

SUNSHINE COAST SPORTS FIELD STRATEGY

MAY 2026



**SUNSHINE COAST
SCHOOL DISTRICT 46**

The development of this plan as guided by staff input from the following:

Sunshine Coast Regional District
District of Sechelt
Town of Gibsons
shíshálh Nation
Sunshine Coast School District No. 46

Thank you to those interested parties, rightsholders, residents and members of the public who shared their thoughts and ideas through the community engagement process.

The Consulting Team



Megan Turnock, Principal
Leigh Campbell, Senior Planner
Kendra Scanlon, Landscape Designer
Noora Hijra, Landscape Designer

and

Andrew Banks, ParkWise Consulting Inc.



The lands within Sunshine Coast Regional District are located on the territories of the shíshálh and Skwxwú7mesh Nations.

We respectfully acknowledge the First Nations' long history of stewardship and deep knowledge.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sports fields are vital community assets on the Sunshine Coast, supporting physical activity, community connection, youth development, and lifelong participation in sport and recreation. As the region continues to grow and evolve, ensuring the long-term sustainability, quality, and equitable access to sports fields has become increasingly important.

The Sunshine Coast Sports Field Strategy has been jointly developed by the District of Sechelt, Sunshine Coast Regional District, Town of Gibsons, shíshálh Nation, and Sunshine Coast School District No. 46 (the Working Group) in recognition that sports participation transcends jurisdictional boundaries and that coordinated, regional approaches are essential to maximizing the value of limited land, financial, and operational resources.

This Strategy provides a shared vision and practical framework to guide sports field planning, management, allocation, and investment over the next 10 years. The scope includes outdoor rectangular sports fields and ball diamonds; outdoor court facilities such as tennis and pickleball are outside the scope of this work.

The Sunshine Coast faces several challenges in the provision of sports fields. While the overall number of rectangular fields and ball diamonds is sufficient relative to comparable communities, many fields are in fair or poor condition due to outdated construction methods, poor drainage, limited irrigation, water restrictions during drought periods, and heavy use concentrated on a small number of higher-quality or lit fields.

At the same time, sports participation patterns are changing. Soccer registrations are increasing, baseball participation is stable or declining, and many sports are extending their seasons through additional training, camps, and tournaments. These trends, combined with a growing population of 32,191 residents, projected to reach 38,000 residents by 2045, are placing increasing pressure on existing natural grass fields. Engagement results demonstrate strong public and user group support for improving field quality, reliability, and booking systems.

The Strategy is informed by:

- A comprehensive inventory and condition review of existing sports fields;
- Supply and demand analysis, including booking and limited usage data;
- Benchmarking against comparable regional districts in British Columbia;
- Review of relevant bylaws, policies, and strategic plans, and
- Engagement with Working Group staff, sports field user groups, and the public.

This evidence-based approach ensures that recommendations are grounded in the local context, best practices, and community priorities.

VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A vision statement was developed to guide the operations, management, and development of sports fields on the Sunshine Coast over the next 10 years. The vision serves as an aspirational target for the guiding principles and recommendations. The vision is grounded in the public engagement results, background analysis, research on best and leading practices, and discussion with the Working Group.

The Sunshine Coast is home to a well-maintained network of equitably distributed sports fields that promote active living and support both recreational and competitive play.

Strategically coordinated maintenance and investment in sports fields and amenities are supported by an efficient, equitable booking system. Together, these efforts ensure these fields serve as inclusive venues that contribute to community health and well-being, support enhanced learning opportunities, and nurture participation across all ages and skill levels.

Drawing from the strategic guidance from members of the Working Group, five guiding principles were developed to support achievement of the vision, including:

- regional collaboration;
- efficient service delivery;
- alignment of investment with field function and condition;
- environmental sustainability (including water stewardship), and
- equity, accessibility, and reconciliation.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Strategy is organized around three interconnected goals:

Goal 1: Leverage relationships and collaborative partnerships to enhance sports fields on the Sunshine Coast.

Continued collaboration among the Working Group is essential to delivering consistent service levels and making strategic investment decisions. Key actions include formalizing the roles and responsibilities of the Working Group, considering expanding or developing separate Joint Use Agreements to include the District of Sechelt and the Town of Gibsons to better leverage school and community benefits, improving communication and engagement with sports field user groups, and exploring partnerships and external funding opportunities.

Goal 2: Improve the quality of sports fields on the Sunshine Coast.

The Strategy recommends implementing a renewed, shared sports field classification system and corresponding service levels to guide maintenance, allocation, and capital investment in existing fields. Asset management practices will support data-driven decision-making, while targeted capital upgrades, such as drainage and irrigation improvements, lighting installations, and other infrastructure upgrades, will increase field capacity and climate resilience. Over the long term, consideration may be given to higher-capacity solutions, such as artificial turf or a regional sports hub, if supported by usage data.

Goal 3: Promote community well-being and equitable access to sports fields.

To ensure fair and sustainable access to sports fields, the Strategy recommends developing a coordinated allocation policy and exploring a centralized booking system. These tools will reduce inefficiencies, improve transparency, and support the collection of accurate usage data. The Strategy also emphasizes accessibility improvements, universal design principles, and better communication about field availability for informal community use.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Strategy will be implemented through a phased, multi-year approach aligned with each Working Group member’s financial planning processes. Endorsement of the Strategy signals collective support for its direction, without committing specific funding levels. Priority actions focus on strengthening governance, improving data collection and coordination, and initiating targeted field improvements that deliver the greatest regional benefit.

By working collectively, aligning investments with field function and demand, and responding proactively to changing participation trends and climate realities, the Working Group can ensure that sports fields continue to support healthy, inclusive, and vibrant communities on the Sunshine Coast for years to come.

Goal 1: Leverage relationships and collaborative partnerships to enhance sports fields on the Sunshine Coast.

Recommendation		Priority
1.1	Continue to support collaboration among the Working Group by formalizing roles and responsibilities through an adopted Terms of Reference.	High
1.2	Consider partnership models for shared capital investments and maintenance.	High
1.3	Consider expanding or developing separate Joint Use Agreements to include the District of Sechelt and the Town of Gibsons to better leverage school and community benefits.	High
1.4	Develop a framework to improve and formalize engagement and communication with sports field user groups to help optimize utilization of sports fields.	Medium
1.5	Explore opportunities for corporate or other sponsorship mechanisms, including grants to fund sports field infrastructure and amenity upgrades.	Medium

Goal 2: Improve the quality of sports fields on the Sunshine Coast.

Recommendation		Priority
2.1	Adopt a renewed Sports Field Classification system to be shared by all members of the Working Group.	High
2.2	Adopt service levels and maintenance standards tied to sports field classifications to be used by all members of the Working Group.	High
2.3	Use Asset Management planning practices for sports field infrastructure to strategically manage and prioritize investments, ensuring long-term sustainability and quality.	High
2.4	Prioritize targeted capital upgrades collaboratively to provide the right mix of field classifications for the region and to improve field capacity and resilience.	High
2.5	Manage sports fields with climate resiliency in mind.	Medium

Goal 3: Promote community well-being and equitable access to sports fields.

Recommendation		Priority
3.1	Develop a coordinated allocation policy for all members of the Working Group.	High
3.2	Coordinate all field bookings and consider implementing a centralized booking system.	High
3.3	Consider implementing fees for sports field use to help manage fields and better understand actual use.	High
3.4	Identify opportunities to improve accessibility at sports field sites, including parking, access routes, washrooms, seating, and pathways. Develop prioritized capital improvement plans.	Medium

1 GLOSSARY

The following terms are used throughout this report:

Sports Field: An open area used for organized or spontaneous sports activities and play.

- **Ball Diamond:** A four-cornered area of a field that is enclosed by three bases and a home plate and associated outfield used for baseball or softball. All ball diamonds have a backstop. Dimensions come in various sizes based on age groups and levels of play.
- **Rectangular Field:** A rectangular-shaped, open-planar playing surface that is used for sports such as soccer, football, ultimate, and rugby. Each of these activities has specified, official dimensions with varying levels of adaptability based on age groups and levels of play. Two field sizes are identified in the inventory:
 - **Full Size Field:** Field suitable in size for adult soccer with approximately FIFA-recommended dimensions for an 11 vs 11 field of 90-120m length by 45-90m width.
 - **Partial Field:** Field smaller than full size, generally suitable as practice fields for adults or for youth soccer programming.
- **Overlapping Field:** A sports field that accommodates multiple types of sports or activities within the same playing surface or space. For this report, an overlapping field has both soccer and ball diamond infrastructure.

Working Group: Includes the District of Sechelt, Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD), Town of Gibsons, shíshálh Nation, and Sunshine Coast School District No. 46, who worked together to develop this Sports Field Strategy.

2 INTRODUCTION

Sports fields are vital amenities for the Sunshine Coast community. They promote physical fitness, social interaction, and inclusivity, enriching the lives of residents of all ages and enhancing the overall quality of life. However, the Sunshine Coast faces challenges with the quality and quantity of its sports fields due to:

- limited resources for maintenance,
- poor underlying field conditions in some fields,
- water restrictions during drought,
- competing sports users,
- limited available land for new fields, and
- a projected population growth that will increase demand for sports fields.

Recognizing that sports participation crosses jurisdictions on the Sunshine Coast and that coordinating effective use of resources will improve opportunities for everyone, the District of Sechelt, Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD), Town of Gibsons, shíshálh Nation and Sunshine Coast School District No. 46 (further referred to as the “Working Group”) worked together to develop this Sports Field Strategy. The scope of the Strategy includes rectangular sports fields and ball diamonds. Outdoor sport courts, including tennis and pickleball courts, are outside of the scope of this Strategy.

The Strategy is informed by guiding documents, a study of the existing inventory and current demand, benchmarking against comparable communities, and engagement with Working Group staff, sports field users, and the public. The strategy defines a shared vision and provides recommendations to guide sports field management, allocation, and capital and operational investments over the next 10 years, supporting sustainability, inclusion, and equitable access to sports and recreation for all residents of the Sunshine Coast, now and into the future.

2.1 PROJECT PROCESS

Development of the Sunshine Coast Sports Field Strategy included the following phases:

Phase 1: Background Analysis – This phase of the project included discussions with staff, background research, a review of existing policies and other documents providing strategic guidance, inventorying sports fields, and completing a supply/demand analysis. A comparative analysis was conducted between the supply of sports fields on the Sunshine Coast and those in other jurisdictions, along with a review of best practices for sports field management in British Columbia.

Phase 2: Community Engagement – To assess sports field utilization and identify areas for enhancement, engagement was conducted with key stakeholders and user groups, complemented by a public survey to gather input from the greater Sunshine Coast community.

Phase 3: Sports Field Strategy – The strategy was developed based on the data and feedback gathered during the first two phases of the project. Draft directions were shared with sport users group prior to preparing the final draft strategy.



Photo 1. Shirley Macey Park

3 CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

3.1 STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

To ensure alignment, the Strategy incorporated the plans and policies that guide each Working Group member community.

Strategic Plans from the Sunshine Coast Regional District, the District of Sechelt, the Town of Gibsons, and the shíshálh Nation’s Strategic Framework all place strong emphasis on sustainability, collaboration, and equity. Each plan highlights climate resiliency and environmental stewardship as central priorities, particularly around water stewardship and management. Sunshine Coast School District No. 46’s Strategic Plan complements these themes by advancing a vision of a thriving and inclusive community of lifelong learners, grounded in the values of learning, belonging, integrity, and equity. Social equity, reconciliation, and collaboration with regional partners are consistently highlighted, reflecting a collective commitment to inclusive and cooperative approaches to governance and service delivery.

Sunshine Coast School District No. 46’s Long-Range Facilities Plan commits to partnering with the community to create opportunities for joint use of school facilities outside of school hours, enhancing education and community development, positioning schools as integral, community-based resources.

For a summary of all the reviewed documents, please see Appendix A.

Sunshine Coast Regional District	District of Sechelt	Town of Gibsons	shíshálh Nation	Sunshine Coast School District No. 46
• SCRD Board of Directors Strategic Plan • Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2014) • Cliff Gilker Park Management Plan (2007)	• 2023-2026 Strategic Plan • Official Community Plan (2010) • Parks & Open Space Master Plan (2018) • Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (2019)	• 2023-2027 Strategic Plan • Official Community Plan (2015)	• Strategic Framework	• 2024-2029 Strategic Plan • Long Range Facilities Plan (2023)

Figure 1. Guiding Documents

3.2 OTHER GUIDING PLANS AND FRAMEWORKS

3.2.1 CANADIAN SPORTS FOR LIFE

Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) is a not-for-profit organization that advocates for improving the quality of sport and physical activity in Canada. CS4L's central philosophy is a continuum of participation in sport coined Long-Term Athletic Development (LTAD), which outlines levels of support, coaching, and facilities required for athletes to thrive at each level of sport, from initial involvement to high-level performance, with a focus on creating a community that focuses on positive experiences that set the stage for a lifelong relationship with physical activity at all development levels. Summaries of the LTAD Framework for the five major sports using fields on the Sunshine Coast (baseball, soccer, softball, rugby and ultimate) are provided in Appendix C.

