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Ontario pesticide ban changes how sports fields marked

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Hamilton will be trying a number of different methods this summer to line sports fields to replace chemical line burning.

But the cost to taxpayers could be as much as \$250,000 extra next year.

Municipalities, including Hamilton, have to replace its use of chemical-based line burning and stop field line marking on sports fields previously marked by line burning this year because of the province's Cosmetic Pesticides Ban.

The ban took effect April 22, and prohibits the use of Round Up and Glyphosate.

Al Dore, manager of parks and cemeteries, said the majority of the sports affected are soccer, cricket and Australian Rules Football. He said baseball associations changed how they mark their fields a few years ago to chalk lining.

Mr. Dore said class A and B parks with sports fields will not be affected.

But there are 136 class C soccer fields located at 63 park sites that will have different types of line markings on them this year.

He said each of these fields will need new field markings.

City staff will be testing such alternatives to mark fields as latex paint spraying and rolling, chalk lining, artificial line and nitrogen burning. He added a report will be presented to councillors next fall on the pilot programs. The cost for an alternative method of lining range from \$150,000 to \$250,000 said Bryan Shynal, director of operations and maintenance.

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