

RECORD OF RESOLUTIONS

CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON
STATE OF OHIO

RESOLUTION NO. 6-2022

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP AN ATHLETIC TURF MANAGEMENT POLICY

- WHEREAS,** the City of Upper Arlington has long enjoyed a vibrant youth sports program, thanks to the volunteer efforts of several community members serving as administrators and coaches; and
- WHEREAS,** over the course of time, the high use of the City's athletic fields for sports and community events has resulted in turf conditions which hinder the safety and playability of playing surfaces; and
- WHEREAS,** during the 2018 Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Plan process, it was determined that the conditions of parks in general, and athletic fields specifically, were below acceptable standards and as part of an extensive community input process, residents prioritized improvements to athletic fields; and
- WHEREAS,** the City has implemented improvements to its athletic fields through creating a Parks & Forestry (Turf) Specialist position, prioritizing capital improvements for athletic fields and enhancing protocols within the existing turf maintenance plan; and
- WHEREAS,** the Parks & Recreation Department has conducted extensive research as it has explored the potential maintenance approaches and tools necessary for providing consistent quality fields, including industry and peer community best practices, community engagement, and discussion with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board; and
- WHEREAS,** through this extensive process, the utilization of an Integrated Turf Health Management (ITHM) program has been identified as a viable, approach that is site specific and tailored to each location's needs using the least impactful materials necessary to accomplish its maintenance goals, with a focus on the overall turfgrass system, including plants, soils and beneficial organisms to reduce the risk of injury and exposure to treatment materials while improving playability; and

WHEREAS, staff desires to develop an Athletic Turf Management Policy in order to implement an ITHM program, with protocols and applications implemented on a field-by-field basis; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance of the City's athletic fields is ever evolving and the Department will modify the Athletic Turf Management Policy as necessary and appropriate, while striving to achieve optimal results within the available staffing and financial resources, and minimizing applicable treatments. Specifically, the Policy and ITHM plan will be re-evaluated if any field being treated at the Level 3 or Rescue level remains at this level after three years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Upper Arlington, Ohio, that:

SECTION 1. That Council is committed to enhancing the quality of life for Upper Arlington residents and recognizes that many residents partake in youth sports and community events in the City's parks.

SECTION 2. City Council supports the Parks & Recreation Department's efforts to provide safe and playable athletic fields for the community.

SECTION 3 City Council authorizes the Parks & Recreation Director to develop an Athletic Turf Management Policy with an Integrated Turf Health Management (ITHM) program that governs the maintenance practices and tools necessary to provide high quality, safe fields while minimizing environmental impact.

SECTION 4. City Council directs the City Manager and Parks & Recreation Director to annually provide an update to City Council and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board relative to the management of athletic field turf and any substantive changes to the policy.

SECTION 5. That this Resolution shall take effect at the earliest date allowed by law.