



Mayor and Council Members;

The Tillsonburg Football Club (Tillsonburg FC), is responsible for programming competitive soccer in Tillsonburg. Our organization is currently renting soccer fields at the Tillsonburg Soccer Park. Due to the growth in Tillsonburg youth soccer, we were short an intermediate size field in the 2022 season, therefore we started the planning process to add additional soccer fields for our youth.

The Canadian National Women's team won Olympic gold in 2021. Then the Canadian National men's soccer team qualified for the FIFA World Cup in 2022. All of that, plus the announcement of Toronto as a host site for the 2026 World Cup we anticipate an increase in demand for youth soccer. The recent population increase in Tillsonburg coupled with the anticipated increase in demand we believe soccer will grow exponentially. Soccer in Tillsonburg has a huge opportunity to go to another level.

We are currently short one mini field and one intermediate field (2023). We anticipate that one additional mini field and one additional intermediate will be needed for our current anticipated teams in the 2024 season. At the moment and into the immediate future, there are ample full-size fields at the Tillsonburg Soccer Park.

The Gyulveszi Park has been used for soccer for over 25 years, well before the Tillsonburg Soccer Park was built. Over the last 20 years the Gyulveszi Park has been used by competitive soccer teams in April and early May to help prepare for the soccer season. Currently at the Gyulveszi Park there is 1 full size field (110 metres by 65 metres) and 2 mini soccer fields (55 metres by 35 metres).

To clarify here are the current sizes of fields required for soccer by the Ontario Soccer Association:

- Full sized soccer field (110 metres by 65 metres) – Ages U13 and up
- Intermediate sized soccer field (80 metres by 45 metres) – Ages U11 to U12
- Mini sized soccer field (55 metres by 35 metres) – Ages U8 to U10

One of the main factors driving this required expansion occurred about 5 years ago, when Ontario soccer created a third, "intermediate" sized soccer field to its regulations. This new size of field was created to help transition soccer players from the mini sized fields to full sized soccer fields. At the moment there are no purposely built intermediate sized fields in Tillsonburg.

The other main factor driving this discussion is the shortage of fields that are safe for youth to play on, we are asking the Town of Tillsonburg to work with our soccer committee. It is time to once again work together to build additional soccer fields, just like the volunteers and the Town did in the late 1990's when the two groups partnered and built the Tillsonburg Minor Soccer Park (this became operational in 2002).

To clarify, the plan is for Gyulveszi Park to be purposely built to accommodate the Town's youth competitive soccer players from ages U8 to U16. The men's and women's teams would continue to play at the Tillsonburg Soccer Park, because those divisions need to play under lights, leaving the youth space to play on during daylight hours.

Since we need more soccer fields for the 2023 Season, Tillsonburg FC is proposing the following three phased approach to improve Gyulveszi Park to meet Ontario Soccer standards.



**Phase 1 (Spring of 2023)**

- level land and bring soccer fields to competitive conditions.
- seeding of all property
- trim down trees on the north side of the property
- cut down all trees east side of the park with the cooperation of owner and neighbor of Jake Lofthouse on the east side of the park, to remove all drug paraphernalia and garbage.
- replace trees at a later date (Fall 2025)

**Phase 2 (Fall of 2023-2024)**

- increase parking lot with the help from the Town of Tillsonburg
- install irrigation by town water or a point
- bring water, electricity from Peach St. to the north side of the park
- install a 5-metre-high chain link fence on the south side of the park where the intermediate field is 80 metres long, and 110 metres long on the main soccer field.

**Phase 3 (Fall of 2024-2025)**

- build washrooms, dressing rooms, office, and shed.

We are asking the town for help with the required investment in the Gyulveszi Soccer Park project. Our organization will drive the fundraising. The majority of revenue will come from government grants, businesses, service clubs and donations from the community.

As part of the project, we are asking the Town of Tillsonburg to support us in enlarging the parking lot from where it is located now, including enhancing the vehicular entrance at Bond Street. This change would be 90m the West to East and from 73m North to South. This will accommodate approximately 175 parking spots. This would not interfere with the present playground equipment.

We look forward to the discussion that will occur at the December 12, 2022 Town Council meeting.

We have also included Tillsonburg FC's strategic plan and a copy of the presentation

THANK YOU, TILLSONBURG FC (Soccer)