



**King County**

**Ron Sims**

King County Executive

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**ATTACHMENT 3**

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CLERK  
KING COUNTY COUNCIL

January 31, 2003

The Honorable Cynthia Sullivan  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember Sullivan:

Ordinance No. 14509 (the Parks Omnibus) required a comparative report on grass and sand ballfields administered by the Parks Division. Enclosed is a copy of the analysis, serving as the report, on the comprehensive costs of operating and maintaining grass ballfields and sand ballfields as well as the revenues generated from the fields. Until the report is filed and the Council has approved a fee structure for ballfields, the division must continue to charge the fees for sand ballfields as existed in 2002 prior to the passage of the omnibus ordinance with a projected \$105,000 loss in revenue.

The clearest comparison of sand and grass ballfields is at Marymoor Park which has both grass and sand fields within its boundaries. On a per game basis, the projected 2003 maintenance and utility expenses of a sand field are almost \$65 while the expenses of a grass field are just over \$36.

The 2002 revenues from grass ballfields (almost \$7.75 per game) are significantly lower than the 2002 revenues from sand ballfields (almost \$41.00 per game) because adults are scheduled on the sand fields and the lower-fee youth are scheduled on the grass fields.

Even with the fee increases for 2003 (including charging the same for use of sand ballfields as grass ballfields) user fees are projected to cover only 40% – 50% of expenses on a system-wide basis. The Marymoor sand ballfields may reach full cost recovery with the requested doubling of fees only because of the higher adult fees as compared to the lower youth fee structure impacting grass ballfields at Marymoor.

While there are many individual details of the analysis that could be discussed, it is clear that system-wide sand soccer fields do not pay for themselves now and will not pay for themselves with a doubling of fees. The most significant discount in the fee structure is for youth activities.



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The proposed fee structure for ballfields accompanying this transmittal removes the "Sand Soccer Fields" category. If approved by the Council the same Field Use fees would apply regardless of the playing surface.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Bob Burns, Acting Manager, Parks and Recreation Division, at (206) 296-4169.

Sincerely,



Ron Sims

King County Executive

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: David deCourcy, Chief of Staff

Shelley Sutton, Policy Staff Director

Mike Reed, Lead Staff, NRPOS Committee

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Cal Hoggard, Chief of Staff, County Executive Office (CEO)

Rod Brandon, Assistant County Executive, CEO

Sheryl Whitney, Assistant County Executive, CEO

Ethan Raup, Deputy Chief of Staff, CEO

Maura Brueger, Deputy Chief of Staff, CEO

Steve Call, Director, Office of Management and Budget

Paul Tanaka, County Administrative Officer, Department of Executive Services

Pam Bissonnette, Director, Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)

Bob Burns, Acting Manager, Parks & Recreation Division, DNRP

Shelley Marelli, Assistant Manager, Parks & Recreation Division DNRP