CS4L also provides a framework for municipalities to support and promote community sport through eleven Long-Term Community Development Goals, one of which is guidelines for facilities.¹ CS4L advocates for using the following criteria when assessing a community's sports facilities system:

- Fair and equitable allocation policies and procedures exist.
- All recreation and sport facilities have been assessed for which stages of the CS4L continuum they are suitable, and for which stages they are deficient.
- There is collaboration among community partners to support the development of sustainable sport facilities, green spaces and equipment that is accessible to all citizens.
- There are joint-use facility agreements and/or innovative facility partnerships with school boards, municipalities, sport and recreation groups, and others.
- Opportunities are provided for children to experience physical literacy in all environments (air, outdoors, ice and snow, water and ground).

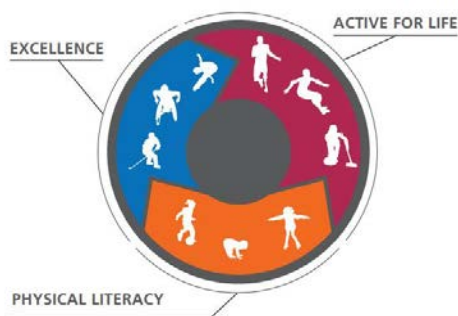


Figure 2. Sport for Life Development Goals

¹ Canada Sport for Life (2013) *Becoming a Canadian Sport for Life Community 2.0*.
<https://sportforlife.ca/portfolio-item/becoming-cs4l-community/>

3.3 COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Strategy encompasses the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD), which includes three municipalities and five electoral areas: District of Sechelt, Town of Gibsons, shíshálh Nation Government District, and the SCRD Electoral Area A – Egmont/Pender Harbour, Electoral Area B – Halfmoon Bay, Electoral Area D – Roberts Creek, Electoral Area E – Elphinstone, and Electoral Area F – West Howe Sound.

The following data is sourced from the 2021 Census and BC Statistics.

- Sunshine Coast population grew 7.3% between 2016 and 2021, from 29,970 to 32,191 people, and is projected to increase by 17% to approximately 38,000 by 2045.
- The District of Sechelt is centrally located within the region and accounts for 34% of the population.
- Average age is 50.4 years old, higher than the average age in British Columbia as a whole.
- Higher proportion of seniors aged 65 years and older relative to the British Columbia population.
- Lower proportion of youth aged 0-14 years, relative to the British Columbia population.
- Youth population is expected to remain relatively stable over the next 10 years, with most of the project growth occurring in the 40-59 and 80 years and older age groups.

Based on this data, the distribution of age groups indicates a need for programming that supports a diverse range of ages. The demand for youth programming is unlikely to increase significantly. However, this should be monitored through sports registration.

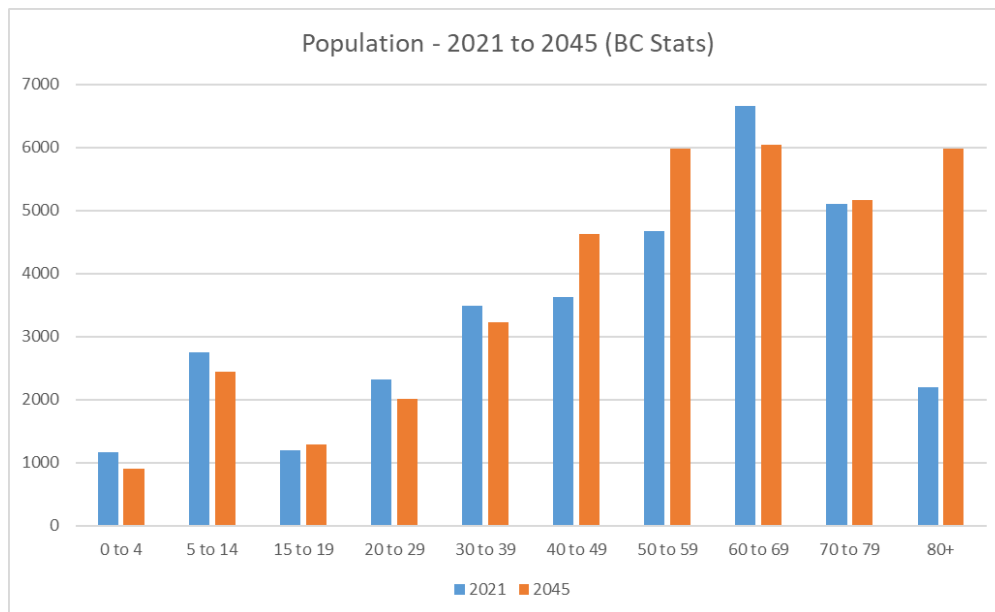


Figure 3. Population Estimate and Projections (BC Stats)

3.4 EXISTING BYLAWS, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

3.4.1 REGULATORY BYLAWS

The regulatory framework for sports field use across Sunshine Coast jurisdictions varies, but generally requires permits for organized or special events:

- SCRD's Park Regulation and Fees Bylaw requires permits for sports competitions and tournaments as special events, with a detailed permitting policy but no field-specific fees.
- The District of Sechelt's Parks Bylaw regulates park use and requires permits for organized activities on sports fields, supported by a risk assessment schedule that determines deposit and insurance requirements.
- The Town of Gibsons' Public Places Regulation Bylaw requires permits for tournaments and events, though no related fees are listed in the Rates, Fees and Charges Bylaw.
- shíshálh Nation does not have a relevant bylaw.
- Sunshine Coast School District No. 46 governs sports field rentals through its facility rental regulation, allowing community use of school fields outside school hours.

3.4.2 ALLOCATION POLICIES

SCRD, the District of Sechelt, and Sunshine Coast School District No. 46 have allocation priorities outlined through bylaw, administrative regulation, or division procedures. Generally, these frameworks prioritize residents and school activities, Joint Use Agreement partners, and youth programming over adult, commercial, or non-resident use.

Field use booking procedures vary by Working Group member:

- SCRD administers the booking for Brothers Park field on behalf of the Town of Gibsons (in-kind).
- Sunshine Coast Baseball Association manages Ryan Dempster Field (Town of Gibsons). Field use information was not provided.
- SCRD and District of Sechelt booking staff meet twice a year to schedule field bookings – one for the spring/summer season, and one for the fall/winter season. Allocation meetings with sports field user groups may be held as needed to resolve conflicting allocation requests.
- shíshálh Nation previously had a community volunteer assisting with field bookings for the Ted Dixon fields.
- School facilities are booked through an online booking system, accessible through SD46's website. Booking requests submitted during school closure periods are reviewed and processed once schools are back in session.

4 CURRENT STATE ANALYSIS

4.1 EXISTING INVENTORY

The Sunshine Coast has a total inventory of 32 rectangular fields and 29 ball diamonds at 26 locations throughout the region. Most of these locations feature overlapping rectangular fields and ball diamonds. Overlapping fields may have 1, 2, or 3 ball diamonds, in addition to the rectangular field. One location has only a ball diamond, while eight locations have only rectangular fields. There are also two rectangular gravel fields in the inventory. The following provides a summary of the inventory.

For detailed rectangular field and ball diamond listings, please see Appendix D.

Overlapping Fields

Overlapping fields allow multiple sports to be accommodated within a limited land base and provide adaptability as participation rates in various sports change over time. The primary seasons for sports played on rectangular fields and ball diamonds generally occur at different times of the year, making shared fields an efficient use of space. However, the trend toward extended peak seasons and increased off-season activity, such as training, camps, and tournaments, creates scheduling overlaps with sporting group seasons that may be difficult to manage.

School Fields

School fields are heavily used for educational purposes and school athletic programs, as well as for self-regulating, self-directed play during recesses and lunch hours, particularly at elementary schools. They are generally unavailable for community bookings during regular school hours and are often not of regulation size or of suitable condition for competitive play. However, they do play an important role in field provision for younger age groups or for practices. Sunshine Coast School District No. 46 fields are currently used by baseball user groups for t-ball and other programs for younger age groups, but are not typically used by soccer user groups.

4.1.1 RECTANGULAR FIELDS

There are 32 rectangular fields on the Sunshine Coast. Table 1 shows the supply of rectangular fields by all the members of the Working Group.

Rectangular Field Distribution

Most rectangular fields are located within the District of Sechelt and the Town of Gibsons. Each electoral area has either two or three rectangular fields. Electoral Areas with the lowest number of rectangular fields per capita are Electoral Areas “D” (Roberts Creek) and “E” (Elphinstone). Over half of the rectangular field supply is school district fields.

Table 1. Rectangular Field Inventory

	SCRD	Sechelt	Gibsons	shíshálh Nation	SD 46	Davis Bay	Total
Rectangular Grass Field - Full	3	-	-	2	2	-	7
Rectangular Grass Field - Full, Overlapping	1	2	1	-	3	-	7
Rectangular Grass Field - Partial	-	-	-	-	5	-	5
Rectangular Grass Field - Partial, Overlapping	1	2	-	-	7	1	11
Rectangular Gravel Field	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
TOTAL RECTANGULAR FIELDS	6	4	1	2	18	1	32

4.1.2 BALL DIAMONDS

There are 29 ball diamonds on the Sunshine Coast. All but one of these fields are overlapping with rectangular fields. Table 2 shows the supply of ball diamonds by all the members of the Working Group.

Table 2. Ball Diamond Inventory

	SCRD	Sechelt	Gibsons	shíshálh Nation	SD 46	Davis Bay	Total
Ball Diamond	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Ball Diamond - Overlapping	4	7	3	-	13	1	28
TOTAL BALL DIAMONDS	4	7	4	0	13	1	29

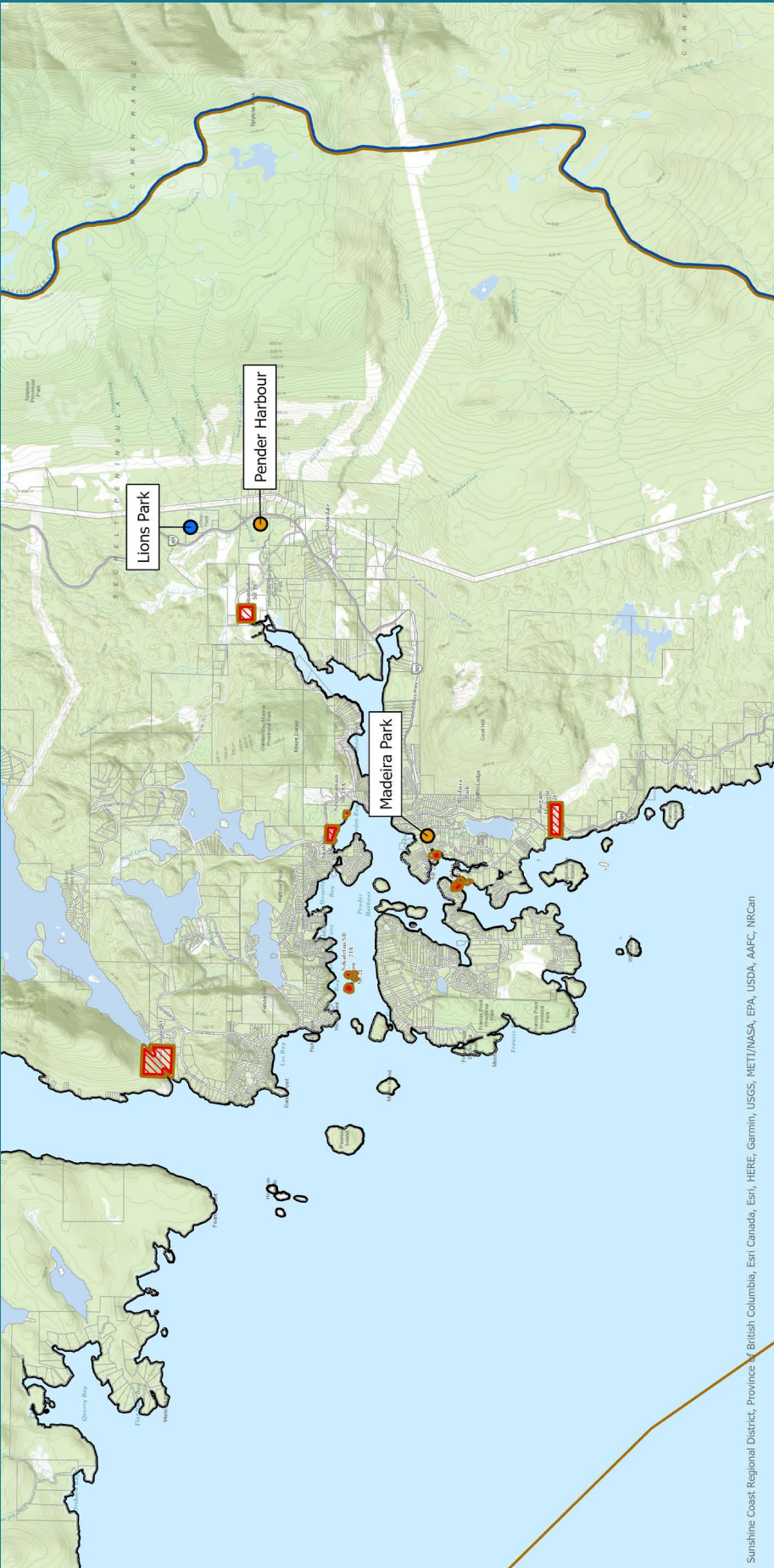
Ball Diamond Distribution

Most ball diamonds are located within the District of Sechelt and the Town of Gibsons. Electoral Areas “A” (Egmont/Pender Harbour), “E” (Elphinstone) and “F” (West Howe Sound) are supported by school district ball diamonds only. Just under half of the fields are school district fields.

