

ATTACHMENT A

Enforcement – Captain Daniel McNickle, Facilitator

Enforcement – 66 votes (Public Forums)

- Establish a security deposit or bond for field use. Require a refundable deposit for each permit issued.
- Require one police officer for each group of 75+ participants.
- Require a police officer to be at each game if you are a league with a certain amount of teams.
- Periodic (monthly) community meetings to monitor progress should include police, maintenance staff and park users and neighbors.
- Consider the community-developed “Parks & Communities Together” PACT:
 - 5 Pilot Parks; 2005-2006 Season
 - “Community Monitored” local parks (sign)
 - 5 Fields; Link Teams & Fields
 - Application for “C-M” designation
 - Volunteers
 - “Liasion”
 - “Ranger”
- Create an intense police patrol for a specific amount of time at problem parks.
- Put up bilingual signs at all parks “Use by Permit Only”.
- Fine those who do not turn in an unused permit.
- Create a park ranger or park monitor program.
- Have more park workers on the weekends to be in the parks.
- Revoke permits for frequent violations.
- Assign a staff for permit enforcement.
- Put up bilingual signs with the rules.
- Develop an auxiliary force (park monitor/ranger).
- Persons assigned permits should be present and held accountable for behavior and clean-up
*(Above can only be accomplished through appropriate Park and Planning oversight on weekends, especially Sundays)
- Have undercover police visit fields on weekends to observe park violations.
- Create a fine for using the field illegally.
- Hire more police officers.

Staff Suggestions

The Park Police recommend the continued use of officers and Park Police volunteers to address the problems of local park usage. Officers can be assigned specific times and locations to focus their interaction with park users. These assignments will be a part of the overall countywide patrolling of the Parks system. It is important that a current list of problematic park locations be developed with input from the Permit office, Maintenance, Community affairs and the Police. Once this list is developed and prioritized each of the above sections can focus their resources on the most problematic areas.

- Park Police will continue to attend periodic community meetings to discuss neighborhood park issues and to monitor progress in problematic parks.
 - Community groups will be encouraged to contact the Park Police and ask for a representative to attend neighborhood meetings.
 - Park Police will continue to provide law enforcement perspective and insight to volunteer/neighborhood groups as needed and as requested. Interested community members can join the Park Police Volunteer organization and receive guidance and training to assist them in their neighborhoods.
 - Creation of a park monitor program is best managed from the Community Affairs office to monitor park usage and problems. However, the existing Park Police volunteer program is an excellent vehicle for concerned citizens to become involved with.
 - Park Police will expand its directed patrol practice to include specific times at specific problematic parks.
 - Continue the use of undercover park police officers as needed to observe activities and public safety related violations.
 - Park Police will develop and implement specific intelligence gathering, observation and enforcement plans to address the usage issues at selected problematic parks.
1. Light duty/injured Park Police officers could be assigned to observe/monitor problematic parks as long as the tenets of the FOP 30 / MNCPPC collective bargaining agreement are followed.
 2. Event organizers/permit holders could hire off duty officers to work large events.
 3. Increase use of Park Police volunteers to target problematic parks.

ATTACHMENT B

Permitting Policies and Practices - Brian Woodward, Facilitator

Permitting Policies – 58 votes (Public Forums)

1. Establish a security deposit for local park field use. Require a refundable deposit for each permit issued.
2. Post signs designating certain fields “For Youth Only”.
3. Increase the Permit Fee
4. Consider size limitations for certain parks
5. Charge a Per Game Fee
6. Designate all parks “Use By Permit Only”
7. Post Permits during field use
8. Require permit for all use.
9. Limit hours of use.
10. Charge a higher fee for adult use.
11. Limit field use to Saturday/Sunday games only

Staff Suggestions

In order to address these comments, we have grouped them into the following categories: Fees and Deposits, Signage, and other permit issues.

Fees and Deposits: You cannot regulate behavior with fees. The suggestions of charging a per-game fee, or requiring security deposits, do not address the specific issues that have presented themselves. In addition, more and higher fees may have the effect of discouraging some organizations from getting permits and just showing up to play or practice on an ad hoc basis. This will likely exacerbate the enforcement problem.

