



PARKS, RECREATION & FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

 Facilities & Grounds
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To: CEA Review Committee
From: Greg Hoekstra, Grounds Manager
Date: 3/21/17
Re: Request to add a deep tine aerator to the CEA fleet

Parks, Recreation & Facilities Management Department is requesting permission to add a deep tine aerator to the CEA fleet.

The demand for Appleton athletic fields begins in early spring and lasts through fall. Play takes place regardless of soggy or drought conditions. This constant use leads to soil compaction. Compaction creates turf management problems by altering the physical properties of healthy soil including: decrease in pore space, decrease in soil oxygen content, reduction in water infiltration and percolation rates, increase in soil density, and increase in water retention. Although not a cure for all ills, deep tine aeration goes a long way in reducing these issues. A deep tine aerifier is a machine that punches a number of small holes into turf at depths of up to 10 inches, it does this with a heaving action that shatters the surrounding soil. This combination of creating a number of deep holes while shattering the surrounding soil helps to alleviate a number of the compaction problems listed. Compaction issues at Reid Golf Course would also be addressed with this machine. This machine would be mounted by 3 point hitch to a tractor currently in the fleet.

The cost of the deep tine aerator is \$27,567. If approved the monthly replacement reserve rates will be included in the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management budget request for 2018.

Thank you for your consideration.