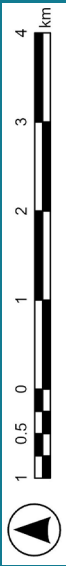
4.1.3 RUNNING TRACK

In addition to the rectangular fields and ball diamonds, the only outdoor running track within the Sunshine Coast is located at Elphinstone Secondary School within the Town of Gibsons.

Sunshine Coast Sports Fields - North



Sunshine Coast Regional District, Province of British Columbia, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, METI/NASA, EPA, USDA, AAF, NRCan



Sunshine Coast Sports Fields

District of Sechelt

School District #46

Sunshine Coast Regional District

Town of Gibsons

shishalh Nation Government District

D - Roberts Creek

E - Elphinstone

F - West Howe Sound

G - Town of Gibsons

S - District of Sechelt

I - Shishalh Nation Government District

Electoral Areas

A - Egmont/Pender Harbour

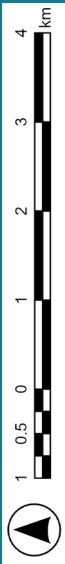
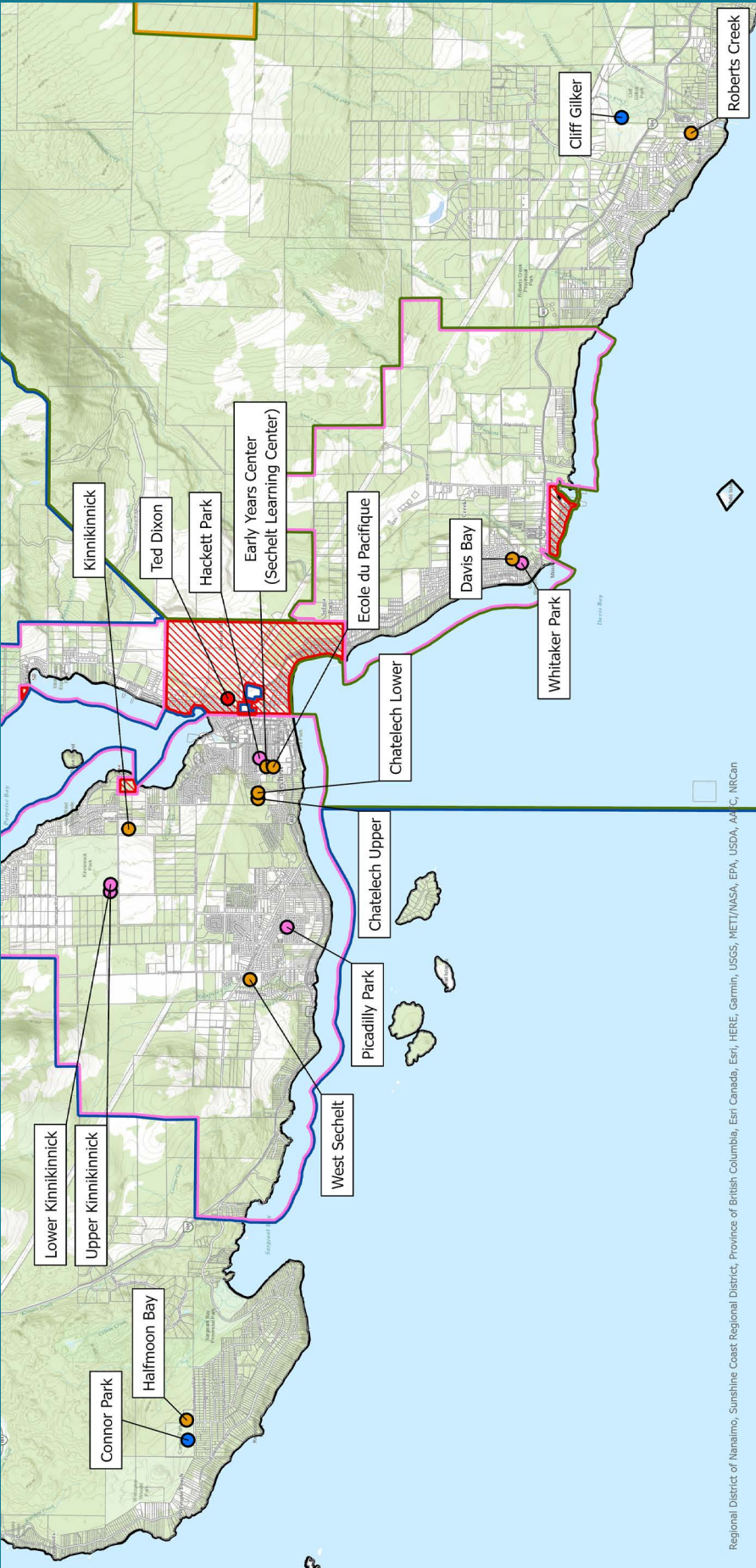
B - Halfmoon Bay

Parcels

Lakes

Coastline

Sunshine Coast Sports Fields - Central



Sunshine Coast Sports Fields

District of Sechelt

School District #46

Sunshine Coast Regional District

Town of Gibsons

shishalh Nation Government District

A - Egmont/Pender Harbour

B - Halfmoon Bay

D - Roberts Creek

E - Elphinstone

F - West Howe Sound

G - Town of Gibsons

S - District of Sechelt

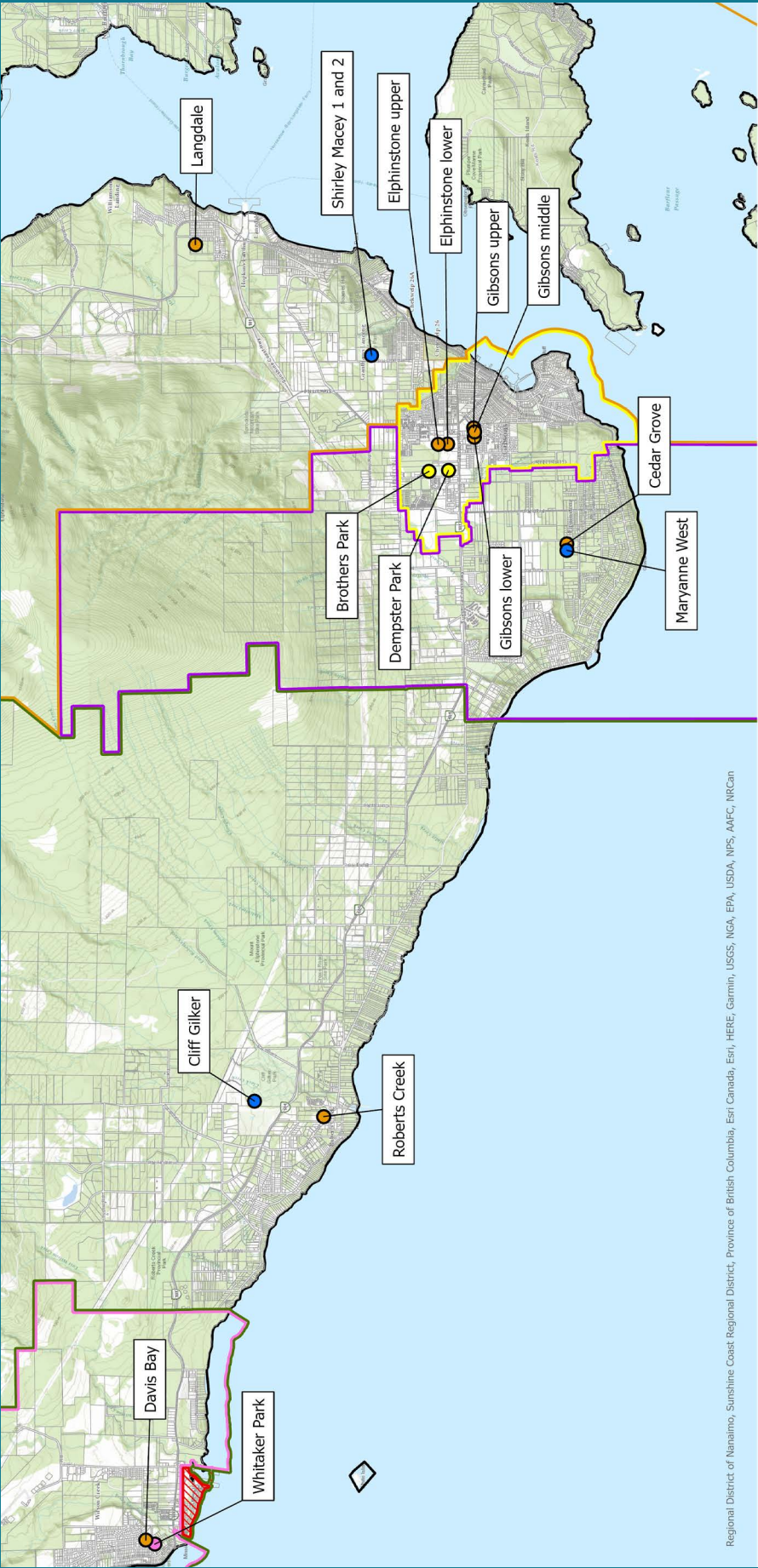
I - Shishalh Nation Government District

Parcels

Lakes

Coastline

Sunshine Coast Sports Fields - South



Regional District of Nanaimo, Sunshine Coast Regional District, Province of British Columbia, Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, NGA, EPA, USDA, NPS, AAFC, NRCan

Sunshine Coast Sports Fields

- District of Sechelt
- School District #46
- Sunshine Coast Regional District
- Town of Gibsons
- shishalh Nation Government District

Electoral Areas

- A - Egmont/Pender Harbour
- B - Halfmoon Bay

- D - Roberts Creek
- E - Elphinstone
- F - West Howe Sound
- G - Town of Gibsons
- S - District of Sechelt
- I - Shishalh Nation Government District
- Parcels
- Lakes
- Coastline



4.1.4 EXISTING FIELD CLASSIFICATIONS

The Working Group currently uses the field classifications outlined in the table below to guide the distribution of field bookings and optimize the use of existing inventory across the region. These classifications are based on the field size, field condition, and amenities such as washrooms. The classifications serve as internal guidelines for staff when allocating fields. These field classifications somewhat align with the foundational sport field classification systems commonly adopted by Canadian local governments.

The analysis of the Sunshine Coast field inventory reveals a diverse distribution across the Working Group classification types. Out of 32 rectangular fields, two are designated as Class A ("Rep Soccer"), three as Class B ("Adult Soccer"), seven as Class C ("House Soccer"), and seven as Class D ("Practice Field"). There are 11 rectangular fields with combined classifications. The ball diamond at Ryan Dempster Field and the field at Whitaker Park do not have classifications, as bookings are managed by others (Sunshine Coast Baseball Association and Davis Bay Community Association, respectively).

Table 3. Existing internal field classifications

Existing Field Classification	Description
Class A ("Rep Soccer")	These fields represent the highest standard in terms of size, condition, and available features. They are designed to accommodate all user groups, including competitive "rep" teams, and typically include amenities such as public restrooms. Illumination is generally present to facilitate evening games for visiting teams.
Class B ("Adult Soccer")	These fields share the same large dimensions as "Rep Soccer" fields but may not be in comparable condition. Due to increased wear and tear from adult play, these user groups may be those that are directed away from "Rep Soccer" fields.
Class C ("House Soccer")	Intended for youth play, these fields may be smaller than "Rep Soccer" and "Adult Soccer" fields. Amenities such as restrooms are not consistently available.
Class D ("Practice Field")	These fields are typically smaller than "Rep Soccer" and "Adult Soccer" fields and are designated for practice activities and casual community use.

4.1.5 CONDITION OF SUNSHINE COAST SPORTS FIELDS

Anecdotally, both staff and sports groups report that many Sunshine Coast sports fields are in fair to poor condition, largely due to challenges such as poor drainage, insufficient exposure to natural light, inconsistent irrigation during water restrictions, uneven playing surfaces, and a lack of amenities. These issues are often compounded by high levels of use, which further strain field conditions.

Discussions with the Working Group identified that several fields also face underlying limitations, in part due to outdated construction standards. For example, reports from the SCRD indicate that the Shirley Macey fields have soil with poor drainage properties, and that both the Shirley Macey and the Cliff Gilker fields were constructed using outdated field construction techniques that contribute to ongoing drainage concerns.

Operationally, maintenance teams work diligently to provide safe and playable fields, but limited resources — including staffing, equipment, contractors, and materials — make consistent, high-quality maintenance challenging, especially given the amount of field use. The wide geographic distribution of sports fields further complicates maintenance, leading to inefficiencies due to the high travel time required for some maintenance operations. Despite these constraints, staff continue to adapt and prioritize work to support consistent field conditions wherever possible.

The Working Group's field inventory indicated that only six of the 32 rectangular fields and 11 of the 29 ball diamonds currently have the combination of sufficient irrigation, effective drainage, and optimal sun exposure. As a result, the proportion of Sunshine Coast fields assessed to be in good overall condition is relatively low compared to the total inventory.

Irrigation

Water stewardship on the Sunshine Coast is a strategic priority, and maintaining healthy, grass fields during periods of drought and severe watering restrictions is a challenge.

A properly designed and functioning irrigation system is critical for maintaining high-quality sports fields. Such a system ensures optimal water distribution, which is essential for turf health, playability, and the field's overall longevity. Beyond these benefits, modern irrigation systems also offer significant water conservation advantages through efficient delivery and reduced waste.

- **Rectangular Fields:** 17 out of 32 rectangular fields have irrigation systems. Two of these require upgrading, three need repair and are currently not in use, and two have limited sprinkler coverage.
- **Ball Diamonds:** 18 out of 29 ball diamonds have irrigation systems. Six of these require upgrades and are not in use, and one has limited sprinkler coverage.

Field condition reports from the District of Sechelt indicate that upgrades are needed to ensure irrigation systems function properly, and note that low water pressure at some locations limits system performance.

Lighting

The inventory of Sunshine Coast fields shows that five rectangular fields (Upper and Lower Kinnikinnick, Maryanne West and both fields at Ted Dixon) and two ball diamonds (Upper Kinnikinnick) have sufficient lighting. The lights at Lower Kinnikinnick are noted as insufficient for baseball. There is also limited lighting at Cliff Gilker Park and Conner Park, accounting for two rectangular fields and four ball diamonds.

The two lit rectangular fields managed by shíshálh Nation (Ted Dixon) have the lights turned off at 7:30 pm, restricting evening use during the darker months.

While lighting systems extend the playing capacity of natural grass fields, they can also concentrate demand on the few fields that have illumination. This can result in usage levels that exceed recommended thresholds for natural turf, increasing wear and requiring more maintenance to preserve field quality.

Working group members noted that the lack of lighting is a major factor in the overuse of some fields in the inventory, as use is concentrated on those that can support evening play.

Other Sport Fields Amenities

Typical amenities that can be found at regional and municipally managed sports fields are as follows:

- Sports furniture (players' benches, bleachers, player shelters, etc.)
- Sport accessories (Goals, bases, backstops, etc.)
- Drinking fountains
- Concession stands
- Storage (5 fields have storage facilities, one is noted as small and two as very small)
- Washrooms: The inventory notes that ten fields provide access to washrooms, with four fields requiring a prior request to access or having limited access. Three of these ten fields have portable toilets. None of the school fields have public washrooms available outside of those provided within the schools.

4.1.6 JOINT USE AGREEMENTS AND OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

There is an existing Joint Use Agreement (JUA) between SCRD and Sunshine Coast School District No. 46. This agreement acknowledges that it is in the community's best interest to use public resources effectively by minimizing duplication of facilities, land, services, and equipment. During regular operating hours, the two organizations may use each other's facilities at no cost to the participants. Sports fields are listed in the JUA. The JUA is reviewed annually and can be updated by mutual agreement. The typical agreement term is five years.

There are no JUAs between the Sunshine Coast School District No. 46 and the District of Sechelt or the Town of Gibsons.

As noted in Section 3.4.2 (Allocation Policies), there are several existing partnerships for booking administration, including between the SCRD and the Town of Gibsons for Brothers Park and between the SCRD and District of Sechelt.

The District of Sechelt has a Service Agreement with Davis Bay Community Association to assist with maintenance at Whitaker Park. The District of Sechelt also assists with maintenance of the Ted Dixon fields upon request from shíshálh Nation.

4.1.7 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Table 4 outlines the primary roles and responsibilities of members of the working group and user groups and is intended to clarify roles and responsibilities among government partners, the school district, and sports field user groups.

Table 4. Roles and Responsibilities

Who	Focus	Supporting Role(s)
SCRD, District of Sechelt, Town of Gibsons, shíshálh Nation	Providing facilities to standard levels of service.	Supporting user groups who deliver programs and help fundraise.
Sunshine Coast School District No. 46	Providing facilities that support educational and student athletic development.	Shared-use agreements for community access outside school hours and supporting community recreation activities.
Sports Field User Groups	Providing programs.	Fundraising for facility amenities above standard levels of service.

4.2 INVENTORY BENCHMARKING

Inventory benchmarking against comparable communities provides a valuable reference point for considering the counts of sports fields and ball diamonds, but it does not reflect the actual condition of the fields or the intensity and type of use they experience locally.

The supply of sports fields on the Sunshine Coast was compared to that of the Cowichan Valley and the Comox Valley. These two comparable communities were recommended by staff, who frequently use them for comparison. These communities have similar population counts and distribution and have publicly available information on supply for the entire regional district, including the associated municipalities and school district fields.

School fields are not typically included in benchmarking studies as they are intended primarily for educational and school athletic programs and are generally unavailable for community booking during regular school hours. However, as Sunshine Coast School District No. 46 is a member of the Working Group and there may be future opportunities to consider co-managing school fields, they have been included in the inventory benchmarking.

Key findings from the benchmarking for fields include:

- Even with population growth, the availability of rectangular fields and ball diamonds is sufficient within the region, with availability of fields above the average for both the 2021 population and the 2040 population projections.

- The region does not have an artificial turf field, while both comparison communities have at least one.

For a complete summary of inventory benchmarking, see the tables provided in Appendix E.

4.3 DEMAND AND USAGE ANALYSIS

Available booking data from the Working Group and usage data from four of the sport user groups were reviewed to build a clearer picture of demand and identify potential pressures on the existing inventory, as well as opportunities for improved data collection to support more informed planning and allocation decisions.

4.3.1 BOOKING DATA

Due to differing schedule tracking processes across Working Group jurisdictions, analyzing booking data for sports field usage is challenging because of the different parameters and data recorded. However, the following sections summarize the information supplied by all jurisdictions and highlight key findings from the 2024-2025 Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer schedules.

It is important to note that the booking data does not reflect actual field usage. For example, user groups may book more fields and/or field time than necessary to allow options in the event of field closures. In addition, scheduled use may be cancelled due to poor weather conditions.

Sunshine Coast School District No. 46 Fields

School district fields are used regularly on school days, for school and extra-curricular activities and programs, such as school athletic teams and before- and after-school care. They also play an important role in self-directed, self-regulated play during lunch hours and recesses, and are used heavily during these times.

For other uses, outside of this regular school use, booking data from May 1, 2024, to May 1, 2025, was reviewed. Only 10 locations are booked for sports and recreation groups, with 652 permitted hours across all fields, outside of school district use. The data provided does not break down which sports groups use the sports fields, but it indicates that approximately 75% of the total permitted hours are allocated to sports and recreation activities.

Three locations – Davis Bay Elementary, West Sechelt Elementary and Pender Harbour Secondary had no bookings during the period reviewed. Elphinstone and Chatelech Secondary Schools both have two playing fields with Elphinstone also having a running track, but the booking data does not provide a breakdown of specific facilities used. The schools with the most permitted hours include Gibsons Elementary (split across three fields), Kinnikinnick Elementary, Roberts Creek Elementary, and Elphinstone Secondary.

Booking Data By User Group

Booking schedules per one week were provided by the SCRD, the District of Sechelt, and the shíshálh Nation for the 2024 spring/summer and fall/winter seasons. The annual booking hours by user group were calculated by multiplying the weekly booked hours over five months for the spring/summer season and seven months for the fall/winter season. Key findings include:

- Sunshine Coast Youth Soccer Association is the biggest user overall, especially in the fall/winter season, accounting for more than two-thirds of the total booked hours. They are a top user in both seasons, demonstrating consistent year-round demand for their activities.
- Adult soccer leagues are a significant user, but their booked hours are considerably smaller compared to youth soccer. Most of the booked hours are for the fall/winter season.
- Sunshine Coast Baseball Association is the biggest user of ball diamonds in the summer, running co-ed programs for youth ages 5 to 18. Other top users include Slo-pitch, Sunshine Coast Minor Softball Association and Men's Fast Pitch.
- Sunshine Coast Disc Golf Association, Special Olympics, and Youth Rugby use fields in the summer season only.

Table 5. Booking Data by User Group (2024)

	Group	2024 Spring / Summer Booked Hours	2024 Fall / Winter Booked Hours	2024 Total Booked Hours
Baseball / Softball	SC Baseball Association	2,236	0	2,236
	SC Slo-pitch	2,129	241	2,369
	Sechelt Minor Softball Association	1,054	90	1,144
	Men's Fast Pitch	194	0	194
Soccer	SC Youth Soccer Association	2,376	7,359	9,735
	Women's Soccer	43	406	449
	Men's Soccer	0	1,114	1,114
	Adult Soccer	0	1,008	1,008
	Drop-in Soccer	0	90	90
	Ben Pierre Adult	0	45	45
	SCYSA Academy	0	90	90
Other	SC Disc Golf Association	172	0	172
	Special Olympics	97	0	97
	Youth Rugby	75	0	75
	SC Ultimate Disc Association	0	406	406
	Total	8,374	10,851	19,225

Booking Data By Field

The calendar bookings provided by the SCRD (including Town of Gibsons), the District of Sechelt, and shíshálh Nation for the 2024 spring/summer (5 months) and fall/winter seasons (7 months) were also reviewed to determine total booked hours per field.

According to the Sports Turf Canada *Athletic Field Construction Manual*, the recommended use levels (permitted hours per season) are standardized based on a field's classification and maintenance level, rather than solely on local weather. The manual assumes a standard playing season based on "growing months," defined as the period from May through October.

Natural grass fields in environments comparable to the Sunshine Coast are typically designed to withstand 300 to 600 hours of use per year. The lower end of this range (300 hours) applies to fields that are not in optimal condition. In contrast, the upper end of the range (600 hours) applies to fields maintained to a very high standard under optimal growing conditions, with effective maintenance and irrigation.

High use of sports fields accelerates turf wear and tear, reduces the field's ability to recover between uses (even with consistent maintenance), and decreases playability. This ultimately increases long-term maintenance costs due to more frequent and extensive repairs, or even complete turf replacement.

Table 6. Booking Data by Field (2024)

Jurisdiction	Field	Spring / Summer Booked hours	Fall / Winter Booked Hours	Annual Total Hours Booked
Sunshine Coast RD	Cliff Gilker	817	662	1,479
Sunshine Coast RD	Connor Park	473	798	1,271
Sunshine Coast RD	Lions Field	0	331	331
Sunshine Coast RD	Maryanne West	32	376	409
Sunshine Coast RD	Shirley Macey 1	581	828	1,404
Sunshine Coast RD	Shirley Macey 2	667	1,099	1,765
District of Sechelt	Hackett Park	925	873	1,797
District of Sechelt	Lower Kinnikinnick	720	692	1,413
District of Sechelt	Upper Kinnikinnick	871	452	1,322
District of Sechelt	Picadilly Park	387	662	1,049
Town of Gibsons	Brothers Park # 1	796	903	1,699
Town of Gibsons	Brothers Park # 2	1,054	753	1,806
Town of Gibsons	Brothers Park # 3	1,054	753	1,806
shíshálh Nation	Ted Dixon South	0	798	798
shíshálh Nation	Ted Dixon North	0	873	873
Totals		8,374	10,851	19,225

Key findings from the review of booking data include:

- Based on the provided table, the booked hours exceed the recommended annual usage of 600 hours for fields in optimal condition. As noted, however, the booking data does not reflect actual field usage.
- Eleven fields were booked for more than 1,000 hours in 2024.
- The top five most-booked fields are Brothers Park #2, Brothers Park #3, Hackett Park, Shirley Macey 2, and Brothers Park #1.

4.3.2 USAGE DATA

Actual usage data was provided by Sunshine Coast Youth Soccer Association (SCYSA), Sunshine Coast Women’s Soccer League (SCWSL), Sunshine Coast Disc Golf Association (SCDGA), and Men’s Slo-Pitch.

Table 7 provides a summary for these four sports groups, highlighting the significant differences between booking data and usage data.

Table 7. Booking Data vs Usage Data by User Group

Group	2024 Total Booked Hours	Usage Data
SC Slo-pitch	2,369	438
SC Youth Soccer Association	9,825	2,048
Women’s Soccer	449	141
SC Disc Golf Association	172	44

One of the biggest challenges with the data provided is inconsistent field naming, which makes field-specific analysis difficult. For instance, the spreadsheet provided by SCYSA lists fields at Shirley Macey Park in over 90 different ways.

The difference between booking data and user group usage data highlights the need to implement a consistent method for tracking actual usage across all fields to ensure that future planning and capital investment decisions are driven by valid data.

5 TRENDS

- In 2023, over half of Canadians reported participating in at least one sport in the previous 12 months. Health and fun were the top reasons for participating in sports.²
- Participation in community sports is growing in Canada, largely due to increased participation from women and girls³ though participation remains lower than for men and boys.
- Canada's Canadian-born population is more likely to participate in winter sports like hockey, skating, and skiing than immigrants, who are more likely to participate in sports like soccer, basketball, and tennis.⁴ Soccer has seen popularity as a preferred sport for racialized Canadians, especially amongst Arab and Black communities.⁴
- Many sports are expanding their season of play and adding more opportunities, such as tournaments and training events. Extended seasons create more pressure on fields, particularly where fields overlap. When seasons for different sports overlap, it also strains maintenance teams' capacity and reduces critical recovery periods for fields.
- On the Sunshine Coast, sports user groups report that soccer registrations are currently increasing while baseball registrations are declining or holding steady. Investing in multi-use fields provides flexibility to accommodate changing demands over time.
- Across British Columbia and Canada, municipal sport field planning and management increasingly align with Canadian Sport for Life (CS4L) and Long-Term Athlete Development principles, emphasizing physical literacy, age-appropriate play, and lifelong participation.⁵ This trend is reflected in facility design, allocation practices, and investment decisions that aim to support a full continuum of participation rather than prioritizing competitive sport alone.
- Lack of interest and lack of time are the most common reasons for not participating in sport among Canadians. Racialized Canadians are more likely to report cost as a barrier to participating in sport than non-racialized Canadians. Immigrants are more likely to face a lack of time as a barrier to participating in sport than Canadian-born residents.

² Statistics Canada. *Survey Series on People and their Communities - Sport, Workplace Culture, Political Engagement and Shared Values*, 2023.

³ True Sport (2022) *Power of Sport: The True Sport Report 2022*. Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport. <https://cces.ca/sites/default/files/content/docs/2024-01/cces-true-sport-report-2022-acc-en.pdf>.

⁴ Statistics Canada (2023) *Diving into the data: Sports participation in Canada*. <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/o1/en/plus/4863-diving-data-sports-participation-canada>

⁵ Canada Sport for Life (2013) *Becoming a Canadian Sport for Life Community 2.0*. <https://sportforlife.ca/portfolio-item/becoming-cs4l-community/>

- Volunteer fatigue has become an increasingly challenging issue for many organizations that have relied on volunteers. Many Canadian and BC sport organizations report difficulties in recruiting and retaining volunteers, as well as maintaining stable volunteer levels.⁶
- A recent study found that many Canadian municipal parks departments report inadequate budgets, impacting their ability to meet maintenance standards, improve or redevelop parks, and maintain staffing levels.⁷
- Parks must serve multiple objectives, such as climate resilience, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, and an increasing variety of activities and interests. Recognizing limited parkland and budgets, communities are facing challenging decisions about how much space and funding to allocate to sports fields.
- With increasing population and density, there will be more people with more diverse interests using parks, with increasing demand for informal recreation and social spaces as private outdoor space decreases.



Photo 2. Roberts Creek Elementary School

⁶ viaSport British Columbia. *Volunteerism in the BC Sport Sector: Examining the Current Landscape*, 2022.

⁷ Parks People. *The 2024 Canadian City Parks Report: Bridging the Gap*. 2024.

6 ENGAGEMENT

6.1 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Community engagement took place in June and July 2025. A follow-up meeting was held with the sports field user groups in December 2025. A full engagement summary report is in Appendix F. The purpose of the engagement was to gather input from sports field user groups, other key interest holders, and the public to better understand how organizations and the public use sports fields and to learn what is currently working well and what could be improved. Engagement activities included:

Project Website: The District of Sechelt’s engagement website – yoursaysechelt.ca – served as the primary hub for project information. Members of the Working Group shared the survey link on their respective platforms, directing users back to the Sechelt project page for ongoing updates. The page featured details about the project’s objectives, the planning process, and opportunities for community involvement.

User Group Workshop and Questionnaire: The user group workshop and questionnaire brought together participants from a variety of sports field user groups to discuss and provide input on current facility use, the challenges and barriers they face when using fields, and future needs. The questionnaire provided an opportunity for all user groups to respond and was effective in garnering feedback from the organizations unable to participate in the workshop.

Public Online Survey: The online community survey was designed to gather early input from residents and field users. The survey collected information on how people used the fields, what aspects they valued most, and where they saw opportunities for improvement. This feedback helped inform community priorities and how the sports field strategy could address current and future needs for both organized sports and casual recreational use. The survey was open from June 18 – July 11, 2025, and received 690 responses. Although several surveys included feedback on pickleball and tennis, these results are excluded from this report as court sports fall outside the scope of the Sports Field Strategy.

Community Pop-Ups: The District of Sechelt facilitated several in-person community pop-ups during popular community events, including the Sunshine Youth Soccer Cup, Gibsons Night Market, and at Canada Day in Sechelt. Display boards provided information on the project's purpose, timeline, how to get involved, and a broad overview of the fields across the region. This activity informed people about the project and promoted participation in the online survey.

BY THE NUMBERS

10 organizations participated in the workshop and questionnaire

690 responses to the online survey

3 community pop-ups

User Group Workshop #2: A follow-up workshop was held with the sports field user groups in December 2025 to present key findings from the background analysis and engagement and to outline the draft strategy's high-level directions.

6.2 WHAT WE HEARD

The engagement provides a comprehensive snapshot of current sports field use, preferences, and priorities across the Sunshine Coast. Drawing from 690 community survey responses, targeted workshops, and user questionnaires, the findings reveal strong regional participation in field-based recreation, particularly among families involved in soccer, baseball, and ultimate frisbee.

The following is a summary of the key themes that emerged from engagement:

Field Quality and Maintenance: Participants consistently emphasized the importance of safe, reliable field conditions. Poor drainage and surface inconsistencies were frequently cited as barriers for effective use. There is strong support for long-term planning and investment to improve field reliability and safety.

Access and Booking Systems: Access to fields when needed, supported by fair and efficient booking systems, was identified as a top priority. Interest in a centralized booking system was highlighted, with consistent scheduling as a high priority. Some user groups noted that the school district's field booking system interface worked well and recommended it as a model for a future central booking system.

Facility Improvements and Infrastructure: There is broad support for infrastructure upgrades, including artificial turf conversions, improved drainage systems, and lighting installations. There were also requests to upgrade the asphalt running track. Upgrading existing facilities or adding new ones, such as a multi-use complex, was seen as essential to support growing participation and enable tournament hosting.

Equity and Regional Distribution: Community members prioritized geographic distribution and equitable investment across the region to support a variety of age groups, abilities, and field uses. There was a desire for access to quality fields outside urban centres.

Community Use and Shared Responsibility: The engagement revealed a strong interest in maintaining fields for both organized sport and casual community use. However, concerns were raised about user conflicts, particularly between sports and dog walkers. Respondents called for better education on field etiquette and shared responsibility for preserving field quality and safety.

Long-term Vision: There is a desire for a long-term strategy that supports "Sport for Life," enabling participation across all ages and skill levels. There is a shared vision for a network of high-quality, multi-sport fields that contribute to community health, support athletic development, and encourage youth to explore a variety of sports.

7 THE STRATEGIC PLAN

7.1 VISION

A vision statement was developed to guide the operations, management, and development of sports fields on the Sunshine Coast over the next 10 years. The vision serves as an aspirational target and high-level framework for the guiding principles and recommendations. The vision is grounded in the public engagement results, background analysis, research on best and leading practices, and discussion with the Working Group.

VISION STATEMENT

The Sunshine Coast is home to a well-maintained network of equitably distributed sports fields that promote active living and support both recreational and competitive play.

Strategically coordinated maintenance and investment in sports fields and amenities are supported by an efficient, equitable booking system. Together, these efforts ensure these fields serve as inclusive venues that contribute to community health and well-being, support enhanced learning opportunities, and nurture participation across all ages and skill levels.

7.2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Drawing from the strategic guidance from members of the Working Group, the following principles have been developed to help guide decision-making:

- Foster regional collaboration between all government bodies and the school district by engaging with partners, building consensus, and aligning with shared priorities.
- Strive for efficiency in service delivery through coordinated, responsive, and community-focused approaches.
- Align investments in sports fields and amenities with field classifications to ensure facilities are safe, accessible, and adaptable to changing needs.
- Consider environmental impacts and promote sustainable practices, including responsible water use.
- Promote accessibility, equity, and reconciliation to create welcoming spaces for all sports participants and spectators.

7.3 GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Goal 1: Leverage relationships and collaborative partnerships to enhance sports fields on the Sunshine Coast.

Recommendations under this goal focus on building on the existing Working Group collaboration, advancing cooperation with sports user groups, and leveraging additional partnerships or sponsorships to fund investments in sports fields and associated amenities. Continuing to strengthen these partnerships and building community capacity is essential to delivering a well-maintained, equitably distributed sports field network.

Recommendation 1.1: Continue to support collaboration among the Working Group by formalizing roles and responsibilities through an adopted Terms of Reference.

Continuing to collaborate on sports field management across jurisdictions on the Sunshine Coast will help deliver a more seamless service for the various user groups that use fields throughout the service area. Roles and responsibilities outlined in the Terms of Reference would be drawn from the recommendations in this strategy and include decision-making processes and expectations for ongoing collaboration across all jurisdictions.

Recommendation 1.2: Consider partnership models for shared capital investments and maintenance.

Explore collaborative approaches to improving, renewing, and maintaining sports fields, across all government partners, including the Sunshine Coast School District No. 46 based on shared needs and field classification standards.

Recommendation 1.3: Consider expanding or developing separate Joint Use Agreements to include the District of Sechelt and the Town of Gibsons to better leverage school and community benefits.

Joint Use Agreements help optimize the value of limited funding for community facilities and avoid duplicating amenities. Continue to update the joint-use agreement regularly to support shared access and consider resource-sharing for maintenance and/or capital projects.

Recommendation 1.4: Develop a framework to improve and formalize engagement and communication with sports field user groups to help optimize utilization of sports fields.

Collaboration between the Working Group and sports field user groups is important, as all play a key role in delivering sports programming, ensuring sports fields are well utilized, and providing broad public benefit. Engaging regularly with sports field user groups will enable the sharing of challenges and opportunities, such as evolving registration patterns and new or emerging sports and amenity needs.

Recommendation 1.5: Explore opportunities for corporate or other sponsorship mechanisms, including grants to fund sports field infrastructure and amenity upgrades.

Leveraging a diversity of funding sources, including provincial and/or federal grants, corporate sponsorships, or other partnerships, can help provide financial support for investments in sports fields and their associated amenities.

Goal 2: Improve the quality of sports fields on the Sunshine Coast.

Recommendations under this goal focus on tangible improvements to sports fields based on coordinated, strategic investment and management decisions. It is recommended that field improvements be undertaken by prioritizing capital spending based on an asset management system for high-use, accessible fields that support multiple sports, and by incorporating climate-resilient practices when possible.

Recommendation 2.1: Adopt a renewed Sports Field Classification system to be used by all members of the Working Group.

Field classifications are an important tool for effective and efficient sports field management. A classification system enables informed decision-making based on factors such as surface type, intended use and available amenities. This helps ensure that sports fields are used appropriately, maintenance resources are allocated effectively, and field users understand the level of service to expect.

Additionally, a classification system that incorporates the Long-Term Athlete Development Framework (Sport for Life) can support equitable access across field types for various user groups (e.g., recreational participants to those pursuing high-performance development) and guide future development based on community needs and priorities.

The tables below outline a proposed classification system for rectangular fields and ball diamonds on the Sunshine Coast, merging Sports Turf Canada standards with southwest BC best practices for play hours. It accounts for the limited winter use of natural grass fields due to wet conditions and turf dormancy from October to April.

The classification system is intended to provide a clear and consistent understanding of field types available for play, both for the Working Group jurisdictions and the user groups and builds on the field classification system for fields currently used by the Working Group.

Table 8. Proposed Rectangular Field Classifications

Field Class	Size, Soil and Condition	Irrigation	Lighting	Amenities	Max. Rec. Hours of Play/Year	Description
Class A	Full-Size, Sand-based or Hybrid soil/sand with natural grass Excellent growing conditions with excellent drainage conditions.	Full Coverage	Yes	Yes	600 hours	While there are currently no fields in the inventory that would meet Class A standards, the classification is included to provide a long-term objective that could be attained through future capital upgrades to specific fields.
Class B	Full-size, soil, natural grass field or sand-based fields that are not in optimal condition. Good growing conditions with good drainage.	Full Coverage	Optional	Yes	400 hours	These fields represent a high standard in terms of size, condition, and available features. They are designed to accommodate all user groups, including competitive "rep" teams, and typically include amenities such as public restrooms. Illumination is generally present to facilitate evening games for visiting teams.
Class C	Full or partial size, soil, natural grass field. Moderate growing conditions with limitations in soil conditions or drainage.	Optional	No	Some	Less than 400 hours	Full-size fields share the same large dimensions as "Rep Soccer" fields but may not be in comparable condition. Due to increased wear and tear from adult play, these user groups may be those that are directed away from "Rep Soccer" fields.
Class D	Partial size natural grass field. Moderate to poor growing conditions with limitations in soil conditions or drainage.	No	No	Limited	Less than 400 hours	Intended for youth play, these fields may be smaller than "Rep Soccer" and "Adult Soccer" fields. Amenities such as restrooms are not consistently available.
Community	Soil natural grass field. Condition varies.	No	No	Limited	Minimal	These fields are typically smaller than "Rep Soccer" and "Adult Soccer" fields and are designated for practice activities and casual community use.

Table 9. Proposed Ball Diamond Classifications

Field Class	Size, Soil and Condition	Irrigation	Lighting	Amenities	Max. Rec. Hours of Play/Year	Description
Class A	Sand-based or Hybrid soil/sand with natural grass Excellent growing conditions with excellent drainage conditions. Recommended infield: Clay/Gravel Screenings	Full Coverage	Yes	Yes	600 hours	While there are currently no fields in the inventory that would meet Class A standards, the classification is included to provide a long-term objective that could be attained through future capital upgrades to specific fields.
Class B	Soil, natural grass field or sand-based fields that are not in optimal condition. Good growing conditions with good drainage. Recommended infield: Clay/Gravel Screenings	Full Coverage	Optional	Yes	400 hours	Suitable for single use sport – Baseball or Softball
Class C	Soil, natural grass field. Moderate growing conditions with limitations in soil or drainage.	Optional	No	Some	Less than 400 hours	Suitable for multi-sports – Baseball, Softball, Slo-pitch
Class D	Partial size, natural grass field. Moderate to poor growing conditions with limitations in soil conditions or drainage.	No	No	Limited	Less than 400 hours	
Community	Soil, natural grass field. Condition varies.	No	No	Limited	Minimal	Designated for practice activities and casual community use.

Recommendation 2.2: Adopt service levels and maintenance standards tied to sports field classifications to be used by all members of the Working Group.

To support consistent field quality across jurisdictions, shared service levels and maintenance standards should be defined for each sports field classification. These standards typically describe the expected condition of fields, types of amenities provided, and the frequency and intensity of maintenance activities required to sustain that condition. At a minimum, shared service levels would identify:

- Routine and seasonal turf maintenance practices (e.g., soil testing, mowing, aeration);
- Inspection requirements related to safety, playability, and accessibility;
- Standards for field amenities such as lighting, irrigation and washrooms, and
- Target response times for addressing deficiencies or hazards.

Adopting common maintenance standards that are tied to field classifications across the Working Group will help support coordinated planning, enable comparable condition assessments, and provide a clear framework for prioritizing operational and capital investments.

Recommendation 2.3: Use Asset Management planning practices for sports field infrastructure to strategically manage and prioritize investments, ensuring long-term sustainability and quality.

An asset management system is a comprehensive inventory that is continually updated to reflect current conditions. A robust asset management system will help the Working Group members monitor, maintain, and develop its sports fields and associated amenities, improving service levels and operational efficiency. It is recommended that Working Group members coordinate their asset management approaches to track field conditions, plan renewals, and prioritize investments based on classification, demand, and safety.

Recommendation 2.4: Prioritize targeted capital upgrades collaboratively to provide the right mix of field classifications for the region and to improve field capacity and resilience.

Consider targeted capital investments to increase field capacity and improve overall field performance. This includes improvements to conditions, such as enhanced drainage and modernized irrigation systems, to enhance turf resilience, safety, and playability. Align regional demand, classification needs, available resources, and opportunities when planning upgrades and investments.

There is no adopted standard that prescribes a specific percentage mix of field classes. The mix is based on local demand, level of play, available funding, and maintenance capacity. Improved tracking of actual field usage will help inform decisions on the appropriate mix of field classes. The following breakdown by percentage is provided as an example:

- Class A: 2-5%
- Class B: 15-25%
- Class C: 30-50%
- Class D: 15-30%

Using the proposed classification system outlined in Recommendation 2.1, most fields on the Sunshine Coast are likely to be classified as Class C or Class D in their current state.

Recommended targeted improvements

Based on current field conditions, usage data, and engagement feedback, prioritize investments in several key fields in the short- to medium-term to achieve Class B fields. Over the longer term, consideration should be given to the development of a sports hub to support tournaments as well as a Class A and/or artificial turf field(s) in or near the Town of Gibsons or at a central Sunshine Coast location, such as in or near the District of Sechelt, to provide year-round capacity and reduce pressure on natural grass fields. Consider upgrades to the track at Elphinstone Secondary School alongside field upgrades where feasible.

Artificial turf fields

In locations such as the Sunshine Coast, where outdoor sports can be played all year, artificial turf fields provide a substantial increase in facility capacity, accommodating three to five times the use intensity of natural surfaces and supporting up to 3,000 annual playing hours. As an alternative to natural grass fields, these systems typically eliminate irrigation requirements and use and ensure consistent playability across variable weather conditions. However, they are expensive to construct and require careful consideration prior to investment. The consideration of an artificial turf field(s) would include determining actual field usage in accordance with Recommendations 3.2 and 3.3.

Recommendation 2.5: Manage sports fields with climate resiliency in mind.

Consider proactive management of sports fields to improve climate resiliency and user comfort. Key actions include:

- Implement best practices in irrigation management to promote efficient and sustainable water use, particularly during periods of drought;
- Develop field-specific water usage management plans to guide operations and decision-making;
- Improve on-site conditions through the strategic use of shade structures to reduce heat exposure for players and spectators, and
- Provide access to drinking water at key sports fields to support public health and safety during warmer conditions.

Goal 3: Promote community well-being and equitable access to sports fields.

Recommendations under this goal focus on promoting community health and long-term physical development by ensuring equitable and inclusive access to sports fields through consistent allocation policies, coordinated booking systems and accessibility improvements and upgrades to sports field amenities.

Recommendation 3.1: Develop a coordinated allocation policy for all members of the Working Group.

The allocation policy should include clear goals and principles that align with the guiding principles of fairness, inclusion, and reconciliation to ensure a transparent allocation process that provides access to everyone.

To maximize use of sports fields while promoting sustainable management of community assets, the allocation policy should also manage for:

- Appropriate and efficient use of field times so that all user groups, including new and emerging sports, can access fields;
- Aligning allocations to the Sport for Life's Long-Term Development Model;
- Aligning programs with the appropriate class of field and booking time, and
- Optimal field utilization, including restricting total hours of use to best-practice maximums for the field classification and maintenance standards.

Recommendation 3.2: Coordinate all field bookings and consider implementing a centralized booking system.

Shifting all field bookings to a single point of contact would improve the experience and convenience for sports field user groups. It would also enable more efficient and effective data collection, management, and analysis. As usage data is captured, work towards eliminating blanket bookings where fields may or may not be used, and work with user groups to understand the specific needs for practices and games based on actual participation data. A centralized booking system can also be used to improve consistency and communication for field closures. Implementing a coordinated field booking system enables the collection of accurate usage data, which will assist in prioritizing resources across Sunshine Coast sports fields and their associated amenities. By understanding actual field usage, the Working Group can make informed decisions on the allocation of operating and capital resources.

Recommendation 3.3: Consider implementing fees for sports field use to help manage fields and better understand actual use.

The use of fees for sports field use is an established standard practice among BC local governments for managing sports fields. To ensure equitable and optimized allocation, a sports field user fee structure should be considered for all sports field use on the Sunshine Coast. The use of sports field user fees will encourage user groups to book only the time they need, thereby reducing "blanket booking" practices that can lead to overutilization of assets and a lack of equity in access to sports fields.

The use of fees will also provide a data-driven understanding of usage patterns, augmenting the coordinated booking of sports fields. In addition, sports fields revenue can support operational expenses and/or future capital funding of the regional sports field network.

Recommendation 3.4: Identify opportunities to improve accessibility at sports field sites, including parking, access routes, washrooms, seating, and pathways. Develop prioritized capital improvement plans.

Supporting amenities (e.g., parking areas, washrooms, seating, concession stands) should incorporate universal design principles to serve field users and spectators, wherever possible. This consideration should be taken into account when developing new sports fields and retrofitting existing facilities to universal accessibility standards, either proactively or during scheduled asset renewals. To improve accessibility, consider better transit and active transportation links, inclusive signage and communications, and facility upgrades that specifically enable adaptive and para sports.



Photo 3. Hackett Park.

8 IMPLEMENTATION

The Sunshine Coast Sports Field Strategy will be delivered through a multi-year, phased implementation approach. The recommendations in this strategic plan will be pursued based on available resources. Endorsement of this strategic plan indicates a preliminary agreement, without implying a financial commitment. Decisions regarding capital and operational financial allocations will be made by the governing bodies of each Working Group member as part of their regular financial planning processes.

The Implementation Plan table on the following pages outlines the recommendations, along with information on priority, the implementation timeframe, and approximate financial implications.

Priority Levels

- High: The action is considered critical for achieving the objectives of the Outdoor Sports Field Strategy.
- Medium: The action supports improved performance across Strategy objectives but is not essential to meeting core service levels or immediate demand.
- Low: The action indirectly supports a high or moderate priority action.

Timeframes

- Short-term (0-2 years)
- Medium: (3-5 years)
- Long: (5+ years)
- Ongoing

Financial Implications

- \$ Staff Time or less than \$10,000
- \$\$ \$10,000-\$50,000
- \$\$\$ \$50,000-\$150,000
- \$\$\$\$ Greater than \$150,000 or requires estimate

Goal 1: Leverage relationships and collaborative partnerships to enhance sports fields on the Sunshine Coast.

Recommendation		Priority	Timeframe	Resources
1.1	Continue to support collaboration among the Working Group by formalizing roles and responsibilities through an adopted Terms of Reference.	High	Short-Term	\$
1.2	Consider partnership models for shared capital investments and maintenance.	High	Short-Term	\$
1.3	Consider expanding or developing separate Joint Use Agreements to include the District of Sechelt and the Town of Gibsons to better leverage school and community benefits.	High	Short-Term	\$
1.4	Develop a framework to improve and formalize engagement and communication with sports field user groups to help optimize utilization of sports fields.	Medium	Short-Term	\$
1.5	Explore opportunities for corporate or other sponsorship mechanisms, including grants to fund sports field infrastructure and amenity upgrades.	Medium	Ongoing	\$

Goal 2: Improve the quality of sports fields on the Sunshine Coast.

Recommendation		Priority	Timeframe	Resources
2.1	Adopt a renewed Sports Field Classification system to be used by all members of the Working Group.	High	Short-Term	\$
2.2	Adopt service levels and maintenance standards tied to sports field classifications to be used by all members of the Working Group.	High	Short-Term	\$
2.3	Use Asset Management planning practices for sports field infrastructure to strategically manage and prioritize investments, ensuring long-term sustainability and quality.	High	Ongoing	\$
2.4	Prioritize targeted capital upgrades collaboratively to provide the right mix of field classifications for the region and to improve field capacity and resilience.	High	Ongoing	\$\$\$\$
2.5	Manage sports fields with climate resiliency in mind.	Medium	Ongoing	\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Goal 3: Promote community well-being and equitable access to sports fields.

Recommendation		Priority	Timeframe	Resources
3.1	Develop a coordinated allocation policy for all members of the Working Group.	High	Short-Term	\$
3.2	Coordinate all field bookings and consider implementing a centralized booking system.	High	Short-Term	\$ -\$\$
3.3	Consider implementing fees for sports field use to help manage fields and better understand actual use.	High	Short-Term	\$
3.4	Identify opportunities to improve accessibility at sports field sites, including parking, access routes, washrooms, seating, and pathways. Develop prioritized capital improvement plans.	Medium	Ongoing	\$\$\$\$

APPENDIX A: STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT (SCRD)

SCRD Board of Directors Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan outlines the SCRD's mission and vision and identifies two key focus areas, including water stewardship. This focus will be delivered through four lenses: service delivery excellence, climate resilience and environmental protection, social equity and reconciliation, and governance excellence.

SCRD Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2014)

The SCRD Parks and Recreation Master Plan outlines a 10-year collective vision for parks and recreation across the region. The plan establishes overarching goals to guide development, including strengthening community connections, promoting healthy and active lifestyles, fostering environmental stewardship through education, protection, and management, and supporting economic development.

During public consultation, improved maintenance of recreation facilities, parks, trails, and sports fields emerged as a key priority. Recommendation #10 addresses this by providing guidelines for upgrading facilities and related procedures, including joint-use agreements. These guidelines include improving the efficiency of scheduling, booking, and field maintenance; conducting a coast-wide review of sport participation, trends, schedules, and patterns of use; undertaking a community needs assessment; and promoting equipment sharing and centralized administration.

Cliff Gilker Park Management Plan (2007)

Management principles outlined in the plan include that the footprint of the sports field area (including the playground, parking area, and all other structures) should not increase and that any changes in the park's footprint must result in a net enhancement of the park's natural values.

DISTRICT OF SECHelt

Strategic Plan (2023-2026)

The District of Sechelt's Strategic Plan outlines the vision, core and shared values and council priorities. Some key takeaways from this strategy include shared values with regional partners and the fostering of collaboration, sustainability, and reconciliation. Related council priorities include maintaining financial balance and committing to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

This document also highlights a shared water vision among the District of Sechelt, SCRD, shíshálh Nation and the Town of Gibsons to cooperatively manage water resources sustainably and to foster a future where water is utilized responsibly for the benefit of both present and future generations.

District of Sechelt Official Community Plan (OCP) Bylaw (2010)

The OCP outlines the community's vision and provides objectives and policies for land use, environment, housing, economic development, transportation and infrastructure, waterfront, parks and open spaces, and community services and social well-being. Growth management within the OCP focuses on new growth within or adjacent to existing developed areas within primary or secondary growth areas. The District is currently updating the OCP to meet the needs of the growing population.

District of Sechelt Parks and Open Space Master Plan (2018)

The District of Sechelt Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan presents a vision and coordinated approach for park and recreation improvements and investments. Core goals include focusing on quality, strengthening connectivity and collaboration between districts, respecting the environment, encouraging healthy, active, and inclusive communities, and maximizing cost efficiency. The Plan calls for enhanced asset management strategies, including an annually updated inventory of athletic fields; establishing staffing and maintenance costs and life-cycle needs; and funding allocations through adaptive management and review.

