SUBJECT: Cosmetic Pesticide Ban - Impact on Sports Field Marking Activities (PW08143a) - (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That a one year moratorium on municipal Sports Field Marking services across the system be approved;

(b) That endorsement is given to have test trials of alternative Sports Field Lining methods to support the development of new program delivery recommendations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Whereas the use of chemical herbicides and pesticides are prohibited by the Cosmetic Pesticides Act effective April 22\textsuperscript{nd} 2009, current direction received through endorsement of report PW08143 to continue with “Glyphosate” of “Round Up” becomes null and void.

The purpose of this report is to address impacts of the Cosmetic Pesticides Act on the Division’s Sports Field Lining Program through the following actions:

a) Suspension of the Sports Fields Line Burning Program for the 2009 season.

b) Implementation of a Sports Fields Lining “Alternative Practice” Trials project to confirm the most appropriate alternative or set of alternative service delivery methods without using chemical herbicides.

c) Provision of a staff report on the outcomes of the trials with related program delivery and perhaps service level recommendations in advance of the 2010 budget process.
BACKGROUND:

The information/recommendation contained within this report has City wide implications. On April 22, 2009, The Cosmetic Pesticides Ban Act (listed as Ontario Regulation 63/09) will come into effect therein amending the Pesticides Act to ban the use of Cosmetic Pesticides and effectively superseding related provisions within all municipal bylaws.

As a result the direction received through the endorsement of report PW08143 to continue with “Glyphosate” of “Round Up” becomes null and void.

The purpose of this report is to establish a plan to develop new service delivery methods for this activity (as introduced and outlined within Report PW08143) that will be sustainable, effective, cost effective and in compliance with the Cosmetic Pesticide Act as revised per regulation 63/09. The plan proposed by this report consists of the following three components.

1. **Suspension of the Sports Fields Line Burning Program for the 2009 season**
   a) Confirmation of the end of use of chemical based line burning practices and cessation of the Field Line Marking program on fields previously marked using the line burning technique for 2009.
   b) Communication of the change in field marking service level to user groups.
   c) Monitoring of the impacts of the cessation of the marking activity by sampling across the field inventory to determine impacts and deterioration rates for analysis.

2. **Implementation of a Sports Fields Lining “Alternative Practice” Trials Project**
   a) Test Implementation of the Alternative practices identified within report PW08143 upon selected and representative fields within the inventory for monitoring and assessment during the 2009 season.
   b) Alternatives to include, Latex Paint Spraying & Rolling, Chalk Lining Method, Artificial Line installation, Nitrogen Burning and others as may be appropriate.
   c) Analysis of results and user group feedback.

2. **Provision of a staff report**
   a) Identifying preferred program delivery method recommendations on the basis of the results of the trials, customer feedback, industry research in advance of the 2010 budget process.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

There are currently 136 Class C soccer fields located at 63 Park sites. Each of these fields will require a new line marking process and material standard now that the use of herbicides are banned for cosmetic use and Parks are only exempted under the regulation which allow for herbicide applications for National ad International sporting events which require and application for approval to the MOE 6 months in advance and if approved strict adherence to usage and applications of herbicides must cease immediately after the event.
ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:
Council may choose to discontinue the service however this is not recommended as it is considered an essential component of Sport Field facilities and would not be supported by user groups and organizations.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:
There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report as trials will be funded through accounts previously budgeted for chemical herbicide application. Trials will not exceed the amount previously budgeted.

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:
The recommendations support the achievement of Environmental Stewardship of the Public Works Strategic Plan and Health Community goals under the Corporate Strategic Plan.

This report illustrates Parks Operation and Maintenance staff will be actively working towards servicing and connecting with communities, which is a Vision Driver.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:
N/A

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:
By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☐ Yes ☑ No

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No

Human health and safety are protected.

Some studies link the use of pesticides to health risks.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☐ Yes ☑ No

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines? ☐ Yes ☑ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? ☐ Yes ☑ No