, each of the six diamonds have a significant volume of bookings and some of the highest utilization rates across the municipality, with an average of 708 booked hours per season, compared to 465 for other lighted ball diamonds, and even fewer hours for other unlit ball diamonds. The maximum recommended utilization on a playing field is 400 hours per season, so these diamonds are significantly overutilized. Booking and field access challenges exist

due to limited capacity and availability. It should also be noted that the majority of the six locations are geographically centered within urban or high population areas, and communities in suburban and rural areas, such as Fall River, Prospect, Hammonds Plains, Eastern Passage and Eastern Shore have few options available that meet requirements.

Some areas of the municipality do not have municipal ball diamonds with mounds that are suitable for baseball. There are instances where some associations have built and maintained their own private ball diamonds to help bridge the gap between access and demand. Even with access to private ball diamonds, there are user groups which are unable to meet demand and as a result are unable to grow. As discovered through the engagement program, examples exist where teams have had to cancel due to limited access. Some associations must maintain waiting lists as they are unable to accommodate the volume of registration requests.

Most associations reported the need for additional baseball diamonds in their areas, with 86% of respondents suggesting HRM does not have an adequate number of ball diamonds, this has also contributed to them experiencing difficulty in booking adequate/appropriate ball diamonds. Similarly, analysis within the Playing Field Strategy indicates that collectively there is a more than ample supply of ball diamonds with available capacity, however, based on the distinct requirements for each sport and age category, much of the perceived capacity is on fields which are not adequate in size for baseball practices and games, leaving the sport underserved.

During the consultation completed for this staff report, ball associations identified a number of potential opportunities for increasing ball diamonds in their areas and relieving some of the pressures they currently face with respect to access. These options include:

- Upgrading existing underused ball diamonds or greenspaces to a usable standard.
- Converting underutilized sport fields into ball diamonds.
- Installation of infields on specific soccer/sport fields for cross sport use.

Throughout the municipality there are examples of sport fields and ball diamonds which are significantly underutilized. Approximately half of the respondents suggested there are existing ball diamonds in their community that are currently not playable without additional capital investment. In addition, underutilized sport fields or greenspaces could be upgraded and converted into ball diamonds, or alternatively have infields installed to accommodate multiple sport play. These proposals align with Playing Field Strategy recommendations 6.9.2 and 6.10.2 (Timeframe: 3-10 years) and would increase access to ball diamonds. As a result, staff will explore if this may be an effective approach rather than construction of net new ball diamond facilities. The Playing Field Strategy also recommends the closure of grass sports fields within proximity to newly installed/future all weather turf complexes and allocate existing usage to all weather fields. This provides the municipality with potential options to increase ball diamond assets based on demand.

Many diamonds are suitable for softball and the lower age levels of for baseball. As such, most baseball and softball associations play and practice on diamonds shared between the two sports. Due to demand, in some cases, softball is using baseball diamonds which is not ideal as baseball diamonds with mounds are a safety concern when used for softball. Conversely baseball users have been using some of the smaller softball diamonds without mounds which is not ideal for the game of baseball. Several survey respondents suggested that investing in portable mounds could be a potential opportunity to allow diamonds to be multi-use and shared between both sports.

There was significant feedback received through the consultation which identified interest in using smaller fields for younger age levels, however, users were unable to do so due to the impact of off leash dog usage leaving the fields in a state of disrepair. Off leash dog usage has contributed to the access challenges faced by users. Additional signage, enforcement, and designated off leash dog parks were suggested as options to help alleviate the impact.

### **Allocation**

Within municipally scheduled ball diamonds, the most highly sought after booking times are Monday to Friday evenings, accounting for 76% of all ball diamond bookings. Of these, 90% of the bookings take place between the hours of 5:00pm and 11:00pm. The ball diamonds with lights allow for two evening time slots; 6:00-8:30pm and 8:30-11:00pm, while the fields without lights can only accommodate one evening time slot between 6:00-8:30PM.

Generally, there is more availability on ball diamonds during weekends, however, most tournaments and in some instances a substantial number of games are scheduled on Saturday and Sundays. Weekend rentals account for 24% of overall bookings. Through consultation with the ball associations, several groups expressed the preference for games and practice times Monday to Thursday, suggesting that families are reluctant for a regular weekend commitment, as it infringes on family time. Although it is difficult to get commitment from members to practice on Fridays or on weekends, most organizations indicated the necessity to use Saturday and Sundays in order to accommodate their growth and keep team practices within their geographical areas, especially for younger age groups.

With HRM's current field allocation based on a historic usage, one of the challenges faced by scheduling staff is their inability to adjust an existing group's rental time to maximize capacity and availability. For example, organizations that have regularly booked ball diamonds over past seasons are given priority over new user groups for the same time slot the following season. Teams typically book a 2.5-hour duration for games and practices, there are numerous groups who historically occupy a 7:00-9:30pm timeslot and are unwilling to adjust their schedule earlier or later to accommodate another group. Additionally, it has been identified by scheduling staff, as well as minor ball associations, that many youth teams are having to start their practices and games at 8:30pm following adult groups who are scheduled at earlier times in the evening. The implementation of an allocation guideline which supports two designated weekday booking times, 6:00pm and 8:30pm, would double capacity at certain locations. In addition, over two thirds (67%) of respondents would support a policy which prioritized the younger age groups with earlier booking times regardless of historical usage, similar to the scheduling policy approved for municipal arenas in 2012. This feedback aligns with recommendation 6.4.1 of the Playing Field Strategy (Timeframe: 1-3 years) to implement allocation guidelines for playing fields.

### **Lights**

Currently, the municipality has 21 ball diamonds with lights. As recommended within 6.7.2 of the Playing Field Strategy (Timeframe 1-15 years), retrofitting existing ball diamonds with lights will double the availability by allowing for a late evening time slot, specifically for older youth and adult play. Approximately 86% of consultation respondents suggested that more ball diamonds with lights would reduce their scheduling challenges. Currently, non-lighted ball diamonds are only able to be scheduled during the earlier evening times for one game, however, investment in lights will make a significant improvement on HRM's ability to provide access, by doubling the capacity and allowing for two games each evening.

Presently, the booking trend on lighted diamonds is for groups to book a 2.5-hour duration for practices and games, and the majority of bookings fall within the two time frames as mentioned above, 6:00-8:30pm and 8:30-11:00pm. Although it is recognized that younger age groups do not require lighted diamonds, increasing the number of ball diamonds for older ages would help to alleviate demand throughout all age categories as the older groups would play later, opening earlier timeslots for younger age groups. Most consultation respondents reported concern for not having adequate access to ball diamonds, which gets fueled by increasing demand through population growth. Associations have seen a spike in registration at lower age groups (ie U7-U11) which, although challenging, can be accommodated on smaller fields. As ball participants age and move through the various age categories, many areas lack the necessary ball diamonds that are appropriate for older age play (U15-U18). With the addition of more lighted fields, this pressure gets reduced accordingly for all age categories.



### **Rain Cancellations & Turf Facilities**

A common theme that emerged through consultation with the ball community is a level of frustration regarding being bumped from fields due to HRM's rainout cancellation policy. The municipality decides each day on field conditions and possible closures for field use that evening, and aligned with current policy, the closure could extend for multiple days after a significant rainfall event. The decision takes multiple factors into consideration including weather forecast, rainfall projections, past 24-hour rainfall totals and current field conditions. Users understand the need to protect the fields from damage and recognize that some fields that do not have proper drainage can hold water and leave the field susceptible. Ball diamond users expressed that the decision is often appropriate, although there are cases in which the decision is applied to all ball diamonds unnecessarily, and a proportion of ball diamonds are often in great condition to play on by game time on the following day after a rain event. To minimize the impact, associations are looking for a more comprehensive rainout cancellation policy whereby fields which are suitable for play the following day are not closed because of a few that have drainage issues. Those fields that have drainage issues would remain closed until the appropriate time elapses under the current policy. As recommended in the Playing Field Strategy, staff will be conducting a review of the current HRM practices and industry best standards to develop a more comprehensive rainout cancellation policy.

