

**To: David Creery, Chief Administrative Officer**

**From: Brian Connors, Director of Parks & Recreation**

**Re: Parks Job Title Change – Sport Field and Turf Technician**

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**AIM**

To seek Council’s approval that a Parks Skilled Labourer position move to Sport Field and Turf Technician.

**BACKGROUND**

The City of Woodstock has undergone a process where trained City of Woodstock Staff redevelop and, in many cases, build new sports fields themselves. This in turn saves hundreds of thousands of dollars in contactor costs and would put many sport field projects out of budgetary scope for the City. The training that the Sportfield Technician requires also allows sport fields to be maintained in such a way as to reduce player injury and litigation.

The training requirements to become a Sportfield Technician consists of a five-week course in turf and Sportfield management at the University of Guelph and requires each candidate to pass a written knowledge component and maintain over an 80% average to receive accreditation.

The City Council approved an additional full-time Sportfield Technician to start in July 2024. This position will be posted shortly. This request relates to a vacancy created by a staff member moving to another city department.

**COMMENTS**

At present there is a vacant Skilled Labourer position within the Parks department. This position spent 85% of the time working in the Sport Field and Turf Technician role and held qualifications for this role. The rate of pay increase is an additional one dollar and four cent (\$1.04) premium should a qualified worker spend at least one hour on a sport field per day, as set out in the Collective Agreement. The result is that this Park Skilled labourer position was paid at the higher Sportfield Technician rate of pay most of the time. There is a need for the higher skills of an additional full time Sportfield Technician parks staff person. The current vacancy provides an opportunity to post this position as a Sportfield Technician as opposed to a Parks Skilled Labourer. During spring, summer and fall seasons, this position would be working on sport fields each day and during winter months, this position would also be designing, constructing, or redeveloping sport fields unless the fields were frozen during snow events.

The minor additional cost will be absorbed by the Parks Department budget.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Woodstock City Council approve the conversion of a Park Skilled Labourer position to a Sport Field and Turf Technician position.

*Authored by: Brian Connors, Director of Parks and Recreation*

*Approved by: David Creery, MBA, P.Eng., Chief Administrative Officer*