

Sportsground Management in NSW Inquiry Parramatta City Council Submission

Key Issues

Adequacy of Sportsground Provision

- Formal Sportsgrounds are currently at capacity (some fields experiencing overuse problems)
- Limited suitable open space is available to develop any additional sporting fields to cater for the forecast increase in population so further strain will be put on existing facilities which are already at capacity or over-utilised
- High costs of purchasing required number of private properties for additional suitable open space
- Sydney Metropolitan Strategy has a target of 21,000 extra dwellings (of which the majority will be medium/high density as Parramatta has very limited opportunities for any greenfield development) for Parramatta LGA in the next 25 years to accommodate the anticipated increase in population throughout Sydney
- Significant increases in the number of higher density dwellings with no 'traditional backyard' increasing demands on public open spaces
- Competing demands of different groups (all want to use in peak times)
- Increasing emergence of cultural games and user groups (e.g. Sudanese Soccer) in addition to traditional user groups is greatly increasing demand for existing facilities, with non-traditional sports particularly problematic as most fields are only equipped for single use (e.g. AFL) do to dangers associated with the erection of portable structures, such as goalposts, which allow for multiple uses of grounds.
- government campaigns to increase participation to combat child obesity, however Sportsgrounds are already at capacity with nowhere for additional participants to play organised sports
- Majority of school facilities are under-utilised as they are predominantly used only during school terms (42 weeks of the year) and school hours (6 – 7 hours), however are not available for use outside school hours during peak times for sporting user groups (evenings and weekends) – the use of school sportsgrounds could ease the pressure and overuse of existing Council fields and would allow for emerging groups to more easily access fields (particularly during peak times)

Facility Upgrade & Refurbishment Costs

- Council spent approximately \$1.7 million on the upgrade of existing and development of new, facilities at sportsgrounds between 2003/04 & 2005/06 financial years
- Increasing age and maintenance costs for large proportion of sporting fields and associated facilities such as amenities blocks, however the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation Capital Assistance and other funding programs available to Council are primarily for the development of new facilities NOT refurbishment of old facilities
- Also cost of building facility doesn't take into consideration the ongoing increase in maintenance costs to Council

Access

- Our sporting fields allocated on a seasonal basis (Summer & Winter)
- User groups need to apply for use of the fields through a formal Seasonal Allocation process prior to the beginning of each season (including pre-season)
- Users must adhere to usage terms and conditions (as per attached document)
- Fees and charges – different levels based upon criteria (as per attached document)
- Allocation based upon prior usage history, with established groups given priority for facilities they regularly have used in the past and new groups fit around historical users

- Our fees are heavily subsidised and only a small fraction of actual maintenance costs (e.g. 04/05 User Fees \$173k in comparison to \$685 Maintenance costs – not including utilities)
- Majority sports (e.g. Soccer and Cricket) dominate bookings and usage
- Grounds also have adhoc usage by non-organised groups and individuals who just turn up to fields when they are not in use by regular clubs (without booking)
- There is some corporate style usage during lunchtimes in playing fields in close proximity to Parramatta CBD, e.g. Touch Football

Health & Social Outcomes

- Australians have a strong sporting culture e.g. kids join local sporting team when they move into a new area
- Sporting groups bring communities together (e.g. Sudanese Soccer & Latin American Soccer groups)
- Informal community hubs / connections / social outlets enabling community wellbeing
- These sporting activities help youth develop confidence, build self esteem and help ensure social and emotional wellbeing

Maintenance & Environmental Issues

- Ever-increasing community expectations of sportsground condition and maintenance levels however user revenue is a small percentage of the total cost of maintaining sportsgrounds (e.g. 04/05 User Fees \$173k in comparison to \$685 Maintenance costs – not including utilities)
- Sporting seasons are now longer than in the past with clubs booking fields for preseason and off-season use (e.g. Summer Soccer) which increases the deterioration of the playing surface and greatly diminishes the amount of time available for preparation and recovery of grounds between winter/summer seasons
- Capacity of grounds has been reduced due to significant drought conditions and water restrictions, so Council is no longer able to irrigate fields using Sydney Water supply
- Lack of rain and increased usage is increasing the speed and level of deterioration of fields, resulting in increasing maintenance costs for Council to return fields to a reasonable standard following a season of use
- Use of greywater/stormwater conservation and reuse at sportsgrounds however need funding to develop specialised facilities at each individual ground – POTENTIAL GRANT PROGRAM
- Council is progressively installing computer-controlled floodlighting and irrigation to save energy and resources (e.g. lights are programmed to come on at certain hours for bookings – however if raining and fields closed, the lights can be turned off via computer or SMS from users phones authorised during the booking period)

