

Ballfield Brainstorming Session

Notes from Wednesday March 23, 2005

Attendees:

- Recreation Dept:

- Robin Riley – Division Chief, Revenue
- Barb Gafney – Supervisor, Classes
- Mark Galiano- Sports – Adult Soccer team leader

- Community Use of Schools:

- Jeff Gardner

- MSI Montgomery Soccer Inc:

- Doug Schussler – Executive Director

- M-NCPPC Staff:

- Doug Betman – Southern Region
- Brent Conner – Ballfield Intuitive, Coordinator
- John Hench – Park Planning Resource Analysis
- Don Cochran – Assistant Director of Park and Planning
- Ellen Masciocchi – Park Design & Development
- Tanya Schmieler – Park Planning & Resource Analysis

Topics of Discussion:

1) Assumptions related to Needs Determination

2) Inventory –

- a. Tanya Schmieler will distribute updated inventory for people to comment on.

After discussion, the group felt that all high school fields and use should be removed from the inventory because of lack of community use & related data – If addition of artificial turf allows high school fields to be used by the community in the future, this will change.

Weekly park capacity numbers (for permitted use) were discussed 24 hours for a softball/basketball field, 20 hours soccer, 16 hours for a youth soccer or softball field or youth practice field

- Field needs are based on a peak spring week.
- Many youths play more than 1 sport
- Doug Schussler mentioned that their spring & fall seasons get equal play and that fall is the hardest for them because of the limited daylight hours.

3) Field Resting/Renovation :

- Current inventory 195 football soccer fields, 98 are park fields)
- School fields are not taken out of play
- 8 fields is the largest number

Brent can take out at a time without unreasonable stress on field permits; however this means you only renovate once every year

- In an ideal world, you would take out fields every 3-5 years. This is not possible as it would take too many fields out of play
- Replacing artificial turf in goalmouths will help.
- Fields often get ruined quickly by improper use
- Mark, Brent & Tanya will discuss this further

4) Adult softball practice factor

- a. Softball is decreasing – practices are minimal. We don't permit, because after game permits, there is not much left. However most teams practice a few times at the beginning of the season, then just before game, 1-4 ratio is too high. More like 1-8 or 10.
- b. Soccer- many people can't get practice permits – just go play. New ICB policy of blocking league practices will be tough for MSI.

They feel that M-NCPPC & ICB should have the same policies.

5) Turn down factors –

These are difficult to analyze as applicant may have gone to schools

6) Informal use is increasing.

It includes people who could not get a permit, and informal players, particularly soccer.

Mark Galiano, the head of Recreation Soccer Program, said that some of his players also used fields informally. The majority of unpermitted soccer players are not the out of area people that play games for money. Little community use is built into model informal use must be considered.

7) Field specifications –

There is a need for adult soccer fields. The large fields are played on by older children & teens as well as adults.

Youth baseball is played on adult softball fields.

Needs should be re-labeled

* There is almost no youth softball just youth baseball

- a) youth/practice fields – youth 0-9 diamonds
- b) Youth baseball/adult softball
- c) Baseball – 90' base paths
- d) Youth soccer 0-9
- e) Older youth over 10, teens & adult soccer

These categories more closely correspond to existing use. Mark, Tanya & Brent will meet to discuss this.

8) Future Needs

- Adult softball teams are decreasing – however, as youth baseball is played on these fields, the needs must reflect that Youth baseball is increasing.
 - Adult kickball is an emerging sport that uses softball fields
 - Adult soccer is increasing
- We must try to project trends to the future. 1990-2005. Finding past year's team numbers to project trends may be difficult. Barb Gafney will try to provide some numbers.

Please Give Us Your Comments Below: You Can Make A Difference!

HOW MANY ADDITIONAL FIELDS WILL BE NEEDED IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY BY 2020?

THESE ESTIMATES ARE VERY IMPORTANT AS THEY WILL GUIDE FUTURE PRIORITIES AND FIELD CONSTRUCTION AND CONVERSIONS.

The following table indicates preliminary estimates of future additional field needs to the year 2020. (Note: a minus number indicates a perceived surplus). As the service area goal calls for future needs to be met within the Community Based Team Areas, (shown on the back of the survey) a surplus in an existing area is not subtracted from the needs in another.

As shown in the table below, a maximum total Countywide need of approximately 130 additional fields are estimated to be needed by 2020, over half of which are for multi-use rectangular fields. However, within the team area, field needs may potentially be lowered by converting fields to another use (where feasible) to meet the needs, and can potentially lower the total field need to a little over 100. The total needs number on the right is shown as a range reflecting that some field needs may be met by converting one field type to another. The minimum number assumes that adult fields, except for 90 ft baseball can be converted to another field type. These estimates will be refined after input from Montgomery County Sports leagues, and park and recreation staff.

2020 Additional Field Needs by Community Based Team Area

COMMUNITY BASED TEAM AREA 2020 FIELD NEEDS Planning Team Area	Number of Youth (0-9) Multi-Purpose Diamonds Needed	Number of (Age10-13 /10-65+ /10-65+ Softball) Diamonds Needed	Number of 90' infield-Baseball Fields (Ages 14+) Needed	Number of Adult (10-65+) Multi-Purpose Rectangular Fields Needed	Number of Youth (0-9) Multi-Purpose Rectangles Fields Needed	Range Minimum/Maximum
Rural/Damascus	-1.8	-3.2	1.7	5.2	-2.6	3.7/6.9
I-270 Corridor	0.1	1.5	3.0	19.4	9.7	33.7
Georgia Avenue/Olney	-5.3	-19.3	1.8	7.7	2.3	1.8/11.8
Potomac/Travilah	-0.3	5.2	4.5	4.6	-4.1	14/14.3
Eastern County	-0.5	-20.5	-0.3	4.8	1.1	0.3/5.9
Bethesda/North Bethesda	-1.0	-0.9	4.8	20.4	1.7	24.8/26.9
SilverSpring/TakomaPark	-1.7	8.7	4.1	10.8	-3.4	23.6
Maximum Need	0	15	20	73	15	TOTAL 101.7/ 123.1

Note: A minus indicates a perceived field surplus
() = Age range of field users

Please give us your comments and e-mail to MCP-ParkLand@MNCPPC-MC.org or mail to Tanya Schmieler M-NCPPC 1109 Spring Street Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301) 650-4392
