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**PARKS AND OPEN SPACE UNUSABLE CONDITIONS POLICY**

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**Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to identify possible conditions which may result in the closing of Town owned sports fields, parks, trails, and open spaces, and to authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Manager of Facilities and Parks, or designated staff to close the same if such conditions exist.

**Scope**

The Town of Orangeville Parks and Recreation Department's Parks and Open Space Unusable Conditions Policy protects participants involved in outdoor activities from potential injury due to dangerous conditions, reduces unnecessary and expensive repairs and maintenance to Town owned sports fields, parks, trails and open spaces, and ensures fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers.

It is recognized that not all activities are the same. Orangeville's Parks and Open Space Unusable Conditions Policy will continue to evolve through ongoing dialogue with stakeholders to ensure that there is not a "one size fits all" approach to managing outdoor spaces during inclement weather.

**Conditions for Cancellation or Closure:**

Occurrences which may result in unusable conditions on sports fields, parks, trails and open spaces, may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Lighting, wind or Electrical storms resulting in fallen trees, equipment or debris;
- b. Heavy or extended periods of rain which result in saturated fields, pooling of water, or flooding;
- c. Extreme weather conditions which result in drought, ice, or excessive snow;
- d. Natural disasters which could result in unsafe conditions;
- e. Preventative maintenance or repairs to maintain Town standards.

If any of the above conditions exist, the park or open space is considered to be "**UNUSABLE**". Parks staff will make every effort to have the current status of selected park or open spaces available to the community through the various available communication mediums, such as signage, Town web site, social media, and telephone.

Ground conditions may quickly deteriorate during extreme weather events, especially late afternoon thunderstorms which produce large amounts of precipitation. Based on the timing, it may not be possible for parks staff to provide an update to an earlier report or to be present at the time of the permit to determine if fields should be closed. In the absence of direction from, or presence of, Town staff, it will be the responsibility of the permit holder or designate to determine if the above conditions exist, and cancel the activity until conditions improve. Community groups, who choose to use parks or open spaces, even though the above conditions exist, may be subject to financial penalties for repairs or further action up to and including cancellation of the permit for the season.

Permit Holders will be notified of this policy and the procedures to follow in determining if outdoor parks spaces are considered unusable.

**THE TOWN OF ORANGEVILLE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL ANY PERMIT DUE TO NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OUTLINED ON THE PERMIT.**