Compounded by access challenges, associations also noted that rescheduling make-up practices and games as a result of rainouts is often difficult further into the season. Groups willing to travel outside of their geographic area to access ball diamonds for make-up practices or games cited challenges in knowing which diamonds were of a suitable size for their needs. One tool identified by both staff and user groups to aid in finding alternative diamonds, is having a comprehensive scheduling software with inventory details on ball diamond assets including classification, service standards, location information as well as what sport and age category is appropriate on each. In addition, having the ability for user groups to self-serve by looking at availability of diamonds online and booking on their own would help ease challenges. Currently, HRM has last minute rental functionality available, however, not all diamonds are offered for self-serve bookings, and users are limited to only being able to book three days in advance. During the in-person consultation, the majority of respondents voiced interest in seeing more field availability online and the ability to book within a shorter time frame (ie next day).

Through consultation, a turf infield in tandem with natural outfield that has proper drainage would be beneficial in alleviating cancellations due to rain, as seen in other municipalities. An opportunity would exist to retrofit existing fields with artificial turf infields. Doing so may be a cost-effective alternative to providing all weather ball diamonds within the municipality and improving access during weather events throughout the ball season.

### **Multi Field Complex**

We have heard through consultation that there is a need for multi-diamond complexes within the municipality. A facility of this nature would align with recommendation 6.10.6 of the Playing Field Strategy (Timeframe: 3-10 years), which identifies the need for one to two multi ball diamond sport complexes with 6-8 fields in each. Although 6-8 ball diamonds would be ideal, feedback provided through consultation suggests these complexes should have a minimum of three fields. A multi ball diamond complex should contain amenities such as washrooms, field lighting, spectator seating, parking, and accessory building for maintenance functions. This would also bring Halifax in line with other municipalities across the country, including examples within the Atlantic provinces such as Kentville, Moncton, and Truro. These types of facilities are conducive to tournament play, as a tournament can be hosted in one location. It has been identified through consultation that Halifax has difficulty in attracting large tournaments due to the lack of a multi-ball diamond complex. In addition, such a facility would alleviate scheduling challenges with more appropriately sized diamonds being available for seasonal play. In line with Strategic Action 6.10.7 (Timeframe: 1-3 years) of the Playing Field Strategy, this would also provide an opportunity to add both accessible and all-weather ball diamonds in combination with a multi ball diamond complex.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate financial implications with the implementation of the recommendation contained within this staff report, however, there will be future financial impacts relative to capital projects brought forward for consideration by Regional Council as a result of related Playing Field Strategy recommendations.

In 2023, the operational expenditures associated with maintaining the Municipality's existing ball diamond inventory were \$2,150,170 and recoveries from rental booking revenue were \$247,328. Expenditures include regular maintenance items, such as lining, grooming, mowing, and preventative outfield maintenance, as well as state of good repair projects, such as fence/backstop repair, filling of holes due to dog use and vandalism, and lighting repairs. Without capital investment by the Municipality in its ball diamond inventory, operational maintenance costs are expected to increase each year.

As identified in the Playing Field Strategy, approximately 70% of ball diamonds have been in service for 30 year or longer, and with the average life expectancy of fields being 25-30 years, there is an increased need for recapitalization. Even by enhancing and increasing maintenance efforts, the Municipality will struggle to meet current field standards and quality as assets continue to age.

Over the past five years, Regional Council has approved \$5,360,000 in capital projects to enhance and recapitalize existing ball diamonds within the Municipality. Despite this effort, more investment will be required to build new facilities and improve current assets to meet the needs of the ball community in the long term.

## **RISK CONSIDERATION**

The primary risk in not adopting the recommendations of this report is that there would be further pressure on existing ball diamond infrastructure, due to the reasons identified in the discussion section of this staff report.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

As directed through Regional Council's motion, staff were asked to consult with baseball and softball associations and ball diamond user groups, from across the municipality, and solicit their feedback on "their real-world experiences in booking field time". As a result, a consultation program was developed during the month of June in 2023, which included identifying who the key internal and external stakeholders are. A two phased approach to the consultation program was developed in effort to clearly understand what the current scheduling challenges are. The first phase involved HRM Scheduling staff and the second phase involved the ball diamond user groups.

The HRM Facility Scheduling staff that specifically schedule ball diamonds as part of their daily duties were consulted in June of 2023, in effort to help identify the current issues and pressures that are present with ball diamond scheduling. The themes that emerged from the staff consultation would then be used to help frame the engagement with the ball diamond user groups, those themes were:

- field access and increasing demand
- field allocation
- scheduling practices
- conflicts
- schedule bumping
- field maintenance

## **Ball Diamond User Group Feedback**

The second phase to the consultation program was focused on the baseball and softball associations and ball diamond user groups who are HRM scheduling clients. An appropriate cross-section of ball diamond stakeholders was selected to wholistically understand the overall user-experience across the Municipality, including consideration of the age range (children, youth, and adults), the geographic location (urban, suburban and rural), and the sport type (baseball and softball). In total, 14 ball diamond user groups from across the municipality were contacted for the engagement, which was held in July 2023.

Each ball diamond user group was provided a questionnaire with a date identified for its return, that was set to about a week later. Upon receipt of the completed questionnaires, staff then contacted each group to schedule a follow-up one-hour interview that would allow for deeper investigation. There were 13 questions or statements included in the questionnaire that were created from the themes that were identified through the staff engagement. A summary of feedback provided, as well as detailed results of the questionnaire can be found in Attachment 3 of this staff report.

The subsequent interviews with the ball diamond user groups were held between July 26 and August 1, 2023. The interviews were offered at the client's choice of being either in person, virtual, or via phone. The intent of these interviews was to further probe the client for more detail from their response to the questionnaire, to ask them to tell us about their thoughts on the municipal scheduling process and allow the client to tell us anything else they wanted to about ball diamond scheduling that we did not already ask about. The additional comments that were received on both the municipal scheduling process and anything additional that the client provided can be found in Attachment 4 of this staff report.

The results of the questionnaire showed a unanimous request for more in terms of available in field time, ball diamond facilities, and ball diamond amenities. Consistency in the findings were noted both geographically (urban, suburban, and rural) and by age (child, youth, and adult). The only notable difference seemed to be by sport type. In some areas of HRM softball seems to be slightly better served for field availability than baseball, but even this finding was not consistent for all softball user groups as some are also struggling to find available field time.

### **Summary of Additional Feedback Received**

In addition to probing deeper into the clients' responses to the questionnaire, during the interviews the client was also asked about the municipal scheduling process and given an opportunity to tell staff about anything else they wanted that was related to their experiences as ball diamond stakeholder. The details of this feedback are found on Attachment 4 of this staff report. Some highlights of the additional feedback are:

- HRM scheduling staff were given unanimous praise for their efforts in scheduling ball diamonds, especially in consideration of having limited options for user groups. However, groups also noted that having a system that provides a real time on-line portal to see available ball diamond times is much needed, with ability for digital contract booking and signing.
- For rain-out cancellations that apply after the day of the rainfall, consider closing only fields that have standing water issues and not all fields across the board, many are playable and get closed due to the broad nature of the field closure process. Instead, consider closing fields individually or by zone.
- Better communication on rainout cancellations is needed.
- Practice times are becoming more difficult to obtain, some groups have had to go without practice or have tried starting at 4:00PM which is not ideal.
- More consistent maintenance to grass cutting and drainage issues is needed, this will take pressure off user groups to do maintenance.
- Identify field maintenance programs for the following season in the Fall, this is just after the ball season has ended and groups would then be informed earlier about what is or is not available for the following season.
- The Monday rest period on premiere level fields is an issue because it results in less field times being available, but there is acknowledgement those fields are staying in better condition because of the rest period.

