

3.4. Hybrid Turf Trial Update August 2021

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ENDORSED BY: Rob Emerson, Director Open Space and Environmental Services

ATTACHMENTS: Nil

PURPOSE:

To update the Reference Group on the trial of Hybrid Turf.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report provides updated information on the trial of Hybrid Turf.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** the report be received.
- 2. THAT** Council continue to monitor the performance of the Hybrid turf over the high impact winter season.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

1. Our Living Environment

1.4 Public open space and recreation facilities and services meet community needs

BACKGROUND

At the meeting of the Sport and Recreation Reference Group held on the 20th of November 2020 a report presenting information on the trial of the Hybrid turf in Primrose Park was provided to the group. This report is added as an attachment

The Sport and Recreation Reference Group Resolved to recommend:

- 1. THAT** the Hybrid Turf Trial Update - November 2020 report be received.
- 2. THAT** Council continue to monitor the performance of the Hybrid Turf over the growing season.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Protocol.

DETAIL

The sustainability implications are of a minor nature and did not warrant a detailed assessment.

Council staff have continued to monitor and maintain the Hybrid Turf installation area of Primrose Park. Council staff have been benchmarking the trial area with the goal mouth at the Western end of the field using photographic records and the following methods of measurement

- **Grass Cover** – Measured by visual means and recorded as a % of the area
- **Levelness** – Measured (as a whole area) by visual means and recorded as either Excellent, Good, Acceptable or Poor
- **Hardness**– Measured (as a whole area) by visual means and using a prod to penetrate the area. Recorded as Soft, Normal, Acceptable and Hard

March 2021 – Winter training has resumed

	Mar-21		
	Hybrid Grass Area	Natural Grass Area	Comments
Grass Cover	97%	97%	Winter training has resumed at low hours and starting to see some minor wear and tear
Levelness	Good	Good	A few nicks here and there from studded boots
Hardness	Normal	Normal	

April 2021 – Goal Posts are now up ready for a full Winter season of high impact sport

	Apr-21		
	Hybrid Grass Area	Natural Grass Area	Comments
Grass Cover	95%	95%	We are starting to see some wear in the middle of the goal mouths however minor at present
Levelness	Good	Good	Definitive football boot marks and scuffing
Hardness	Normal	Normal	

May 2021 – Weather has now cooled down significantly, and turf is in dormancy

	May-21		
	Hybrid Grass Area	Natural Grass Area	Comments
Grass Cover	85%	90%	Mainly worn in middle of goal posts as well as significant scuffing and wear throughout the goal mouths. The Hybrid area is actually worn out more than the grass area.
Levelness	Good	Good	Starting to see some minor level changes
Hardness	Normal	Normal	Starting to see it harden up a bit with the high use. Fields are due to be sliced in the next few weeks

June 2021 – 8-10 weeks into the high impact Winter season

	June-21		
	Hybrid Grass Area	Natural Grass Area	Comments
Grass Cover	80%	85%	Main area of wear is directly in the middle under the goal posts. Fibres in the hybrid area are visible under the posts. We have had some wet weather which has enhanced the wear
Levelness	Good	Good	further minor level changes mainly in between the posts
Hardness	Hard	Hard	With the wet weather we have been unable to aerate so is becoming heavily compacted. Starting to see it harden up a bit with the high use. Fields will be aerated ASAP

July 2021 – Covid 19 has returned, and community sport has been halted as per the health order guidelines

	July-21		
	Hybrid Grass Area	Natural Grass Area	Comments
Grass Cover	85%	90%	The turf is actually recovering during this lockdown period with no use. Fields have been aerated and have had good weather
Levelness	Good	Good	Still some minor level changes
Hardness	Normal	Normal	Aeration and no play have helped the hardness of these areas improve

Natural Grass Site April



Hybrid Grass Site April



Natural Grass Site May



Hybrid Grass Site May



Hybrid Grass Site June



Natural Grass Site June



Natural Grass Site July



Natural Grass Site July



Hybrid Grass Site July 2021



Hybrid Grass Site July 2021



Aerial Shot April 2021