Signage: Signs assist the Park Police and park management in educating and enforcing rules and regulations. They are costly to install, to maintain, and to enforce. Appropriate, multi-lingual signs should be used selectively where enforcement is coordinated with signs. Requiring the users to post their permits also has merit, and we should investigate placing frames at several fields to test this idea.

Other permit issues: Size limitations for groups need to be considered where parking, size of fields, and several conflicting park uses are present. Each park has unique limitations and we should consider these factors when establishing the carrying capacity of each park. This logically would involve a review of each and every park, its facilities, parking, and neighborhood to determine the proper permitting (or carrying capacity) for that park situation.

In Chapter III: REGULATION OF PUBLIC USE, Section 3 E. (Commission’s Park Rules and Regulations adopted March 2001) states the following:

“Permits are not required for unamplified speech, distributing non-commercial literature or informal gatherings of less than twenty-five people.”

Participants in this process interpret this rule in several ways. The public points to this regulation as an existing guideline for the Commission to use to enforce field use. Mrs. Rosenfeld, Associate General Counsel, interprets this regulation as follows: “In my opinion this provision was NOT intended to govern field use. Instead, it was intended to govern “free speech” activities, such as the distribution of literature, rallies, public speechmaking, etc.”

ATTACHMENT C

Park Maintenance – Pete Boettinger, Facilitator

Maintenance – 22 votes (Public Forums)

- Partner with groups to provide trash and sanitation services.
- Explore the use of artificial turf.
- Return the trash cans.
- Gate the parks and limit time access.
- Have teams/leagues “adopt” amenities for field (porta-johns, trash collection).
- Have more park workers on the weekends to be in the parks.
- Better monitoring and inspection during development.

Staff Suggestions

1. Return the trash cans to selected parks.
2. Explore the use of artificial turf at selected parks and determine the cost.
3. Enhance field rotation/closure of fields.
4. Explore the gating of fields.
5. Develop fewer local parks and more regional/recreational high capacity parks, where the Department can provide more efficient staffing, more infrastructure, trash cans, sufficient parking, bathrooms, etc. They are designed to handle more people.
6. Install more porta-johns, perhaps in partnership with user groups.
7. Create better communication with permittees when closing fields due to inclement weather/conditions.
8. Conduct a parking study.
9. Erect better signage stating the rules and regulations.
10. Direct Park Managers to contact permittee/user to determine what the field will be used for, i.e., type of game, ½ field or whole field used, etc.. Example: Ginny Moxley calls the permittee (soccer) to ask: 1) What are the age groups using my field? If the age group is 6-10, we don't need a field set up. The group is using half of the field. That is, the fields don't need to be lined and goal posts don't need to be set out. This saves us employee time/money, and not as much damage is done to our fields.
11. Contact other county agencies to determine what/how they are dealing with the “overuse” field issues.
12. Explore the possibility of installing artificial turf on high school fields, regional park and recreational park fields.
13. Make it mandatory for each team, after games, to pick up trash. (Time should be allotted by leagues' staff for this.)
14. Fields must be monitored, policed after each use by permittee.

Outreach – Carolyn Wainwright, Facilitator

Outreach – 14 votes (Public Forums)

- Create a dialogue between neighbors and users.
- Join the park volunteers.
- Groups should provide volunteers to “educate” spectators.
- Post name, activity, and time of each permit on the web.
- Group should plan for transportation.
- More communication on costs to operate the park system.
- Set up a tour of weekend use in local parks for Planning Board and other elected officials.
- Give community the weather hotline.
- Advertise the website www.mncppc-mc.org
- Translate park regulations into Spanish (and other languages where needed).
- Post and mail to appropriate permit holders.

Staff Suggestions

1. Create a mandatory dialogue/training of league leaders/coaches at start of each season.
2. Identify sport leaders and recruit their support.
3. Leagues representatives should explain permitting to coaches, parents and children– most new coaches are not aware of all rules and regulations. Require League organizer to distribute permit rules and regulations, especially where bulk permitting is done.
 - *Set a joint meeting with permittees of the Community Use of Public Facilities and those of Park and Planning in May to reiterate park rules and listen to customer needs.*
 - *Groups should provide volunteers to “educate” spectators.*
4. Translate all/some rules into Spanish.
5. Produce a pamphlet in Spanish about some of the issues and solutions.
6. Educate users; this will be successful if the police are in the Parks and can enforce the permit regulations.
 - *Develop a bi-lingual field usage brochure that includes the weather hotline.*
7. Generate more articles in Spanish news media.
 - *Meet with the editorial board of La Tiempo Latino and El Pregenero to develop a story about increased park usage for publication in May.*
 - *Feature local park usage as a topic on “The Park Show” and the Hispanic program “Tertulia” on Cable Channel 6. Air in May and July, respectively.*
 - *Develop an interview on the new Hispanic radio station*
8. Include Park Police in the outreach effort and the training of park monitors.
 - *Some monitors should have a fluency in Spanish.*
 - *Some Park Police officers assigned to pilot parks should have some fluency in Spanish.*
 - *Community Relations staff should include an Outreach worker with fluency in Spanish.*
 - *Park Permits staff should continue to include a technician with fluency in Spanish*

9. Solicit more support of elected officials.
 - *Include FY06 budget support for outreach to expanded populations.*
 - *Develop a summer tour by elected officials, commissioners and park management of heavily used parks.*
10. Develop the "PACT" program, a proposal made by residents adjacent to Meadowbrook LP
11. Designate a full-time person to oversee permitting enforcement and volunteers.
 - *Assist with publicity about the program.*
12. Put articles in other agencies' newsletters.
13. Share resources from other agencies.
 - *Establish a list of pertinent newsletters*
 - *Work with agency Public Information Officers for placement*
 - *Generate two articles by December 2005*
14. Work with the Gilchrist Center to get "other language" volunteers.
 - *Volunteer Services Coordinator should solicit "other language" volunteers as park monitors.*
 - *Get Gilchrist Center's assistance in developing bi-lingual literature and news articles.*
15. Increase the outreach/education for the general public and permittees
 - *Develop an event at selected local parks during permitted soccer games to hand out information and prizes.*

Park Planning and Design - Heidi Sussmann, Facilitator

Design Comments from Public Forums – 13 votes

- Better planning standards for determining support services.
- Put in more traffic calming devices.
- Put mass transit routes near parks and vice versa.
- Accelerate the rate of park facility development.
- Examine the planning process for facilities and look at needs comprehensively.
- Collaborate with public/private partnerships that were given priority of use.
- Create a “buffer” between park and immediately adjacent homes.
- Create more parking spaces.

Staff Suggestions

A range of ideas that could be considered is listed below. Each park would need to be evaluated individually to determine which options would be appropriate. There is currently no funding available in the Capital Improvements Program for planning, design and construction of improvements to the specific sites identified in this report. Funding for improvements to specific parks can be considered during upcoming deliberations on the Capital Improvements Program.

Specific Detail Design Elements

1. Add parking spaces to augment existing parking, where needed.
2. Add landscape buffering in appropriate situations.
3. Fence some fields that get high use, therefore controlling use at certain times.
4. Use artificial turf at some high use fields, either for the entire field or in the goal areas.
5. Provide porta-johns for all fields receiving frequent use.
6. Consider creating structures where people can change clothes.
7. Irrigate fields within Recreational/Regional parks wherever possible.

General Site Design Elements

1. Design for field rotation. This requires additional space.
2. Eliminate field overlays.
3. Design facilities so that they are versatile and may be adapted to different uses.
4. More closely link the optimum available parking capacity, within a park, with the field use capacity. There should be a direct relationship with the number/size/frequency of field use permits with the amount of available parking. Provide a place where permits can be posted when field is in use.

General Planning and Regional Scale Elements

1. Renovate fields every 5 years and have a renovation schedule.
2. Create design guidelines that establish consistent parameters for design, for both fields and their related infrastructure.
3. Consider creating fewer, but larger, new parks so that appropriate infrastructure (parking, staffing, etc.) can be addressed and recreation facilities can be consolidated.

4. Re-evaluate park categories and define suitable facilities for each park category.
5. Acquire more land for active recreation.
6. Look for suitable land within Regional Parks for possible location of fields. Consider re-evaluating the 2/3:1/3 development policy in locations where it makes sense.
7. Create a functional plan that addresses existing ball field facilities and needs, countywide.
8. Design for coming trends.
9. Evaluate existing facilities that are underused and replace with new active recreation facilities or with conservation, as appropriate.