- Add a turf baseball facility, even if it consists only of a turf infield, and this could be accomplished as part of a multi-field ball complex which HRM greatly needs to keep up with other towns and cities across Canada.
- More amenities are needed, like batting cages or storage structures, many of our fields don't have amenities.
- More porta-potties are needed, they should be placed based on the number of fields a location may have and not just one per location.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate environmental implications associated with this report.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Regional Council could choose to not approve the recommendation set out in this report. This will result in ball diamond classification and inventory remaining at status quo.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Playing Field Classification Definitions  
Attachment 2 – Ball Diamond Asset List with Classifications  
Attachment 3 – Stakeholder Questionnaire Results  
Attachment 4 – Additional Feedback from Stakeholders

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by:      Doug Murphy, Manager Sport and Scheduling, 902.719.5372  
                                     Mark Inness, Community Planner, Policy Planning, 902.240.8525  
                                     Ray Walsh, Director of Parks, Parks Operations & Maintenance, 902.293.9354

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## Attachment 1 – Playing Field Classification Definitions

Currently there are 6 classes of playing fields plus all-weather that will be replaced by 5 classes including the all-weather fields. The classes and general description as per the Playing Field Strategy are as follows:

Classification	Description
<b>Premier</b>	<b>Primary Level of Play:</b> Competitive Sport (High Level) Suitable for Organized professional sport, amateur sport, and hosting larger sporting events. The facility may also accommodate minor sport use. <b>Used for Games Only.</b>
	<b>Level of Maintenance:</b> Enhanced
	<b>Level of Amenities:</b> Enhanced
	<b>Operating Season:</b> Victoria Day long weekend to Thanksgiving Day long weekend
<b>All-Weather</b>	<b>Primary Level of Play:</b> All Levels of Programmed Sport Use <b>Designed to take spring and fall usage off vulnerable grass fields.</b>  Meets local requirements for organized amateur, minor sport, and recreational leagues. Hosting and can range from small to medium size events including Local/Regional/Provincial competitions and national events. <b>Used for Games and Practices.</b>
	<b>Level of Maintenance:</b> Specialized for All-Weather
	<b>Level of Amenities:</b> Enhanced
	<b>Open/Close Date:</b> April 1 to December 1
<b>A</b>	<b>Primary Level of Play:</b> Competitive and Organized Recreational Sport Meets the local requirements for organized amateur, minor sport, and recreational leagues. Site can host Local/Regional/Provincial competitions. <b>Used for Games and Practices.</b>
	<b>Level of Maintenance:</b> High
	<b>Level of Amenities:</b> High
	<b>Operating Season:</b> Victoria Day long weekend to Thanksgiving Day long weekend
<b>B</b>	<b>Primary Level of Play:</b> Recreational Sport & Community Use Meets local requirements for organized recreational sport as well as shared general community uses. The playing field is open to the public when not scheduled and can host small events. <b>Used for Games and Practices.</b>
	<b>Level of Maintenance:</b> Standard
	<b>Level of Amenities:</b> Standard
	<b>Operating Season:</b> May 1 to Oct 31

<b>Greenspace</b>	<b>Primary Level of Play:</b> Unstructured and Passive Recreation Suitable for unstructured play, and a wide range of informal recreation uses. Greenspaces are open to the public. They do not meet the program requirements for formalized organized sport
	<b>Level of Maintenance:</b> Basic
	<b>Level of Amenities:</b> No sport specific infrastructure/amenities
	<b>Open/Close Date:</b> No Specific open/close date

**Attachment 2 – Ball Diamond Asset List With Classifications**

<b>Reclassification</b>	<b>Field Name</b>	<b>District</b>
B	ARNOLD D JOHNSON PLAYFIELD (Owned by HW)	2
B	ASTRAL DRIVE ELEMENTARY & JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND (Owned by Province)	4
A	PAUL MASON BALL DIAMOND (Owned by Province)	4
B	BEAVER BANK KINSAC PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	14
B	BEAVER BANK KINSAC PARK BALL DIAMOND #2	14
Premier	BEAZLEY PARK BIG BALL DIAMOND #1	6
B	BEAZLEY PARK KINSMEN BALL DIAMOND #3	6
B	BEAZLEY PARK LITTLE BALL DIAMOND #2	6
B	BEECH HILL ROAD PARK BALL DIAMOND	2
B	LAKESIDE RECREATION CENTRE BALL DIAMOND	12
B	BELL PARK ACADEMIC CENTRE PARK BALL DIAMOND	2
Greenspace	BILLY BOLLONG MEMORIAL PARK BALL DIAMOND	2
A	BISSETT LAKE PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	4
B	BISSETT LAKE PARK BALL DIAMOND #2	4
B	BISSETT LAKE PARK BALL DIAMOND #3	4
A	BROOKSIDE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	11
B	BROOKSIDE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND #2	11
B	BURTON ETTINGER SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	10
B	DAN C. MACDONALD MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	4
B	FLAGSTONE BALL DIAMOND #2	4
B	FLAGSTONE BALL DIAMOND #3	4
B	ROBERT MORASH BALL DIAMOND	4
A	CARL MORASH MEMORIAL PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	5
B	CARL MORASH MEMORIAL PARK BALL DIAMOND #2	5
B	CARROLLS CORNER COMMUNITY CENTRE PARK BALL DIAMOND	1
B	CAUDLE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	15
B	CHEVIOT HILLS PARK BALL DIAMOND	2
B	CHOCOLATE LAKE COMMUNITY CENTRE PARK BALL DIAMOND	9
B	COLBY VILLAGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	4
A	B. J. HIGGINS BALL DIAMOND	4
A	JOHN RUSSELL BALL DIAMOND	4
B	COLONEL JOHN STUART ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	4
A	CONNROSE PARK BALL DIAMOND	7
Greenspace	CORRECTIONAL CENTRE PARK BALL DIAMOND	15

**Attachment 2 – Ball Diamond Asset List With Classifications**

<b>Reclassification</b>	<b>Field Name</b>	<b>District</b>
B	CUNARD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	9
B	CUNARD JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND #2	9
A	DALE BENNETT MEMORIAL PARK BALL DIAMOND	2
B	DARTMOUTH COMMON EAST BALL DIAMOND	5
B	DARTMOUTH COMMON WEST BALL DIAMOND	5
B	WAYNE MANUEL BALL DIAMOND	11
A	DON BAYER PARK BALL DIAMOND	6
B	DUTCH SETTLEMENT PARK BALL DIAMOND	1
Greenspace	EAST DOVER VILLAGE GREEN PARK BASEBALL DIAMOND	11
Greenspace	EAST JEDDORE PARK BALL DIAMOND	2
B	EAST PRESTON PARK BALL DIAMOND	2
Greenspace	EAST ST. MARGARET'S CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL PARK SPORT FIELD	13
B	MOSER RIVER BALL DIAMOND	2
B	BOB HILCHIE MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	3
A	DENNIS NAUGLE BALL DIAMOND	3
B	ROST BALL DIAMOND	3
B	TOMMY DAVIES MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	3
Greenspace	EASTERN SHORE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	2
B	ECOLE DES BEAUX-MARAIS PARK BALL DIAMOND	2
B	KEVIN SHEA MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	2
B	ECOLE DU GRAND-PORTAGE PARK BALL DIAMOND	15
B	SPRINGVALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	9
A	EISENHAUER PARK BALL DIAMOND	13
Greenspace	ELDERBANK PARK BALL DIAMOND	1
B	ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	11
B	ELIZABETH SUTHERLAND SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND #2	11
B	MEL BRAINE BALL DIAMOND	4
A	EDDIE LEBLANC BALL DIAMOND #1	15
B	EDDIE LEBLANC BALL DIAMOND #2	15
Greenspace	GAETZ BROOK JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	2
Greenspace	GORDON J. STEVENS BALL DIAMOND	2
B	GORSEBROOK PARK BALL DIAMOND	7
B	ST. FRANCIS BALL DIAMOND	7
B	DUANE ERVANOWITZ MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	2