Residential Amenity & Security Issues

- Overflow parking in residential streets surrounding sportsgrounds, particularly those with multiple fields, causing traffic and amenity problems for nearby residents

Public Liability Insurance

- Fitness Instructors (bootcamps and personal training) using council fields in the mornings
- Civil liability signage warning participants to use Councils facilities at own risk due to the potential for injuries to occur



Parramatta City Council

Open Space and Recreation

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE USE OF SPORTS GROUNDS

1. This agreement applies to the park/reserves(s) described in the schedule and only the sport/type of activity stated in the schedule shall be permitted to be performed.
2. The licensee shall pay all applicable fees, charges and/or any monies payable to the licensor (Council) in full prior to the expiry date stated in the schedule.
3. The licensee shall not sublet the park/reserve(s) to any other body.
4. The licensee shall use the park/reserve(s) only during the dates and times nominated in the schedule.
5. The licensee shall not commence any activities prior to 8.00am on any day.
6. The licensee shall cease all field activities prior to 10.00pm on any night.
7. The licensee must co-operate with other hirers and users of the park/reserve(s).
8. The licensee must ensure that the park/reserve(s) and the surrounds are kept clean, neat and tidy at all times.
9. The licensee is responsible for inspecting the playing surface, surrounds, car park, buildings, irrigation systems, fencing goal posts, structures and associated amenities prior to each use of the park/reserve(s) to ensure that they are free from obstacles or hazards and to take all reasonable steps to satisfy itself that there is no reasonable risk of injury from the park/reserve(s) to any person participating in the licensee's activities.
10. The licensee must observe the closing of the park/reserve(s) (ie. due to wet weather, maintenance etc.).
11. The licensee must phone Council's wet weather information line during periods of wet weather to confirm if Council has closed the park/reserve(s).
12. The licensee is responsible, during periods of wet weather where Council has determined that the park/reserve(s) are open, for determining whether park/reserve(s) are free from obstacles or hazards and to take all reasonable steps to satisfy itself that there is no reasonable risk of injury from the park/reserve(s) to any person participating in the licensee's activities.
13. The licensee is liable for the cost of rectifying any damage to the park/reserve(s) as a result of use during periods of wet weather.
14. The licensee shall be responsible for insurance covers (minimum \$5 million) pertaining to public liability (in the case of functions or recreation organised by the licensee). The licensee must name the licensor (Council) as an interested party on the policy/certificate of currency.
15. The licensee shall be responsible for property insurance covering all equipment and contents owned by the licensee within the facility.

16. The licensee is responsible for any equipment and/or goods stored in room/building(s).
17. The licensee must remove all equipment and/or goods stored in the room/building(s) during periods of inactivity. Use of the canteen is not exclusive.
18. The licensee must ensure that the building, electrical board and gates are locked and secured at all times when not in use.
19. The licensee must endeavour to take every possible steps/means to control the players, spectators and visitors at the park/reserve(s).
20. The licensee must control parking and ensure that all vehicles are parked correctly within the areas provided and that no vehicle is parked on the grassed areas or in front of any driveways.
21. The licensee must notify the licensor (Council) of any events that might be out of normal activities and are expected to generate larger than usual crowds and any extra noise.
22. The licensee must maintain the canteen facilities, fixtures and fittings and meet all relevant health regulations to the satisfaction of the licensor (Council).
23. The licensee may only advertise in accordance with the licensor (Council) guidelines and must not promote any alcohol or tobacco products on the premises.
24. The licensee must obtain express permission from Council and the appropriate permit from the Licensing Court of NSW for the sale and/or consumption of alcohol. Sale and/or consumption of alcohol will not be considered at park/reserve(s) where minors are training or playing. Consumption of alcohol from glass bottles is prohibited.
25. The licensee shall not be permitted to charge entrance fees to persons or vehicles at any of Council's parks/reserve(s).
26. The licensee shall not use amplified sound systems, amusement devices, fireworks with out the prior consent of the licensor (Council).
27. The licensee must obtain Licensor (Council) consent prior to the erection of temporary buildings, shelters, tents, marquees, stalls.
28. The licensee must report to the licensor (Council) all maintenance and repairs required at the park/reserve(s).
29. The licensee must obtain the licensor (Council) consent prior to carrying out any works, alteration and improvements to grounds and facilities at the park/reserve(s).
30. The licensee shall pay the appropriate proportion of 75% of electricity charges consumed at the park/reserve(s).
31. The licensee must give the licensor (Council) one (1) months written notice of any cancellation of the agreement.
32. The licensee must accept that this agreement is subject to the right of the licensor (Council) altering the charges and conditions at any time.

Parramatta City Council
Open Space and Recreation

**Sporting fields,
Parks
And
Reserves**



Parramatta City Council

Open Space and Recreation

July 2005 – June 2006

Fees & Charges for Sporting Fields, Parks and Reserves

A. Seasonal Hire (25 weeks)

B Grade Fields Include:

- Barton, Belmore, Binalong, Boronia
- Curtis / Dundas Park
- Eric Primrose
- FS Garside
- George Kendall Riverside Park – Upper Area, Guildford Park Field 1, Granville Park – Upper (Keith Collins)
- Max Ruddock Reserve
- Ollie Webb Reserve
- Ray Marshall Reserve, Robin Thomas Reserve, Rydalmere Park
- Sir Thomas Mitchell Reserve

C Grade Fields Include:

- Arthur Phillip Reserve (Redbank)
- Colquhoun Park, Cox Park
- Dan Mahoney Reserve, Doyle Ground
- Everly Park North, Everley Park South
- George Kendall Riverside Park – Lower Area, Guildford Park Fields 2 & 3, Granville Park – Lower (Claremont Street)
- Harry Gapes Reserve, Horlyck Reserve, Homelands Reserve
- John Curtain Reserve
- McCoy Park
- Old Saleyards
- Upjohn Park

D Grade Fields Include:

- Bright Park
- Fred Spurway Reserve
- PH Jeffery Reserve
- Sturt Street Reserve

	A Grade		B Grade		C Grade		D Grade	
	Excl GST	Inc GST	Excl GST	Inc GST	Excl GST	Inc GST	Excl GST	Inc GST
Full Day Full Size (Senior Field) per field	\$1125.53	\$1238.05	\$596.00	\$655.60	\$450.41	\$495.45	\$371.26	\$408.35
Half Day / Night Full Size (Senior Field) per field	\$563.25	\$619.55	\$293.08	\$322.35	\$225.69	\$248.25	\$179.31	\$197.20
Full Day Half Size (Junior Field) per field	\$563.25	\$619.55	\$293.08	\$322.35	\$225.69	\$248.25	\$179.31	\$197.20
Half Day / Night Half Size (Junior Field) per field	\$280.91	\$309.00	\$145.63	\$160.15	\$112.36	\$123.60	\$90.83	\$99.90

Netball Courts	Excl GST	Inc GST
Per Court	\$45.45	\$50.00

The Canteen is charged at \$123.05 per session per season.
 Additional Competition Games, Training 5% of Seasonal Fee
 Additional Cost of Lighting – 75% of Actual Cost

These Figures Include GST

A. School Hire of Sporting Fields (each use)

Schools are required to book grounds on a seasonal and casual basis. A number of grounds are available to schools at no cost during school hours.

Including

- Arthur Phillip
- Belmore Park, Binalong Park, Bright Park
- Colquhoun Park, Cox Park
- Dan Mahoney Reserve , Doyle Ground, Dundas Park No 3
- Eric Primrose Reserve No 2, Everley Park
- Fred Spurway Reserve
- George Kendall Riverside Park, Granville Park - Claremont Street, Guildford Park
- Harry Gapes Reserve, Horlyck Reserve
- John Curtin Reserve
- Max Ruddock Reserve, McCoy Park
- Old Saleyards Reserve , Ollie Webb Reserve
- PH Jeffery Reserve
- Rydalmere Park
- Sherwin Park Courts, Sir Thomas Mitchell Reserve, Sturt Street Reserve
- Third Settlement Reserve Courts
- Up John Park - **FREE**

Outside normal school Hours, schools will be charged at appropriate seasonal or casual rate:

	A Grade		B Grade		C Grade		D Grade	
	Excl GST	Inc GST	Excl GST	Inc GST	Excl GST	Inc GST	Excl	Inc GST
Local Schools Full Day Full Size (Senior Field) per field	\$44.01	\$48.40	\$23.41	\$25.75	Free	Free	Free	Free
Local Schools Half Day / Night Full Size (Senior Field) per field	\$23.41	\$25.75	\$11.70	\$12.85	Free	Free	Free	Free
Local Schools Full /Half Day/ Night Half Size (Junior Field) per field	\$23.41	\$25.75	\$11.70	\$12.85	Free	Free	Free	Free
Non Local Schools Full Day Full Size (Senior Field) per field	\$57.11	\$62.80	\$33.71	\$37.05	\$23.41	\$25.75	\$17.36	\$19.05
Non Local Schools Half Day / Night Full Size (Senior Field) per field	\$28.09	\$30.90	\$17.36	\$19.05	\$11.70	\$12.85	\$8.43	\$9.25
Non Local Schools Half Day / Night Half Size (Junior Field) per field	\$28.09	\$30.90	\$17.36	\$19.05	\$11.70	\$12.85	\$8.43	\$9.25

B. Casual Use of Parks, Reserves and Sports Fields

There is no fee for community social bookings of 50 people or less

Fee per Day:

Fairs / Carnivals/ Circus/ Animal shows/ Concert

	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Excl GST	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Inc GST	Bond
Commercial – Show Days	\$561.81	\$617.95	\$5304.50
Commercial – Non Show Days	\$280.91	\$309.00	\$5304.50
Community Benefit / Service- Income Generating -Show Days	\$111.90	\$123.05	\$2185.45
Community Benefit / Service- Income Generating -Non Show Days	\$57.11	\$62.80	\$2185.45
Community Benefit / Service – Non Income Generating	Free	Free	\$2121.80

Special Event / Performance

	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Excl GST	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Inc GST	Bond
Commercial	\$899.85	\$989.80	\$5304.50
Community Benefit / Service- Income Generating	\$225.69	\$248.25	\$2121.80
Community Benefit / Service – Non Income Generating	Free	Free	\$2121.80

Galas / Fetes/ Market Days

	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Excl GST	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Inc GST	Bond
Commercial	\$675.11	\$742.60	\$1060.90
Community Benefit / Service- Income Generating	\$168.55	\$185.40	\$265.20
Community Benefit / Service – Non Income Generating	Free	Free	\$265.20

Games/ Sporting Fields

	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Excl GST	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Inc GST	Bond
Commercial	\$450.41	\$495.45	\$1060.90
Social	\$90.83	\$99.90	\$265.20
Community Benefit/Service – Commercial Coaching Clinic	\$134.82	\$148.30	
Community Benefit / Service- Income Generating	\$67.41	\$74.15	\$265.20

Community Benefit / Service – Non Income Generating	Free	Free	\$265.20
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Celebrations/Gatherings/Picnics/ BBQ's/ Social/ Reunions

	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Excl GST	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Inc GST	Bond
Commercial	\$280.91	\$309.00	\$530.45
Social	\$67.41	\$74.15	\$106.05
Community Benefit / Service- Income Generating	\$67.41	\$74.15	\$106.05
Community Benefit / Service – Non Income Generating	Free	Free	\$106.05

Promotions / Exhibitions/Photography/Filiming

	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Excl GST	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Inc GST	Bond
Commercial	\$450.41	\$495.45	\$1060.90
Community Benefit / Service- Income Generating	\$67.41	\$74.15	\$265.20
Community Benefit / Service – Non Income Generating	Free	Free	\$265.20

Weddings

	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Excl GST	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Inc GST	Bond
Ceremony	\$90.91	\$100.00	\$250
Photography	\$45.45	\$50.00	

Organised commercial group fitness & personal training – per season (26 weeks)

	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Excl GST	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Inc GST	Bond
0-2 participants (max of 15, 2 hour sessions per week	\$136.36	\$150.00	
3-10 participants (max of 12, 2 hour sessions per week	\$363.64	\$400.00	
11-18 participants (max of 8, 2 hour sessions per week	\$636.36	\$700.00	

Parramatta Skate Park

	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Excl GST	Total Fee / Charge per Unit Inc GST	Bond
Commercial operators charging an entry fee			
Exclusive use	\$450.00	\$495.00	
Non-exclusive use	\$359.09	\$395.00	
Commercial operators not charging an entry fee			
Exclusive use	\$359.09	\$395.00	
Non-exclusive use	\$268.18	\$295.00	
Non-profit operators charging an entry fee			
Exclusive use	\$177.27	\$195.00	
Non-exclusive use	\$86.36	\$95.00	
Non-profit operators not charging an entry fee			
Exclusive use	\$86.36	\$95.00	
Non-exclusive use	\$45.45	\$50.00	

Additions Charges

Charge	Excl GST	Inc GST
Park Cleaning (hourly rate \$70 with min 3hrs)	\$190.91	\$210.00
Caretaker on site (hourly rate \$70 with min 3hrs)	\$190.91	\$210.00
Public Notification Fee (eg: fireworks)	\$50.00	\$55.00
Waste Management Fees		
First 240 litre bin	\$36.82	\$40.50
Additional 240 litre bins	\$5.00	\$5.50
Casual use of power within a park	\$22.73	\$25.00
Erection of jumping castle	\$68.18	\$75.00