

Council Budget Questions and Requests for Information
2022-23 Manager's Recommended Budget
Question #8

QUESTION: What are the options for shifting some or all of the cost of maintaining the Cedar Falls Park artificial turf fields to the out of town travel teams who seem to use them the most?

RESPONDENT: Phil Fleischmann, Parks & Recreation Director

RESPONSE: The majority of the field usage at Cedar Falls Park is by Orange County residents; however, the parent organization reserving the fields may be based out of a location outside of the county. Parks & Recreation's current athletic field allocation process assigns priority consideration to user groups who have at least 60% of the participants utilizing the field being Orange County residents. The user groups that have this priority designation also receive the county resident booking fee rate.

One possible funding option for future replacements of artificial turf fields would be to use a capital reserve fund in which the artificial turf field rental revenue is deposited into. In theory, assuming consistent peak usage and replacement costs, the fields would pay for their own replacement in approximately six years. One of the challenges in doing this is that this process would essentially reduce the Town's General Fund annual revenue generated through rental fees and charges by a corresponding amount. During 2018 and 2019, according to Parks & Recreation's booking software, the artificial turf fields at Cedar Falls generated \$209,000 and \$221,000 in rental fees. This money is placed in the Town's General Fund in charges for services and are used to balance the operating budget.

The cost associated with routine maintenance to a single artificial turf field per year is estimated to be: \$5,400.