**Attachment 2 – Ball Diamond Asset List With Classifications**

<b>Reclassification</b>	<b>Field Name</b>	<b>District</b>
B	GRAVES OAKLEY MEMORIAL PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	11
Premier	GRAVES OAKLEY MEMORIAL PARK BALL DIAMOND #2	11
A	KEVIN COX BALL DIAMOND	12
B	GROSVENOR-WENTWORTH PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	10
B	CANADA GAMES (COMMON #9)	7
B	HALIFAX NORTH COMMON BALL DIAMOND #1	8
B	HALIFAX NORTH COMMON BALL DIAMOND #10	8
B	HALIFAX NORTH COMMON BALL DIAMOND #11	8
B	HALIFAX NORTH COMMON BALL DIAMOND #2	8
B	HALIFAX NORTH COMMON BALL DIAMOND #3	8
B	HALIFAX NORTH COMMON BALL DIAMOND #4	8
B	HALIFAX NORTH COMMON BALL DIAMOND #7	8
B	HALIFAX NORTH COMMON BALL DIAMOND #8	8
B	JAMES MACPHEE MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	11
B	HAROLD CUVELIER BALL DIAMOND #1	11
B	HAROLD CUVELIER BALL DIAMOND #2	11
B	BILL ZINCK MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	11
B	HAWTHORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	5
B	HAMMONDS PLAINS (DEEPWOOD DRIVE) BALL DIAMOND	13
B	HAMMONDS PLAINS (DEEPWOOD DRIVE) BALL DIAMOND	13
B	HAROLD SCHULTZ MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	5
B	HUBBARDS RECREATION CENTRE BALL DIAMOND #1	13
B	HUBBARDS RECREATION CENTRE BALL DIAMOND #2	13
B	JUSTIN COWARD MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	4
A	IRA SETTLE PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	6
B	J. ALBERT WALKER PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	9
B	J. ALBERT WALKER PARK BALL DIAMOND #2	9
Greenspace	JOHN GRANT PARK BALL DIAMOND	1
A	JOHN MACNEIL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	6
Greenspace	JOHN MARTIN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	6
B	BOB NORWOOD MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	2
B	WONDERLAND TRAILER PARK BALL DIAMOND	2
Greenspace	LAKE OF THE WOODS PARK BALL DIAMOND	13
Greenspace	LAKECREST DRIVE PARK BALL DIAMOND	14

**Attachment 2 – Ball Diamond Asset List With Classifications**

<b>Reclassification</b>	<b>Field Name</b>	<b>District</b>
B	LAPIERRE BALL DIAMOND	13
B	LARRY O'CONNELL PARK BALL DIAMOND	9
B	LOU GODDARD MEMORIAL PARK BALL DIAMOND	8
Premier	MAINLAND COMMON BALL DIAMOND	12
A	MAINLAND COMMON WESTRIDGE BALL DIAMOND	12
A	MAYBANK PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	5
B	MAYBANK PARK BALL DIAMOND #2	5
B	MAYBANK PARK BALL DIAMOND #3	5
A	MCDONALD SPORTS PARK BALL DIAMOND	1
B	BILL ROSS MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	16
B	MEADOWBROOK PARK BALL DIAMOND	16
A	MERV SULLIVAN PARK BALL DIAMOND	8
B	MOUNT EDWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	3
A	GREENOUGH BALL DIAMOND	6
A	HAROLD W. CONRAD MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	6
A	MOUNT EDWARD ROAD PARK BALL DIAMOND	6
B	NATHAN SMITH RECREATION CENTRE BALL DIAMOND #2	2
B	NELSON GAETZ BALL DIAMOND	2
Greenspace	OLDFIELD CONSOLIDATED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	1
B	DAVID STEVENS MEMORIAL BALLFIELD	2
B	PLEASANT VALLEY PARK BALL DIAMOND	1
B	QUINTIN SILAS PATTERSON MEMORIAL PARK BALL DIAMOND	13
B	R. S. ALLEN MEMORIAL PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	13
B	JOAN LENIHAN MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	16
A	ROBERT LENIHAN MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	16
B	ROBERT DRIVE PARK BALL DIAMOND	6
B	ROBERT KEMP TURNER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	4
B	ROCKINGSTONE HEIGHTS SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	11
B	ROCKINGSTONE HEIGHTS SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND #2	11
Greenspace	SACKVILLE CENTENNIAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	15
B	SACKVILLE RIVER LINEAR PARK BASEBALL DIAMOND	15
Greenspace	SAMBRO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	11
B	SEYMORE HANKEY BALL DIAMOND	14
B	SHUBIE PARK BALL DIAMOND	6

**Attachment 2 – Ball Diamond Asset List With Classifications**

<b>Reclassification</b>	<b>Field Name</b>	<b>District</b>
B	SMOKEY DRIVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARK BALL DIAMOND	15
A	SPRINGFIELD LAKE RECREATION PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	14
A	SPRINGFIELD LAKE RECREATION PARK BALL DIAMOND #2	14
B	SUNSET ACRES PARK BALL DIAMOND	4
B	TANTALLON WOODS PARK FIELD	13
A	TREMONT PLATEAU PARK BALL DIAMOND	10
B	UPLANDS PARK BASEBALL DIAMOND	13
B	UPPER FLINN PARK BASEBALL DIAMOND	9
Greenspace	UPPER HAMMONDS PLAINS RECREATION CENTRE BALL FIELD	13
Greenspace	UPPER MUSQUODOBOIT PARK BALL DIAMOND	1
B	W. D. PIERCEY PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	10
B	W. D. PIERCEY PARK BALL DIAMOND #2	10
A	WEIR PARK BALL DIAMOND	14
Greenspace	WEST DOVER PARK BALL DIAMOND	11
B	WILLARD CHRISTIE MEMORIAL PARK BALL DIAMOND	13
Greenspace	WILLIAM ROSS PARK BALL DIAMOND	4
Greenspace	WILLIAMSWOOD RECREATION PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	11
Greenspace	WILLIAMSWOOD RECREATION PARK BALL DIAMOND #2	11
B	JULIANNE E. O'BRIEN MEMORIAL BALL DIAMOND	6
B	WOODLAWN PARK BALL DIAMOND #1	6
A	WOODLAWN PARK BALL DIAMOND #3	6

**Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results**

**HRM Parks and Recreation Ballfield User Group Questionnaire Results**

<b>Summarized Stakeholder Questionnaire Results</b>		
<b>Question/Statement Asked</b>	<b>Statistical Analysis by %</b>	<b>Highlights of Feedback</b>
Ballfields are available when I need them	Mostly or Completely Agree: 15% Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 23% Mostly or Completely Disagree: 62%	Difficult to rebook rainout games, Associations are turning players away or have waiting lists, All age groups are struggling to find field time
I feel there is an adequate amount of ball diamonds for baseball	Mostly or Completely Agree: 7% Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 7% Mostly or Completely Disagree: 86%	Short on fields sized for older than U15, Not nearly enough field time for all age groups across the HRM, Have to use softball diamonds which is not ideal
I feel there is an adequate amount of ball diamonds for softball	Mostly or Completely Agree: 14% Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 50% Mostly or Completely Disagree: 36%	Softball is using baseball diamonds which is not ideal, Some programs are not happening due to lack of field time, Acquire a portable mound so both sports can utilize a field
More ball diamonds with lights would reduce my scheduling challenges	Mostly or Completely Agree: 86% Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 0% Mostly or Completely Disagree: 14%	Highest level of agreement out of all questions, Lights allow 2 games per night vs one, Would help with older age groups but not for younger kids
The Municipality has enough ball diamonds, upgrading underutilized diamonds would alleviate my scheduling challenges	Mostly or Completely Agree: 21% Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 29% Mostly or Completely Disagree: 50%	Good idea for areas that have underutilized diamonds, Developing infields on greenspaces would help with the very young age levels, Upgrade a field to an all-weather facility
When I'm scheduling ballfields I'm able to find a field that is appropriate by age	Mostly or Completely Agree: 21% Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 21% Mostly or Completely Disagree: 57%	Cannot find enough time for all age levels, Some of the fields that are offered are too small for the older groups, Often forced to use fields that are of an unsuitable size for the age level
When a ballfield is not booked I feel it should be made available to any group who wants to use that field	Mostly or Completely Agree: 57% Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 21% Mostly or Completely Disagree: 21%	General agreement after the ball associations have their annual field times booked, Could result in further scheduling challenges for make-up games
Scheduled field time should be booked fairly based on age and level of play	Mostly or Completely Agree: 43% Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 21% Mostly or Completely Disagree: 36%	All groups should have a fair chance to play, Adults should not be playing on minor ball fields
I feel that minor ball should be booked earlier in the evening regardless of historical usage	Mostly or Completely Agree: 67% Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 0% Mostly or Completely Disagree: 33%	General agreement but with some hesitation from the adult groups because if they lose their historical times there is not enough availability to go later in the night.
Unscheduled users often conflict with my bookings	Mostly or Completely Agree: 21% Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 43% Mostly or Completely Disagree: 36%	Not a significant issue in general but there are sporadic areas that are having problems, Unscheduled users generally leave once the schedule group arrives
Tournaments frequently bump my scheduled practices and games	Mostly or Completely Agree: 14% Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 29% Mostly or Completely Disagree: 57%	This is not a significant issue being experienced across HRM but there was one exception, A multi-field complex is needed for HRM to be better suited to host tournaments
Field maintenance issues (such as drainage or long grass, etc.) often cause scheduling challenges	Mostly or Completely Agree: 57% Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 21% Mostly or Completely Disagree: 21%	Grass cutting is the largest issue being reported with pooling water second, Dog parks / usage on diamonds are also causing significant maintenance issues due to holes being dug and feces on the fields
I often have to book fields not owned by HRM to meet my needs	Mostly or Completely Agree: 43% Neither Agree Nor Disagree: 36% Mostly or Completely Disagree: 21%	Some associations are going to private fields or fields outside of HRM boundaries due to lack of availability but this is not unanimous

Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results

Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
<b>Field Access / Demand</b>							
Ballfields are available when I need them		X				When I need additional diamonds for make up games or to move from one diamond to another there is space, as needed, but when I request more diamonds to book at the start of the season I rarely receive any new space for the season. I am <b>VERY</b> appreciative to be granted the extra space ad hoc throughout the summer. When I have a rainout there is little disruption as I can find a make-up when I need it. At the start of the season, times are very difficult to come by, but as other groups release times we can then find time.	HSSC
					X	Need all levels on weekdays and there are not enough adequate fields in Cole Harbour. We use fields in Dartmouth to piece together our contracts with best possible fields.	Cole Harbour Minor
				X		Booking field times are very slow due to the amount of bookings needed for fields that we require.	Dartmouth Arrows
			X			To start the season yes but the problem is in February when we book fields we do not know our registrations so we book what we had previous year and we can not grow any more because other adult leagues that do not live in the community now have the fields booked. We can never find make up time other than Saturday's and that is not ideal for Rec team nor Competitive teams because tournaments are held on weekends. Rec teams only want to play Monday – Thursday.  Rainouts there is not time available to make up games outside of Saturday's.  We have only 3 fields available in Bedford with 350 members and waiting lists that get longer each year.  An alternative is to drive 15-20 minutes outside our area.	Bedford
			X			Some fields are wide open for me to book – but the fields that we share with adult leagues make it difficult for us to find makeup times.	Hammonds Plains

**Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results**

Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
					X	Extremely difficult to get a field outside of regular contract times. Mainland commons is the only field that is in Halifax for adults groups, and no practices are allowed there and Monday nights rest period really hurts that availability.  We have to use fields outside HRM for practice.	Spryfield
				X		We have been able to make due by changing the evenings of normal play. Make-up games have been a challenge to rebook. Not hearing back from the scheduling of the partnership fields in a timely manner is an issue. We need better visibility to what is available on those fields. U15 is playing late this year at 8:00 pm, after adults.	Porters Lake
				X		Fields have been hard to come by. The Comets Home fields are Flagstone and Morash, but we lose nights on Morash to other organizations.	Cole Harbour Comets
						No response	Highland Park
					X	One HRM ball field for 700 kids. We use McDonald Park, we have partnership with them. We don't travel from the city.	LWF
	X					Our Association is responsible for the scheduling.	Prospect
				X		As we continue to grow – our largest issue has been having fields available to us. Example: Girls fast-pitch was non-existent years ago in Dartmouth but has grown from 37 member to 250 members in just a few years. We cannot accommodate all players requests.	Dartmouth She Devils Softball
				X		We only have one field in our area	Sheet Harbour
			X				Eastern Shore Adult Softball
I feel there is an adequate amount of ball diamonds for baseball			X			We only use softball diamonds	HSSC
					X	We are very short on adequate fields in all age groups. We have close to 100 players in U9 currently which is 6 or 7 teams. We will not have enough U11 and U13 fields for these age groups as they move up the next four years. Green space could be used for these groups, also we need a turf field.	Cole Harbour Minor
					X	There are only 2 senior fields in Dartmouth. With the number of teams senior teams playing there are not enough fields.	Dartmouth Arrows

Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results

Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
				X		Not even close. Bedford has 3 fields in total. We have Bill Ross to ourselves which is great but we share Joan and Robert Lenihan amongst so many others leagues it is ridiculous really. It was bad enough that we use to use Cobequid but than you took that away from us to place the homeless people on it and gave us nothing in return.	Bedford
				X		We do not have any fields larger than 15U in our area. And the field that is 15U is not good for our elite(rep) program. We have to leave the community for all our older teams to play on.	Hammonds Plains
					X	Not for ages 16 and older.	Spryfield
					X	The Eastern Shore doesn't have ONE baseball diamond. We have to use softball fields for the past 10 years.	Porters Lake
				X		No Comment	Cole Harbour Comets
				X		Co ed Slow Pitch is monopolizing fields. Youth clubs should have priority	Highland
					X	No Comment, Multi-complex would be an asset but we wont travel to the city, it should be located off the highway in either Hammonds Plains, Sackville, Bedford, or Dartmouth crossing.  Dont rule out private partnership for building new fields, such as getting their unusable land. Land in Fall River such as the Dexter Lands have been offered through a multiple year lease for \$1.	LWF
				X		We do not have enough for all age groups in our association.  We are feeling the pressure, we need more fields for 15 and older (The Junior High dirt field could extend the infield to fit 15 older and Junior high crusher dust field could also be used for 9U).	Prospect
					X	We do not have enough diamonds available for baseball or softball – because of that there is a lot of overlap and sharing of diamonds creating an extremely high demand of diamonds. Not enough competitive level fields.	Dartmouth She Devils Softball
			X			No Comment	Sheet Harbour
				X		No Comment	Eastern Shore Adult Softball

Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results

Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
I feel there is an adequate amount of ball diamonds for softball.					X	I know we could use a lot more diamonds Monday-Thursday and are not granted new ones, so I have to believe there is not enough diamonds for growth. We have a waiting list for participants.	HSSC
			X			Not applicable, but a portable mound would be an asset.	Cole Harbour Minor
		X				Softball has taken over several baseball diamonds and also use others jointly. Greenough/Conrad. A portable mound would be an asset.	Dartmouth Arrows
			X			Hard to answer as I am baseball but I do wish that softball only used softball fields. We have softball teams using baseball diamonds or we can not put mounds on our smaller fields because softball uses them. Move softball to softball fields, we need more designated softball fields. Springfield lake is for Softball.	Bedford
			X			I do share one field with two softball groups – the men are on the late times – which is great – however we have an out of area softball group on the field all day on Sunday	Hammonds Plains
			X			No Comment.	Spryfield
		X				My Baseball Association that I started 10 years ago has ZERO BASEBALL DIAMONDS. We have only had softball diamonds to play on. So I'd say they have adequate fields.	Porters Lake
				X		Our organization alone has grown over the past few years, although it is great to have the interest, it makes it very hard with the amount of fields available.	Comets
				X		No Comment	Highland Park
			X			Adult slo pitch taking away far too much kids field time. There is a demand for softball and not enough fields.	LWF
			X			No Comment.	Prospect
					X	We do not have enough diamonds available for baseball or softball – because of that there is a lot of overlap and sharing of diamonds creating an extremely high demand for diamonds. We also struggle with A level diamonds for fastpitch softball.	Dartmouth She Devils Softball
				X		Lots of programs don't happen in our area because of lack of available field times	Sheet Harbour
			X			No Comment	Eastern Shore Adult Softball
	X				100%! With lights we can play 4 games a night. Without lights we can play 2.	HSSC	



Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results

Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
More ball diamonds with lights would reduce my scheduling challenges		X				Need matching fields for most ages. Yes we will need more fields with lights as our high numbers in younger age groups reach U15. Suggest Greenough / Kinsmen field for additional lights.	Cole Harbour Minor
	X					In some cases it would almost double the field availability. There are only 6 fields with lights. 3 13 to 15, and 1 11under.	Dartmouth Arrows
		X				Yes for the older kids that would definitely help but 2 of my 3 field have lights so really I am maxed out time wise anyway. Bill Ross would never get lights and it is not the size for older kids. If McDonald Park had lights it would help.	Bedford
		X				Lights on fields that would support our older age group playing would be helpful – however – the neighbors would not appreciate the lights	Hammonds Plains
				X		The only diamonds that can be used for 16+ already have lights. Lights may help for softball users.	Spryfield
		X				Having just ONE baseball diamond with lights would solve a lot of our associations issues. Porters Lake has the largest boundaries in the Dartmouth District and not 1 baseball diamond let alone any with lights.	Porters Lake
		X				Having more fields with lights would alleviate some of the issues, but not for our house league teams.	Comets
	X					No Comment	Highland Park
	X					HRM approved lights on Waverley Sports Park Field eleven years ago, still nothing – way past excuses.	LWF
	X					Lights at the Bill Zink field would be a huge help	Prospect
					X	Diamonds with lights helps our group – but because of the fact that 50% of our membership is under the age of 11 we cannot have the kids playing games under the lights. If there were more lights it would create a trickly down effect being more availability to all groups.	Dartmouth She Devils Softball
	X					They wouldn't need to have lights.	Sheet Harbour
		X				No Comment	Eastern Shore Adult Softball
	The Municipality has enough ball diamonds,			X			I really don't know how many underutilized diamonds there are. Upgrading is a great option as far as I'm concerned!

Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results

Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
upgrading underutilized diamonds would alleviate my scheduling challenges.				X		<p>Some underutilized fields are decent such as William Ross and East Preston for U13 and below however they need infields completely dug up and deeper into the outfields and also remove weeds and also cutting more around the fence lines on any fields surrounded by high grass/bushes/trees especially with ticks in our area now.</p> <p>If school fields could be refurbished into all weather turf *infield only* they could be usable (Astral Elementary for example)</p>	Cole Harbour Minor
			X			<p>If better scheduling and more lights are added, it will make things better for now, but with growth rates in areas like East Preston and Porters Lake, more fields could be used. Upgrading on all that have not been done is urgently needed. Baseball also needs at least 1 turf field. It would allow the field to be used earlier in the season and be open when dirt fields are not alleviating at least some of the re-scheduling. How many turf fields are there for soccer and football? Baseball has none.</p> <p>Woodlawn complex and the Woodside complex, the extra field at each that has been grown over, if it was renovated it would alleviate some of our scheduling needs. Add fencing to the bicentennial fields and move stands from being in play.</p> <p>Upgrading will help but may still not fully solve scheduling challenges, additional fields are needed.</p>	Dartmouth Arrows
			X			<p>Not in Bedford because there are no other diamonds to upgrade at all. If you were to upgrade some diamonds move the adults there and that would help with my scheduling issues.</p> <p>Bill Ross needs an infield, lot of green space available.</p> <p>U7 using green space is a good idea, it would take pressure off the other fields.</p>	Bedford
	X					<p>Yes – there is a diamond in Hubbards – it is a full size adult field – that is being used for soccer and softball. It would need a lot of work – but would be great</p>	Hammonds Plains
					X	<p>Upgrading to all-weather diamonds would help to reduce game times lost.... But HRM doesn't have close to enough ball diamonds. Large fields are non-existent beyond the commons.</p>	Spryfield
			X			<p>No Comment.</p> <p>Lake Echo is not suitable as it is not up to standard.</p>	Porters Lake

Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results

Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
						50 U5 kids use the field at once and not enough space to split them into 2 groups.	
		X				No Comment	Comets
				X		Not enough ball diamonds in Halifax	Highland Park
					X	HRM doesn't have any underused or any ball fields in this area. You could put baseball infields on the many school soccer fields that are vastly underused.  The Junior High, Gerorge P. Vanier and Waverley memorial are not great. We can't play games, we can do practice drills without hitting. It would be great if HRM can fix them up and the association can maintain them.	LWF
	X					No Comment.	Prospect
					X	Upgrading diamonds would certainly be a welcomed treat – but we currently are playing a lot of our ball on low grade diamonds and if they were upgraded would not assist the scheduling challenges. There is potential in a few places like the extra field in Woodlawn that could be upgraded.  The PVC pipe along the fence at Robert drive could be repurposed for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> field in Woodlawn.	Dartmouth She Devils Softball
				X		A second field in our area would help with scheduling a lot. Even a dual soccer/ballfield at the school would help.	Sheet Harbour
				X		No Comments	Eastern Shore Adult Softball
<b>Field Allocation</b>							
When I'm scheduling ballfields I'm able to find a field that is appropriate by age.		X				There are some diamonds we say no to because they are too small for us, but there are far more that are good for our age than not.	HSSC
					X	For example we have been forced to use BJ Higgins for U5 in 2022 and in 2023 the U7 and U9 use this very large field made for U15/18 ages.	Cole Harbour Minor
	X					Online booking/field status is needed badly. This was suppose to happen several years ago, but hasn't. Let kids play first, adults should go on the field later.	Dartmouth Arrows

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Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
					X	Again, at the start of the year yes but not once the season starts. It is near impossible to find field space at the Lenihan Fields.  In situations of flooding they cannot find fields.	Bedford
					X	It is very difficult to book fields for the 15 and over	Hammonds Plains
					X	Again, 1 field in Halifax for 16U, 6 teams using it. That is without any practices. Only open 6 days a week.	Spryfield
					X	This season I wasn't able to find a field that was available for my U15 team. I had to move them to play late games after our U13 team. Still waiting on upgrades to accommodate the U15 field that is set up.	Porters Lake
			X			No Comment	Comets
		X				Have a hard time with adults playing at 6:00pm and youth at 8:00pm	Highland Park
					X	Can't find enough ball fields for any ages.	LWF
				X		We do not have appropriate fields for 18U players and only one for 15U. The fields at Brookside Jr. High could be renovated to fit older age groups and lights at Bill Zink would also make the schedule manageable.	Prospect
				X		We have struggled to find diamonds that will accommodate several different age levels.	Dartmouth She Devils Softball
			X			We only have one field that everyone uses	Sheet Harbour
			X			No Comment	Eastern Shore Adult Softball
When a ballfield is not booked I feel it should be made available to any group who wants to use that field.	X					No Comment	HSSC
	X					Once the associations have their field contracts booked the available fields should be open to anyone. This would give associations and individual teams the ability to book on their own.	Cole Harbour Minor
				X		I feel that fields should be allocated to certain age groups and either baseball or softball. Each have different needs/requirements. Also, we could have a field booked on a weekend afternoon	Dartmouth Arrows

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Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
						and softball goes on before and messes up the diamond or won't get off the field at the assigned times causing delays.	
			X			I think the adults who can drive should use fields that are more under utilized than always going to Lenihan which is the most utilized field in HRM. This makes it almost impossible to book make up games outside Saturday evenings (not ideal time). No consideration for rest on the Lenihan fields even though they are the most used fields in HRM. Is there a place for the over 45 women's teams.	Bedford
			X			I feel that when people outside of the area are requesting fields – HRM should try to see where are some under utilized fields are – and book them there.	Hammonds Plains
				X		Allowing "any" group to use it would result in more scheduling issues.	Spryfield
			X			I feel it would be beneficial to know what fields are available to use in the case of a need for make up game or additional practice. I understand everyone should have access to fields, but we need access for make-up games.	Porters Lake
	X					Booking process has been a bit of a problem. We fully understand we are not the only ball clubs booking fields, but it makes it hard to plan when we have to wait days before getting a response. And the online option does not work.	Comets
		X				No Comment	Highland Park
					X	No one should be able to book the one and only ball field in this area other than Minor Baseball teams. We cannot accommodate rainouts, so we need to protect our own needs.	LWF
	X					We agree it should be able to be booked by anyone if its available.	Prospect
	X					If fields are not booked they 100% should be put back into the general population and made avail to user groups. Having said that, we don't want to travel for our games either.	Dartmouth She Devils Softball
	X					No Comment	Sheet Harbour
	X					No Comment	Eastern Shore Adult Softball
Scheduled field time should be booked fairly				X		Diamonds should be booked fairly, yes, but I think there is a lot more to consider than age and level of play. We hate to see adults loose space from a business perspective but we do understand that minor sport should be booked earlier.	HSSC

Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results

Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
based on age and level of play				X		No Comment	Cole Harbour Minor
				X		If you make fields age appropriate then this isn't as big of a deal.	Dartmouth Arrows
		X				Field time should first be allocated to the minor baseball/softball associations in the area and adults should be later.  Adults tailgate and sometimes drink after games, they should 8:30 onwards.	Bedford
	X					Yes – minors should have early time slots – adult softball should be in the later times	Hammonds Plains
			X			Doesn't really apply, but don't like the idea of favoring levels of play over others.	Spryfield
		X				I believe all teams should have a fair chance to play. Minor ball should play before adults.	Porters Lake
		X				No Comment	Comets
	X					No Comment	Highland Park
			X			No Comment	LWF
	X					No Comment	Prospect
					X	Not sure i understand what "booked fairly" truly means.  Most adults should not be playing on the same fields that minor ball uses.	Dartmouth She Devils Softball
			X			No Comment	Sheet Harbour
			X		No Comment	Eastern Shore Adult Softball	
<b>Scheduling</b>							
I feel that minor ball should be booked earlier						Not applicable	HSSC

Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results

Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
in the evening regardless of historical usage.				X		Baseball is not like hockey in that people will take whatever time is available. People will not join baseball as a result if it does not fit into their summer schedule.	Cole Harbour Minor
	X					Some of the younger ages it's not feasible to have them playing late at night. Older ages 18U is fine. Gets the kids in first, let adults play later.	Dartmouth Arrows
	X					100% - Bedford Minor Baseball can not grow because we can not get any additional field time to play our 11U and 13U program which can only be played on Joan Lenihan. Softball has it 2 nights a week and all day Sunday mornings.	Bedford
	X					Agreed	Hammonds Plains
				X		"Minor" ball covers up to 22 year olds. Contracts end at 11pm, not that late for teens in summer.	Spryfield
		X				Minor leagues should be able to have priority when it comes to early games. Especially when there is travel involved. Porters Lake is part of the Dartmouth District league and has games in Dartmouth and Eastern Passage. If they have to play late games they have the potential of not getting home until 11pm. This plays a factor of player involvement. Child 6 – 8:30 and adult 8:30 to 11 would be ideal.	Porters Lake
		X				No Comment	Comets
	X					No Comment	Highland Park
						Don't even know what this means, we begin practices at 4:00pm and games at 5:30 or 6:00pm depending on when it gets dark.  Agree, kids should play before adults.  Online access to field times is needed.	LWF
	X					Agree, we schedule it this way now, but would support a policy that prioritizes youth.	Prospect
					X	Minor ball should be booked early in the evenings – however there is only so many fields.	Dartmouth She Devils Softball
		X				No Comment	Sheet Harbour

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Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
				X		No Comment	Eastern Shore Adult Softball
<b>Conflicts</b>							
Unscheduled users often conflict with my bookings.				X		Anyone on the diamond leaves when we arrive	HSSC
					X	No issue in Cole Harbour.	Cole Harbour Minor
	X					Happens all the time on Conrad. Especially on Sundays.	Dartmouth Arrows
			X			Sometimes but really not often.	Bedford
					X	I have never had to ask someone to leave the field because they showed up before one of my users	Hammonds Plains
				X		Don't really see any unscheduled users.	Spryfield
			X			Porters Lake tries hard to work with the community and leagues who don't hold a contract for the fields so that there isn't too many conflicts, however there are teams that show up to use the fields and we have to show our contract. Also having an issue with a rouge team getting field time that should be used by teams in good standings instead.	Porters Lake
			X			No Comment	Comets
			X			No Comment	Highland Park
		X				Yes, rogue groups of adult slo pitch are often trying to force our kids teams off of fields we have booked.	LWF
			X			N/A	Prospect
			X			If there is any, its usually just a few individuals vs large groups, which I am Ok with because there are no issues.	Dartmouth She Devils Softball
	X				No Comment	Sheet Harbour	



**Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results**

Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
					X	No Comment	Eastern Shore Adult Softball
<b>Schedule Bumping</b>							
Tournaments frequently bump my scheduled practices and games.					X	NAIG did, but that is the only real experience I've had with ball diamonds bumping my bookings.	HSSC
					X	There are no ideal places to hold tournaments in my area like the CN Sportplex in Moncton.	Cole Harbour Minor
	X					As they need to. Generally very helpful scheduling or finding alternative fields.	Dartmouth Arrows
			X			Occasionally but not often.	Bedford
			X			Yes – but we usually work with the ones having the tournament to find other times	Hammonds Plains
				X		Not allowed to practice on our 1 field anyways. Not that many tournaments in the season either.	Spryfield
				X		Again, Porters Lake works with all the local leagues and this usually isn't an issue.	Porters Lake
				X		This only happened one time for our organization and there were alternate field options made available.	Comets
			X			No Comments	Highland Park
			X			We gave up trying to host tournaments 5 years ago as we have no field options, week-ends are all completely booked already all season.	LWF
				X		No Comment, not an issue for us.	Prospect
					X	While this happens occasionally – we are usually the groups putting on tournaments so the kids being bumped are often the ones playing in tournaments.	Dartmouth She Devils Softball
		X				A second field in our area would prevent this from happening.	Sheet Harbour
				X	No Comment	Eastern Shore Adult Softball	

Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results

Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
<b>Field Maintenance</b>							
Field maintenance issues (such as drainage or long grass, etc.) often cause scheduling challenges.				X		This occasionally an issue, but to an understandable extent. When we do have issues its due to long grass.	HSSC
				X		Not usually an issue however some fields such as Astral Elementary , Mt Edward Elementary and Robert Kempt Turner have drainage issues where puddles stay in the infield days after a rain impacting the player and team experience. If school fields could be refurbished into all weather turf *infield only* they could be useable. Better communication is needed on 311 requests, better follow-up is needed.	Cole Harbour Minor
	X					Grass needs to be cut before it gets too long regardless of the field classification. Some of the younger ages, ball gets lost in the outfield. Maintenance such as fence repairs need to happen when needed, not when there are a lot of them to do. It is a safety issue. The pitcher's mounts at ALL fields except Beazley are horrendous and embarrassing. In many cases they are a safety issue for the pitchers. They need to be built up with clay, not sand that runs off as soon as there is a bit of rain. Why does Big Beazley need a maintenance day on Mondays? It would allow 2 more teams to play games on it and/or with the number of tournaments at least allow the teams using it to play make up games. Especially in a summer like this, and extra night of usage could allow for a lot of make up games and more money for HRM.	Dartmouth Arrows
		X				Lenihan is an issue with flooding, lighting, and grass mowing. As for dragging of the fields, I think HRM does a good job.	Bedford
	X					Grass cutting is terrible – they need to cut more often in the early part of summer – they NEVER whipper snip. Fields could always use more dragging. I spend time moving water and puddles on fields in order to play – spend money for my summer staff to do this in order to play – and then I have to still pay for the fields	Hammonds Plains
			X			Drainage is an issue, but other maintenance is mostly good. Just too many closures on days that are nice due to previous days' weather.  Mainland commons should be opened on nice days, even if other fields are closed. We are checking the mainland common daily and it can often be played when the other fields are closed. The decision to closer fields is made too early.  Sean Garrett, field supervisor, is doing a great job.	Spryfield

**Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results**

Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
			X			I think everyone can agree the rain has not been our friend this season. We have had issues with long grass, drainage issues and field set up. I will say Chris Hargreaves has worked wonders for our association when push came to shove.	Porters Lake
	X					Field maintenance has been an issue. Not so much grass, but our flagstone fields (# 2 primarily) had the pitchers mound in the wrong spot and we've put in multiple requests to get it fixed, not done yet.	Comets
	X					Merv Sullivan and Maybank fields have horrible drainage. Merv Sullivan used to be crusher dust 25 years ago and never had drainage issues.	Highland Park
			X			Not a problem for us as HRM does not maintain any of our ball fields, we look after 6 community owned ball fields ourselves and at no cost.	LWF
	X					Bill Zink is a dog park from November 1 to May 1, it destroys the field with holes in the infield and outfield and dog feces. Mowing has gotten better but the permitter is not being done around the fences. The dugouts washout at Brookside every year and they have to call 311 have them fix each year. Parents sometime have to work on the fields to allow kids to play on them.	Prospect
	X					We play at some very difficult fields and have learned to work around some of the issues – however going to fields with weeds up to my knees for practices, or ball fields that are being shared as dog parks is not helping us at all. The dogs damaging the fields, hornets nests in dougouts, cause us to call 311, and no response or resolution to the issues.	Dartmouth She Devils Softball
			X			No Comment	Sheet Harbour
				X		No Comment	Eastern Shore Adult Softball
<b>Non-HRM Fields</b>							
I often have to book fields not owned by HRM to meet my needs.			X			I would be happy to book non-HRM diamonds to meet more of our needs, but I have not had much luck with this so I cannot say that I agree. We have contacted Enfield Legion and McDonald Park but we did not receive a response.	HSSC
			X			Not really any other suitable non HRM fields in our area except Shearwater, but we would if there were good fields available.	Cole Harbour Minor
			X			I haven't had to recently, but I do know of others that do.	Dartmouth Arrows
					X	We do not have any of those in Bedford but other groups constantly use our fields. Often my teams have to play outside our community in order to get make up games played. We are lucky to	Bedford

Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results

Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
						<p>have adjoining associations who works with us but still to have Bedford kids playing their home games outside their community is a reality and it should not be.</p> <p>We have had to book fields in Kentville because no fields were available for us to host a tournament here.</p>	
	X					I do use TCAC (Tantallon Fields) which are private. This is the only way I can have a 13U house league. Without this field I would be at a lost to have a spot to play	Hammonds Plains
	X					This week alone, 2 games and 2 practices outside HRM. We use East Hants Legion and Truro.	Spryfield
		X				Porters Lake doesn't mind Partnership fields and we do our part to help out, however I can speak to the fact that it could be managed much better when it comes to scheduling. Very disorganized and pretty much left to the leagues to contact each other to see who is using the field. Emails about using the field aren't returned, everyone knows when the men and woman play and you won't get on those fields that night. I think with a better scheduling program things wouldn't be so disorganized. And maybe someone that returned your emails or took your application for field bookings earlier then just before ball season.	Porters Lake
			X			No Comment	Comets
		X				This year we had to book Springfield Lake on numerous occasion because HRM does not have two fields together that can be used for tournaments. We need a facility with at least 22 fields together with lights and a clubhouse/washroom facility that can be locked and not unsafe.	Highland Park
	X					<p>90% of our field times/fields are privately owned by our communities and we maintain them. We book tones of times on HRM fields within 25-30 km of here and still not near enough.</p> <p>Outside of HRM owned fields we use: Waverley Legion, Windsor Junction Community Centre, Grand Lake, and Oakfield.</p>	LWF
				X		No Comment	Prosect
			X			<p>We have had to book multiple facilities outside of HRM owned facilities in order to meet our growing needs.</p> <p>Lawrencetown is one we use.</p>	Dartmouth She Devils Softball
		X				No Comment	Sheet Harbour

Attachment 3: Stakeholder Questionnaire Results

Detailed Questionnaire Results							
Question	Select the Appropriate Answer					Additional Comment	Association Response
	Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree		
					X	No Comment	Eastern Shore Adult Softball

**Attachment 4: Additional Feedback from Stakeholders**

Additional Comments Received from Ballfield Users

User Group / Ball Association	Additional Comments Received
Halifax Sport and Social Club	<p>Scheduling Process / Experience:            Booking experience - 3<sup>rd</sup> summer booking – Rely on historical bookings. Always trying to add space, but not sure what fields to ask for. Need to review contracts in detail to see if any new fields were added. Maybe meet at the end of the season to review underutilized fields, so she knows what to ask for the following year. Seems to be make-up space for last-minute, but nothing is available for ongoing use.</p> <p>Additional Feedback:            Online function – If it was a smooth process, they would use it. Less back and forth with Michael or Heather. Knowing what fields they get earlier in the year.            Earlier Booking Process</p>
Cole Harbour Minor Baseball	<p>Scheduling Process / Experience:            Heather is amazing</p> <p>Additional Feedback:            Self Serve Booking System            A system that is more nimble or self-user ability. One-off or last-minute bookings online.            More digital for viewing and signing contracts. It's not realistic to sign after every change.            Closing fields by zone or district.</p>
Dartmouth Arrows	<p>Scheduling Process / Experience:            Heather is amazing</p> <p>Additional Feedback:            Self Serve Booking System            A system that is more nimble or self-user ability. One-off or last-minute bookings online.            More digital for viewing and signing contracts. It's not realistic to sign after every change.            Closing fields by zone or district.</p>
Bedford Minor Baseball	<p>Scheduling Process / Experience:            Michael and Heather are great. Better now - Not signing contracts 1000 times. Online would be good if the process was smooth. 2.5 hour booking window for a game. Having a visual of what is available would be nice.</p>

	<p>Additional Feedback:  Rainouts - Some fields are playable when others are not, so it doesn't make sense to close all fields.  Baseball fields don't get maintained after every use like Hockey. Maybe earlier time slots should pay more for bookings due to the field being in good condition, whereas the folks playing later play on a field that has just been used.</p>
Hammonds Plains Minor Baseball	<p>Scheduling Process / Experience:</p> <p>Additional Feedback:  Hammonds Plains was unable to meet with staff but felt they are facing the same issues as Bedford and Lakeview Waverly Fall River Baseball.</p>
Spryfield Rays Intermediate Baseball	<p>Scheduling Process / Experience:  Scheduling process – Has improved compared to a couple of years ago. More knowledge is needed on what level can play where.</p> <p>Additional Feedback:  Closure on Monday nights is an issue.  Would rather not play on weekends. Especially for rec teams.  Turf would be a great asset... Even if it's just infield.  Classification/Field listing should include what is appropriate play on those fields (ie softball/baseball, 15U, 18U etc)  Artificial Turf – either full or infield only  Lights that are push button rather than scheduled.  Batting Cages</p>
Porters Lake Minor Baseball	<p>Scheduling Process / Experience:  <i>NOTE: Fields are scheduled through partnership, not HRM Facility Scheduling.</i>  Emails about using the field aren't returned, everyone knows when the men and women play and you won't get on those fields that night. I think with a better scheduling program things wouldn't be so disorganized. And maybe someone that returned your emails or took your application for field bookings earlier than just before ball season.</p> <p>Additional Feedback:  Fields should be looked at in the Fall to find out what maintenance needs to be done before the following season, so clients know before the Winter.  Having a Baseball field with lights would be at the top of wish list.  More visibility into partnership field availability.  Allocation policy that applies to all fields including partnership</p>
Cole Harbour Comets Softball	<p>Scheduling Process / Experience:</p>

	Additional Feedback:
Highland Park Minor Softball	Scheduling Process / Experience:  Additional Feedback:
Lakeside Waverly Fall River Baseball Association	Scheduling Process / Experience: Bookings – Never had an issue with HRM bookings.  Additional Feedback: Would do dragging and mowing at Range Park fields. Challenger baseball was displaced due to Correctional Field being a homeless encampment. 100 kids with disabilities. Built 3 batting cages. Built a small Windsor junction field and built 2 more, but not regulation fields. No practice times – start at 4 to practice. Not uncommon to have 3 or 4 teams practicing at once. Not everyone can make it at 4 and they realize that. School slo pitch is becoming popular and would love to have room for them. Cannot schedule practices any earlier. Already practicing at 400pm weekdays and using Saturday and Sunday timeslots.
Prospect Road Communities Minor Baseball Association	Scheduling Process / Experience: <i>NOTE: Fields are scheduled through partnership, not HRM Facility Scheduling.</i>  Additional Feedback: Making progress with having the fields looked after Having the gravel field fixed for more usage. Fencing, Lights, Larger infield. More porta potties. A building with a canteen.
Dartmouth She Devils Fastpitch	Scheduling Process / Experience: Scheduling – 8/10 on the process.  Additional Feedback: Better process and communication for rainouts. Would like to see more online visuals of what's available. And also booking online themselves for make-ups.
Sheet Harbour Rockets	Scheduling Process / Experience: <i>NOTE: Fields are scheduled through partnership, not HRM Facility Scheduling.</i>  Additional Feedback: More diamonds are needed.



	High School Soccer field is not used for soccer. Could be used for baseball if an infield was cut out in a corner. Dual purpose fields are successful in other areas, and would definitely help here.
Eastern Shore Adult Softball	Scheduling Process / Experience: <i>NOTE: Fields are scheduled through partnership, not HRM Facility Scheduling.</i>  Additional Feedback: