

9. What do you enjoy doing outside of the workplace? Hobbies, favourite past times?

I enjoy being outdoors, so my summer hobbies include hiking, canoeing, fly fishing and identifying plants and birds. When the weather turns colder I quilt, knit and do other crafty projects to keep my hands busy.

10. What direction(s) would you like to see the industry, as a whole, move towards?

I think the industry should concentrate more on Pest Management Programs, which incorporate both Plant Health Care and Integrated Pest Management, instead of passing pesticide by-laws. Education about pests, alternatives and pesticides is extremely important. Public education is the key and can in itself reduce the amount of chemicals being applied to gardens and lawns. We still want to maintain a healthy and aesthetically attractive community. Unless we as a municipality take the lead by showing and educating the public that a PMP works and that pesticide use can be reduced and eliminated, implementing a by-law will not be successful. To view the website that the City of Oshawa has created for our PMP, please visit www.oshawa.ca/mun_res/pest.asp.

11. What do you consider to be the biggest benefit of being a member of the STA?

The networking is a great asset as this position is so new. The knowledge that is available through all the members is a resource that has made my job easier.

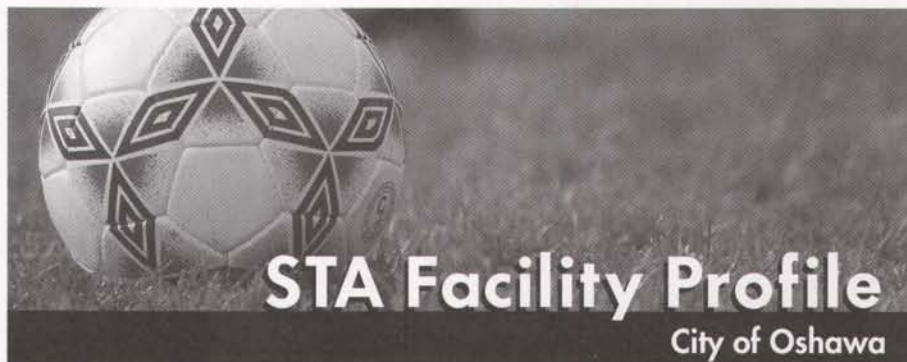
FACILITY PROFILE...

1. Name, location of facility.

The City of Oshawa has 118 athletic fields including 4 sport complexes. These include Lakeview Park, Lakefront West, Civic Auditorium and Alexandra Park.

2. General facility information.

Lakeview Park (8 diamonds lit and irrigated), Lakefront West (5 fields, 3 diamonds), Civic Auditorium (4 fields)



and Alexandra Park (1 field, 4 diamonds). Additional fields within other park areas.

3. What types of sports fields are on site?

Soccer, baseball, football and rugby. Ultimate frisbee and lacrosse are also played on some of these sites.

4. How many employees are involved with turf care?

To maintain the 4 sites there is 1 full time staff person and 19 seasonal staff.

5. How many acres of turf are maintained? How many acres of sports turf?

The staff maintains 178 acres which include 63 acres of sports turf.

6. What percentage of this acreage is irrigated?

Eighty percent of the facilities' sports turf is irrigated.

7. What is the primary type of turfgrass? Name of varieties.

The majority of the turf is Kentucky blue grass, however, our overseeding program consists of a mixture of perennial rye and fescue grasses.

8. Is yearly overseeding part of your sports turf maintenance program?

The City has had an overseeding program for many years. After the Guelph Turfgrass Institute (GTI) report was completed, a heavy overseeding program was started in the fall of 2004. Late play prevents overseeding at all locations.

9. How many times do you fertilize?

We granular fertilize at least three times a year if scheduling and weather permits. Liquid fertilizer and other product trials have been applied a few times this year. >>>>



Lakeview West in July – not a pretty site! Dramatic improvements were seen by October.

10. Do you aerate? Topdress?

We have a core and slit aerator. We try to aerate every field twice a year and the high profile fields 4 or more times a year. The City used to topdress, but the GTI recommended against it.

11. Has your municipality banned the use of pesticides?

No, the City of Oshawa has not instituted a ban. Instead, we have initiated a 5-year Pest Management Plan. The plan allows the use of pesticides if the pests are over a pre-determined threshold limit.

12. Are community user groups involved or have they been involved in the construction/maintenance of facilities? In what manner?

The Ball Diamond Council is involved and provided input into the original design and construction of Lakefront West. City staff is responsible for all maintenance of the 4 facilities. The Soccer Council meets monthly with city representatives to discuss any issues. We exchange ideas and promote the benefits and values of the Pest Management Plan (see article beginning on the front cover).

13. How many hours per year are the fields permitted? Who permits them? Are the fields ever closed during the season to give them a rest? How much input do you have in the amount and timing of use?

In 2005, the soccer fields were permitted just under 18,500 hours. The Facility Booking Department in Oshawa permits all sports fields. Fields are closed if weather conditions are poor. Spring and fall closures are based on the conditions of the fields and required maintenance. We are currently developing an open/closed policy for the sports fields. The Outdoor Sports and Facility Study (OSFS) identified supply and demand issues particularly for soccer. The OSFS identified the need, when the supply is met, to rest at least 6 fields on a rotating basis. ♦



Winter Driving Survival Kit

It's a good thing to keep a winter survival kit in your vehicle. Having essential supplies can provide some comfort and safety for you and your passengers should you become stranded.

Recommended Items

- Ice scraper/snowbrush
- Shovel
- Sand or other traction aid
- Tow rope or chain

- Booster cables
- Road flares or warning lights
- Gas line antifreeze
- Flashlight and batteries
- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Small tool kit
- Extra clothing and footwear
- Blanket
- Non-perishable energy foods, e.g. chocolate or granola bars, juice, instant coffee, tea, soup, bottled water
- Candle and a small tin can
- Matches

— *Winter Driving - Be Prepared, Be Safe*, Ontario Ministry of Transportation, <http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/winterdrive/winterdrive.htm>

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