

Sports Fields to Receive Broadleaf Weed Treatment

The sports fields at Parksville Community Park and Springwood Park will be treated for broadleaf weeds, with Springwood Park being treated on August 31, and Parksville Community Park being completed from September 8-11. Signage will be posted at the fields when treatments are taking place.

The City of Parksville's Parks team has developed a sports field maintenance program focused on building resilient grass through several practices including fertilization, aeration, deep-tine cultivation, overseeding, topdressing, and appropriate mowing heights. These practices help strengthen turf health, improve playing conditions, and reduce the need for herbicide use. The City also applies a soil wetting treatment that improves water infiltration and retention, reducing irrigation requirements by approximately 30 percent.

We remain committed to providing safe, high-quality sports fields while minimizing reliance on chemical controls and supporting environmental handling. Using an [Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\)](#) guideline, the Parks team prioritizes non-chemical pest control methods whenever possible. The guideline uses mechanical, physical, biological, and cultural control options before considering chemical treatments. It also includes assessment tools and data to help determine when treatment is necessary.

While broadleaf weeds may appear harmless, they deteriorate quickly under the heavy foot traffic common on sports fields, leaving behind bare mud or hardpan areas that create safety hazards for users. They also contribute to uneven playing surfaces, reducing ground stability, affecting traction for athletes, and can alter how the balls travel across the surface, impacting the quality of play.

Weeds compete directly with grass for essential resources such as water, sunlight, and soil nutrients. As weeds die off, the resulting bare areas are often quickly taken over by other invasive species, making overseeding an important part of maintaining dense, healthy grass.

Although these fields may appear healthy at first glance, some areas contain broadleaf weed coverage exceeding 50 percent. At Springwood Park, significant irrigation challenges arose earlier this year following vandalism that damaged the irrigation booster pump. The resulting reduction in irrigation capacity weakened the turf for several weeks, creating favorable conditions for opportunistic weeds to establish themselves.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while this work is completed.

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*The City of Parksville is located on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Nations,
home to the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and the Qualicum First Nation.*