District of Sechelt Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (2019)

The Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) is a key policy document for the District. It coordinates with and reflects the broader policy of the Official Community Plan and the priorities established by Council in the Strategic Plan. The Plan outlines the community's vision, values, and principles on sustainability. Key goals for the sports field strategy include reducing water consumption, supporting local events, leading on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and advancing energy efficiency.

TOWN OF GIBSONS

Strategic Plan (2023-2037)

The Strategic Plan identifies the vision and mission for the Town of Gibsons. The plan outlines four guiding principles: climate resilience, sustainable service delivery, social equity, and effective decision-making. The plan outlines ten goals across four key priorities: leadership, liveability, affordability, and natural assets.

Town of Gibsons Official Community Plan (2015)

The Official Community Plan provides the planning framework to guide Gibson's growth and redevelopment and includes recommendations for managing growth in a regional context, such as working with the Regional District to coordinate growth and manage and protect aquifers. At a neighbourhood level, Gibsons envisions communities centred around parklands, recreation fields and centres, and functional landscapes. Policy 8.1.2 specifically recognizes the need for collaboration across the region and commits to supporting initiatives from senior government, the regional boards, and the school district in planning and developing facilities and services needed by the community. Potential has

been identified in the lands north of Charman Creek for incorporating public uses such as park and recreation facilities.

SHÍSHÁLH NATION

shíshálh Nation Strategic Framework

shíshálh Nation is committed to innovation in program and service delivery to assist their members and community in achieving greater interdependence, wellness, and self-sufficiency. Guiding principles include integrity, community, open-mindedness, balance, open communication, collaboration, and service.

SUNSHINE COAST SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46

2024-2029 Strategic Plan

Developed through broad community consultation, the Sunshine Coast School District No. 46's 2024–2029 Strategic Plan outlines a vision to support a thriving and inclusive community of lifelong learners based on a mission, affirmation and values that further highlight learning, belonging, integrity and equity.

The Strategic Plan's emphasis on well-being, inclusion, and holistic development aligns with the need for high-quality outdoor recreation spaces that support physical activity and community connection. The plan also underscores the importance of coordinated planning between the school district and local government to share and maintain sports fields, and it reinforces the need to ensure equitable access for all users, including youth, Indigenous communities, and people with diverse abilities.

Long Range Facilities Plan (2023)

Sunshine Coast School District No. 46 serves the District of Sechelt, the Town of Gibsons, the Sunshine Coast Regional District—including Electoral Areas A, B, D, E, and F—and shíshálh Nation Government District. The Long-Range Facilities Plan provides a framework for the efficient use of school facilities and emphasizes the role of schools as valuable community assets.

The Plan outlines a commitment to partnering with the community to create opportunities for joint use of school facilities outside of school hours, enhancing education and community development. It also supports making surplus facilities available for community or commercial use when justified by a strong business case. Overall, the Plan positions schools as integral, community-based resources.

APPENDIX B: BYLAW AND POLICY REVIEW

Table 10. Bylaws and Regulations

Jurisdiction	Bylaw Title	Overview
District of Sechelt	Parks Bylaw No. 116	Provides general regulations related to parks. Addresses sports fields under the "Organized Events" section, requiring a valid permit for their use. Schedule A of this bylaw is a "Park Use Booking – Risk Assessment Table" that determines the damage deposit and insurance requirements for organizing groups based on the risk associated with various activities and sports.
	Parks, Lands and Roads Temporary Bylaw No. 480	Outlines permit procedures for special events, including sports competitions, applicable to the Kinnikinnick Park playing fields.
	Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 575	Outlines fees for various municipal facilities. Except for specific buildings within Hackett Park, there are no specified fees for parks or sports fields.
Sunshine Coast Regional District	Park Regulation and Fees Bylaw No. 356	Defines sports competitions and tournaments as "special events" requiring park permits. Schedule A is the Park Use Permit System Policy, which outlines the permit process, including purpose, objectives, application requirements, terms, conditions, fees, and administration. While implied, there is no direct reference to sports fields within Schedule A. The bylaw does not list specific fees for their use.
Town of Gibsons	Public Places Regulation Bylaw No. 1012	Provides general regulations related to parks. Permits are required to "use any area for ... tournaments or services of games or events, whether for profit or not."

	Rates, Fees and Charges Bylaw No. 1196	There are no fees outlined for permits issued under the Public Places Regulation Bylaw.
shíshálh Nation	n/a	
Sunshine Coast School District No. 46	Rental of School Facilities – Regulation No. 4120.	Governs the rental of facilities, including school sports fields. Rental of school sports fields is permitted outside of school hours.

Table 11. Allocation Policies

Jurisdiction	Policies and Procedures
District of Sechelt	The DOS Parks Bylaw No. 116 governs the allocation of organized events, including sports fields, with the following booking prioritization: ▪ DOS resident or organization ▪ Youth events ▪ Applicant who first submits a completed application
Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD)	Division Procedure 1.35: Sports Field Allocation outlines the priority of sports field allocation as follows: 1. Special Events (one-time or non-recurring) 2. Joint Use Agreement (JUA) 3. Youth Groups 4. Adult use 5. Private and Casual rentals 6. Commercial groups 7. Non-resident Allocations from the previous season will provide a starting point for the new season. An effort will be made to maintain total hours of use from year to year and, where possible, similar times of use.
Town of Gibsons	n/a The booking of Brothers Field is managed by the SCRD. The booking of Ryan Dempster Field is managed by the Sunshine Coast Baseball Association.

shíshálh Nation	n/a
Sunshine Coast School District No. 46	The School District utilizes its Administrative Regulation titled "Rental of School Facilities Administrative Regulation" for facility rentals, which includes school sports fields. The priority of facility rentals is as follows: I) School Use II) Joint Use Partner III) Community Bookings for Children and Youth IV) Community bookings for groups comprised of adults

APPENDIX C: SPORT FOR LIFE LTAD TABLES

Table 12. Baseball LTAD Framework

BASEBALL - LTAD	Age	Season Length	Game Duration	Game Format	Game Days per Week	Practice Duration	Practices per week	Practice to Game Ratio	Diamond Dimensions
Active Start	M/F: 0 to 6 years	8 weeks (summer)	No formal play	n/a	n/a	60 mins	1	n/a	any
FUNDamentals	M: 5 to 9 years F: 5 to 8 years	8 weeks (summer)	60 mins	6 v 6 (rally cap: 3 team rotation - 1 practicing while 2 play)	1	60 mins	1	80:20	Pitch: 40-48 ft Bases: 50-60 ft
Learning to Train	M: 9 to 12 years F: 9 to 11 years	8-12 weeks Summer or Spring/Summer	90-120 mins	6 v 6 to 9 v 9	1	60-90 mins	3	70:30	Pitch: 44 - 48 ft Bases: 60 - 70 ft Foul Lines: 180 - 200 ft Fences: 200 - 240 ft
Train to Train	M: 12 to 15 years F: 11 to 16 years	15-20 weeks	120 mins	9 v 9	1	90-120 mins	5-9 sessions	60:30	Pitch: 54-60 ft Bases: 80 - 90 ft Foul Lines: 215 - 285 ft Fences: 260 - 325 ft
Learn to Compete	M: 15 to 18 years F: 16 to 18 years	Year Round; local comps 12 weeks	180 mins	9 v 9 (7 innings)	Not specified	60-180 mins	9-12 sessions	40:60	Pitch: 60 - 66 ft Bases: 90 ft Foul Lines: 325 ft Fences: ~400 ft
Train to Compete	M: U23 F: 16+ National Team	Year Round; comps in spring/summer	180 mins	9 v 9 (9 innings)	Not specified	60-180 mins	9-12 sessions	30:70	Pitch: 60 - 66 ft Bases: 90 ft Foul Lines: 325 ft Fences: ~400 ft
Learn to Win	M: 18+ professional	Year Round	Not specified	9 v 9 (9 innings)	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	20:80	Pitch: 60 - 66 ft Bases: 90 ft Foul Lines: 325 ft Fences: ~400 ft
Train to Win	M: 18+ professional	Year Round	Not specified	Regular Format	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	20:80	Pitch: 60 - 66 ft Bases: 90 ft Foul Lines: 325 ft Fences: ~400 ft
Active for Life	M/F: All ages	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	10:90	Not specified

Source: <https://sportforlife.ca/sport-frameworks/#toggle-id-5>

Table 13. Soccer LTAD Framework

SOCCER - LTAD	Age	Season Length	Game Duration	Game Format	Game Days per Week	Practice Duration	Practices per week	Practice to Game Ratio	Field Dimensions
Active Start	M/F: 0 to 6 years	6-16 weeks	Informal Play	n/a	No formal matches	30-45 mins	1	n/a	n/a
FUNDamentals	M: 6 to 9 years F: 6 to 8 years	15-20 weeks	2 x 15 mins	3 v 3, 4 v 4 or 5 v 5	1	30-45 mins	1	1:1	W: 18-55 m L: 40-75 m
Learning to Train	M: 9 to 12 years F: 8 to 11 years	16-20 weeks	2 x 25 mins	6 v 6, 7 v 7, 8 v 8	1	60-75 mins	2	2:1 or 3:1	W: 30-36 m L: 40-55 m
Train to Train	M: 12 to 16 years F: 11 to 15 years	Year Round	2 x 30 mins	8 v 8, 9 v 9, 11v11	1	Not specified	5	5:1 (5 to 10 practices for every game)	W: 42-90 m L: 75-120 m
Train to Compete	M: 16 to 19 years F: 15 to 18 years	Year Round	90-100 mins (F: 2 x 40 mins; M: 2 x 45 mins)	11 v 11	1	Not specified	5	5:1 (5 to 12 practices for every game)	W: 45-90 m L: 90-120 m
Train to Win	M: 19+ F: 18+	Year Round	90-100 mins (: 2 x 45 mins)	11 v 11	1	Not specified	5	5:1 (5 to 12 practices for every game)	W: 45-90 m L: 90-120 m
Active for Life	All ages	Annual	90-100 mins (: 2 x 45 mins)	11 v 11	1	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified

Sources: <https://sportforlife.ca/sport-frameworks/#toggle-id-38>; <https://canadasoccer.com/play-landing/canada-soccer-pathway/>

Table 14. Softball LTAD Framework

SOFTBALL - LTAD	Age	Season Length	Game Duration	Game Format	Game Days per Week	Practice Duration	Practices per week	Practice to Game Ratio	Diamond Dimensions
Active Start	M/F: 0 to 6 years	8-10 weeks	60 mins	combined practice/modified game	1 to 2 per week w. practices	60 mins	1	n/a	any
FUNDamentals	M: 6 to 9 years F: 6 to 8 years	8-10 weeks (competitive season)	45-60 mins	combined practice/modified game	1 to 2 per week w. practices	90 mins	1	n/a	Not specified
Learning to Train	M: 9 to 12 years F: 8 to 11 years	12-15 weeks (competitive season)	90 mins	modified pitching and baseline distances	18-22 games per season	90 mins	1 to 2	60:40 to 70:30	Not specified
Train to Train	M: 12 to 16 years F: 11 to 15 years	12-15 weeks (preseason 4-6 weeks, competitive season 4-6 weeks)	90 mins	modified pitching and baseline distances; limit on innings	24-30 games per season	90-120 mins	2 to 4	50:50 to 60:40	Not specified
Train to Compete	M: 16 to 23 years F: 15 to 21 years	12-16 (competitive season) 8-16 weeks (pre-season practices)	120 mins	Regular Format	44 to 52 games per season	Not specified	4 to 8	40:60 to 50:50	Not specified
Learning and Training to Win	M: 23+ F: 19+	14-16 (competitive season) 8-16 weeks (pre-season practices)	120 mins	Regular Format	44-48 games per season	Not specified	6 to 9	40:60	Not specified
Living to Win	M: 23+ F: 19+	Not specified	120 mins	Regular Format	40-50 games per season	Not specified	9 to 12	25:75	Not specified
Active for Life	M/F: All ages	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	10:90	Not specified

Source: <https://sportforlife.ca/sport-frameworks/#toggle-id-5>

Table 15. Rugby LTAD Framework

RUGBY - LTAD	Age	Season Length	Game Duration	Game Format	Game Days per Week	Practice Duration	Practices per week	Practice to Game Ratio	Field Dimensions
Active Start	M/F: 0 to 6 years	Not specified	n/a	No formal games	n/a	40-60 mins	1	Not specified	W: 30-40 m L: 40-50 m
FUNDamentals	M: 6 to 9 years F: 6 to 8 years	Not specified	20 mins	U8 Flag (5-7 per side)	1	40-60 mins	1	Not specified	W: 30-40 m L: 40-50 m
Learning to Train	M: 9 to 12 years F: 8 to 11 years	Not specified	20-30 mins	U10 Flag, U12 Modified Contact (9 per side)	1	60 mins	03-Jan	2:1	W: 30-40 m L: 40-50 m
Train to Train	M: 12 to 16 years F: 11 to 15 years	Rec: 12-15 weeks Comp: 21-24 weeks	60 mins	Contact U12-13: 9-12 per side U16: 12-12 per side	1	70-90 mins	4-5 days	Rec: 2:1 Comp: 5:1	W: 70 m L: 50 m
Train to Compete	M: 16 to 19 years F: 15 to 18 years	Rec: 12-15 weeks Senior: 15-22 weeks Comp: 30-40 weeks	60 mins	Contact 15 per side	1	90 mins	4-5 days	2:1	W: 70 m L: 100 m
Train to Perform	M: 19-23 F: 18-21	Elite: year round w 22-28 games	80 mins	Contact 15 per side	1	90 mins	7	Rec: 1:1 Comp: 2:1	W: 70 m L: 100 m
Ultimate Performance	M: 23+ F: 21+	Elite: year round w 22-28 games	80 mins	Contact 15 per side	1	90 mins	7	Not specified	W: 70 m L: 100 m
Active for Life	M/F: All ages	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified

Source: <https://sportforlife.ca/sport-frameworks/#toggle-id-33>

Table 16. Ultimate LTAD Framework

ULTIMATE - LTAD	Age	Season Length	Game Duration	Game Format	Game Days per Week	Practice Duration	Practices per week	Practice to Game Ratio	Field Dimensions
Active Start	M/F: 0 to 6 years	Not specified	n/a	No formal games	n/a	60 mins	1	Not specified	n/a
FUNDamentals	M: 6 to 9 years F: 6 to 8 years	8-12 weeks	Not specified	4 v 4	Not specified	60 mins	1	Not specified	n/a
Learn to Play	M: 9 to 12 years F: 8 to 11 years	4-12 weeks	30-40 mins	5 v 5	1-2	60 mins	1-2	70:30	W: 18 m L: 27 m End Zone: 3 m
Train to Play	M: 12 to 16 years F: 11 to 15 years	8-16 weeks	75-90 mins	7 v 7	Not specified	60 mins	1-2	60:40	W: 23 m L: 39 m End Zone: 13 m
Train to Compete	M: 15 to 18 years F: 16 to 18 years	32 weeks	90 mins	7 v 7	Not specified	60 mins	2-3	40:60	W: 37 m L: 64 m End Zone: 18 m
Learn to Win	M: 20-23 F 19-21	Year Round	90 mins	7 v 7	Not specified	60 mins	6	40:60	W: 37 m L: 64 m End Zone: 18 m
Train to Win	U18	Year Round	120 mins	7 v 7	Not specified	60 mins	6	25:75	W: 37 m L: 64 m End Zone: 18 m
Active for Life	M/F: All ages	Not specified	Not specified	7 v 7	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	W: 37 m L: 64 m End Zone: 18 m

Source: <https://sportforlife.ca/sport-frameworks/#toggle-id-50>

APPENDIX D: INVENTORY & BENCHMARKING

Table 17. Field Inventory

LOCATION			FIELD OVERVIEW		RECTANGULAR FIELDS		BAL DIAMONDS		SITE CONDITIONS					AMENITIES			
Owner	Location	Name	# of Fields	Current Classification	Size	Surface	# of Diamonds	Backstop	Irrigation	Water Source	Base	Drainage	Sun Exposure	Sufficient Lighting	Bathrooms	Amenities	Beachers
District of Sechelt	District of Sechelt	Upper Kinnikimick	1	A	Full	Grass	2		Sufficient	Municipal	Sand	Well Drained	Full	No	Yes	Small storage shed	
District of Sechelt	District of Sechelt	Lower Kinnikimick	1	A	Full	Grass	2		Sufficient	Municipal		Well Drained	Full	Yes	Yes	Small storage shed	
District of Sechelt	District of Sechelt	Hackett Park	1	C	Partial	Grass	2		Sufficient	Municipal	Loamy Sand	Well Drained	Full	No	Yes	2 very small storage areas	
District of Sechelt	District of Sechelt	Piccadilly Park	1	C	Partial	Grass	1		Sufficient	Municipal	Loamy Sand	Well Drained	Full	No	Outhouse / Portable		
Sunshine Coast RD	Electoral Area F	Shirley Macey 1	1	A,B	Full	Grass			Sufficient	Municipal		Poor	Good	No	Yes		
Sunshine Coast RD	Electoral Area F	Shirley Macey 2	1	A,B	Full	Grass			Sufficient	Municipal		Poor		No	Yes		
Sunshine Coast RD	Electoral Area D	Giff Giller	1	C,D	Full	Grass	2		Upgrade Needed	Municipal	Sand	Well Drained	Partial Shade	No	Yes		
Sunshine Coast RD	Electoral Area B	Connor Park	1	B	Partial	Grass	2		Upgrade Needed	Municipal	Sand	Well Drained	Partial Shade		Yes		
Sunshine Coast RD	Electoral Area A	Lions Park	1	B	Full	Grass			Sufficient	Well	Sand	Well Drained	Good		Outhouse / Portable	Water fountain	
Sunshine Coast RD	Electoral Area E	Maryanne West	1	D	Partial	Gravel						Well Drainage	Poor	Yes	Outhouse / Portable		
Town of Gibsons	Town of Gibsons	Brothers Park	1	A,C	Full	Grass	3		Sufficient		Sand	OK Drainage	Full	No	By request only		
School District 446	Town of Gibsons	Dempster Park	1	Baseball Only	n/a	Grass	1		Sufficient		Sand	Well Drained	Full	No	No		
School District 446	Electoral Area F	Lamigdale	1	B	Full	Grass	2	2	None			OK Drainage	Full	No	No		
School District 446	Town of Gibsons	Gibsons Upper	1	C	Partial	Grass	1		None			OK Drainage		No	No		
School District 446	Town of Gibsons	Gibsons Middle	1	C	Partial	Grass	1	1	None			OK Drainage		No	No		1
School District 446	Town of Gibsons	Gibsons Lower	1	D	Partial	Gravel	1	1	None			Well Drained		No	No		1
School District 446	Town of Gibsons	Epilimstone Upper	1	A,B	Full	Grass			None			Well Drained		No	No		
School District 446	Town of Gibsons	Epilimstone Lower	1	C	Partial	Grass			None			Well Drained		No	No		
School District 446	Electoral Area E	Reda Grove	1	C,D	Partial	Grass	2	2	None			Poor		No	No		1
School District 446	Electoral Area D	Roberts Creek	1	C,D	Partial	Grass	1	1	Not in Use			Compacted		No	No		
School District 446	District of Sechelt	Dove Bay	1	C,D	Partial	Grass	1	1	None			Compacted		No	No		
School District 446	District of Sechelt	Whitaker Park	1	C,D	Partial	Grass	1	1	None			Well Drained		No	No		
School District 446	District of Sechelt	Early Years Center (Sechelt Learning Center)	1	C	Partial	Grass			Unfitted			Well Drained		No	No		
School District 446	District of Sechelt	Ecole du Pacificure	1	C	Partial	Grass	1	1	None			Unfitted		No	No		
School District 446	District of Sechelt	Chateleux Upper	1	C,D	Partial	Grass	1	1	Unfitted			Unfitted		No	No		2
School District 446	District of Sechelt	Chateleux Lower	1	C/Rough Use	Partial	Grass		2 temporary	None			Unfitted		No	No		
School District 446	District of Sechelt	West Sechelt	1	Closed	Partial	Grass			None			Poor Drainage, Very Compacted		No	No		
School District 446	Electoral Area B	Hallmoon Bay	1	D	Partial	Grass		4 temporary	Not in Use	Well		Very Compacted		No	No		
School District 446	Electoral Area A	Madelia Park	1	D	Partial	Grass			None			Poor		No	No		
School District 446	Electoral Area A	Pender Harbour	1	B,C,D	Partial	Grass			None			Poor		No	No		
shishalsh Nation	shishalsh Nation	Ted Dixon	1	A,B	Full	Grass			Sufficient	Municipal	Sand	Poor/Unfitted	Full	Yes (limited availability)	Limited Access	Small storage shed; clubhouse with restricted access	1
shishalsh Nation	shishalsh Nation	Ted Dixon	1	A,B	Full	Grass			Sufficient	Municipal	Sand	Poor/Unfitted	Full	Yes (limited availability)	Limited Access	Small storage shed; clubhouse with restricted access	1
Dove Bay Community Assoc	District of Sechelt	Whitaker Park	1	N/A	Unknown	Grass	1	1	Not in Use	Municipal		None		No	Limited Access		

Table 18. Rectangular Field Distribution

Location	2021 Population	% of Total Population	Public Rect. Fields	School Rect. Fields	Other Rect. Fields	TOTAL RECT. FIELDS	Total fields per 1,000 residents	% of total fields
District of Sechelt	10,847	33.70%	4	7	1	12	1.11	38%
Town of Gibsons	4,758	14.80%	1	5	0	6	1.26	19%
shíshálh Nation Government District	744	2.30%	2	0	0	2	2.69	6%
Electoral Area A: Egmont / Pender Harbour	3,039	9.40%	1	2	0	3	0.99	9%
Electoral Area B: Halfmoon Bay	2,969	9.20%	1	1	0	2	0.67	6%
Electoral Area D: Roberts Creek	3,523	11.00%	1	1	0	2	0.57	6%
Electoral Area E: Elphinstone	3,883	12.10%	1	1	0	2	0.52	6%
Electoral Area F: West Howe Sound	2,407	7.50%	2	1	0	3	1.25	9%
TOTAL	32,170		13	18	1	32	0.99	

Table 19. Ball Diamond Distribution

Location	2021 Population	% of Total Population	Public Ball Diamonds	School Ball Diamonds	Other Ball Diamonds	TOTAL BALL DIAMONDS	Total diamonds per 1,000 residents	% of total diamonds
District of Sechelt	10,847	33.7%	7	4	1	12	1.11	38%
Town of Gibsons	4,758	14.8%	4	2	0	6	1.26	19%
shíshálh Nation Government District	744	2.3%	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Electoral Area A: Egmont / Pender Harbour	3,039	9.4%	0	2	0	32	0.66	6%
Electoral Area B: Halfmoon Bay	2,969	9.2%	2	0	0	2	0.67	6%
Electoral Area D: Roberts Creek	3,523	11.0%	2	1	0	3	0.85	9%
Electoral Area E: Elphinstone	3,883	12.1%	0	2	0	2	0.52	6%

Electoral Area F: West Howe Sound	2,407	7.5%	0	2	0	2	0.83	6%
TOTAL	32,170		15	13	1	29	0.90	

APPENDIX E: BENCHMARKING

Table 20. Benchmarking - Working Group Inventory

Facility Count	SUNSHINE COAST	Comparable Communities		Average
		COMOX VALLEY	COWICHAN VALLEY	
Population (2021 Census)	32,170	72,445	89,013	64,543
Rectangular Field	32	43	24	33
Ball Diamond	29	37	38	34
Artificial Turf	0	1	4	2
Total Fields and Diamonds	61	81	66	68

Table 21. Benchmarking - Working Group Inventory - per 1,000 residents

Facilities per 1,000 residents	SUNSHINE COAST	SUNSHINE COAST 2040	Provision to meet 2040 population projections	Comparable Communities		Average of Comparables	SCRD 2040 Supply Compared to Avg.
				COMOX VALLEY	COWICHAN VALLEY		
Population*	32,170	38,000		72,445	89,013	64,543	
Rectangular Field	0.99	0.84	N/A	0.59	0.27	0.41	ABOVE
Artificial Turf	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.03	BELOW
Ball Diamond	0.87	0.76	N/A	0.51	0.43	0.46	ABOVE

*2021 Census data

Table 22. Benchmarking – Government Fields (SCRD, Sechelt, Gibsons and shíshálh Nation)

Facility Count	SUNSHINE COAST	Comparable Communities		Average of Comparables
		COMOX VALLEY	COWICHAN VALLEY	
Population (2021 Census)	32,170	72,445	89,013	80,729
Rectangular Field	14	24	12	18
Ball Diamond	16	24	32	2
Artificial Turf	0	1	3	28
Total Fields and Diamonds	30	49	47	48

Table 23. Government Field Benchmarking – per 1,000 residents

Facilities per 1,000 residents	SUNSHINE COAST	SUNSHINE COAST 2040	Provision to meet 2040 population projections	Comparable Communities		Average of Comparables	SCRD 2040 Supply Compared to Avg.
				COMOX VALLEY	COWICHAN VALLEY		
Population*	32,170	38,000		72,445	89,013	64,543	
Rectangular Field	0.44	0.37	N/A	0.33	0.13	0.22	ABOVE
Artificial Turf	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.02	BELOW
Ball Diamond	0.50	0.42	N/A	0.33	0.36	0.35	ABOVE

Table 24. Booking Data by User Group for Municipal Fields (2024)

Group	2024 Spring / Summer # of Booked Hours	2024 Fall / Winter # of Booked Hours	2024 Total Booked Hours
SC Baseball Association	3,130	0	3,130
SC Slo-pitch	2,980	172	2,980
Sechelt Minor Softball Association	1,475	65	1,540
Men's Fast Pitch	271	0	271
SC Youth Soccer Association	3,326	4,977	8,303
Women's Soccer	60	247	307
Men's Soccer	0	795	795
Adult Soccer	0	720	720
Drop-in Soccer	0	65	65
Ben Pierre Adult	0	32	32
SCYSA Academy	0	65	65
SC Disc Golf Association	241	0	241
Special Olympics	135	0	135
Youth Rugby	105	0	105
SC Ultimate Disc Association	0	290	290
Total	11,724	7,256	18,979

APPENDIX F: ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY