

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks Advisory Commission

FROM: David Barrett

DATE: September 16, 2010

RE: Ann Arbor Baseball and Softball Fields – Summer 2010

For the past number of weeks I've walked the baseball and softball fields of Ann Arbor. Most everyone. I had no idea we had so many. Some are City fields; some are Ann Arbor Public School fields. Some are in neighborhoods, while others are part of larger complexes like Veterans or Southeast.

With a few exceptions, most are in need of help.

From the general to the specific, the larger canvas of their state is that many fields appear to be worn down and dog eared. Some simply need some work around the edges; others need fundamental renovation. Some fields need dirt and a refashioning of the drainage from the fields so that every rainstorm does not stop play for days; others need new backstops. Some need the outfield to be fertilized so the grass in the outfield grows evenly versus in clumps; others simply need more frequent mowing. Some need decent rubbers on the mound so the pitchers have something decent to push off of when they throw the ball; others have infields that are so hard that sliding would be inadvisable if not dangerous.

The interrelationship between the City, the Ann Arbor Public Schools, and Rec & Ed is a complex tapestry that was woven together organically over the years when monies were more plentiful - but as the budgetary stresses touched all of these organizations, there was a need to clarify the exact maintenance responsibilities of each. Recently, these responsibilities have been formalized in an agreement between all parties. Whether this has helped or hindered the maintenance of the existing fields remains to be seen. That said, this on-going dialogue should aid in figuring out how to best use limited resources.

There is a somewhat fluid formula that has the City of Ann Arbor caring primarily for its fields while providing some services for the maintenance of school facilities. Rec & Ed uses both (school & city) for its baseball & softball programs.

The City of Ann Arbor once had a designated person & crew whose primary responsibility was the care & feeding of city ball fields. Given the new budget realities, this is no longer the case. The crews now have multivaried responsibilities of which these fields are only one. The impact of this cannot be underestimated.

One of the more heartening aspects of this inventory walk of the fields has been my

conversations with City workers who genuinely care about the state of the fields. Without exception, they have expressed a pride in their work and the desire to have the fields regain their luster. In short - they care. Like me, they have played (or toured) the fields in other surrounding communities like Saline or Dexter or Chelsea and can see the growing differences in the quality of the maintenance. In fairness to Ann Arbor, these other communities have a more centralized set of ball fields which allow them a more efficient use of resources. But this does not lessen the problem nor completely explain their current condition.

I've had continuing conversations with both Matt Warba and Colin Smith as to my observations. Both have been extremely helpful and share my concerns for the overall health of the fields which bodes well for beginning to address the challenges in remedying their state of disrepair.

Given that the passage of the most recent parks millage was clearly a mandate for the care & maintenance of the parks infrastructure - this dovetails nicely into that mandate.

ANN ARBOR REC & ED
OUTSIDE USER
PERMIT REPORT

THIRD PARTY REPORT

YEAR: 2009-10

User Group	Field Uses
Youth Baseball	
Mike Creal	2
Ann Arbor A's	6
Jamie Schmunk	31
Daniel Hamill	1
Jeff Silveri	1
Ann Arbor Archers	20
Michigan Mustangs	2
Ann Arbor Stars	8
TOTAL	71
Youth Softball	
Ann Arbor Gold	3
TOTAL	3
Schools	
Skyline	12
Huron	46
Greenhills	23
Slauson Middle School	34
TOTAL	115
Adult Softball/Baseball	
WLAM Softball	1
Katherine's Catering	1
UofM Club Softball	17
Erik Burgeson	1
Nick Wood	1
David Ziemba	1
Terumo CVS	2
UofM Club Baseball	1
Washtenaw Alano Club	1
Jeremy Rose Tournament	30
UofM School of Social Work	1
Mitsubishi Motors	1
Valerie Kahn	1
TOTAL	59
Adult Kickball	
Christine Freeman	1
UofM BLSA	6
Michigan Hockey Club	1
TOTAL	8
GRAND TOTALS	256

ANN ARBOR REC & ED
LEAGUE & TEAM SPORTS
GAME PARTICIPATION REPORT

GAME REPORT

SPORT: Softball/Kickball/Baseball

SEASON: Fall

YEAR: 2009

Activity Type	Total No.	Games/	Total	Participant	Resident	Non-Res.	Total
League/Division	of Teams	Team	Enrollment	Uses	Participants	Participants	Games
MEN'S BASEBALL							
Baseball	11	10	154	1540	95	59	110
CO-REC SOFTBALL							
Co-Rec Major	4	10	64	640	41	23	40
Co-Rec Central	5	10	98	980	54	44	50
Co-Rec Minor	23	10	374	3740	230	144	230
MEN'S SOFTBALL							
Men's Central	4	10	47	470	30	17	40
Men's Minor	9	10	141	1410	75	66	90
Men's Leisure	4	10	57	570	29	28	40
KICKBALL							
Co-Rec Central	6	10	89	890	69	20	60
Co-Rec Minor	22	10	368	3680	191	177	220
GRAND TOTALS	88		1392	13920	814	578	880

ANN ARBOR REC & ED
LEAGUE & TEAM SPORTS
GAME PARTICIPATION REPORT

GAME REPORT

SPORT: Softball/Baseball/Kickball

SEASON: Summer

YEAR: 2010

Activity Type	Total No.	Games/	Total	Participant	Resident	Non-Res.	Total
League/Division	of Teams	Team	Enrollment	Uses	Participants	Participants	Games
MEN'S BASEBALL							
Baseball	25	16	162	2592	48	114	400
TOTALS	25		162	2592	48	114	400
MEN'S SOFTBALL							
United	4	20	63	1260	25	38	80
American	9	20	136	2720	64	72	180
Legends	2	10	40	400	20	20	20
Masters - DH	1	20	17	340	9	8	20
Century - DH	1	20	14	280	3	11	20
Century	2	10	33	330	7	26	20
Municipal - DH	7	20	84	1680	50	34	140
Municipal	8	10	182	1820	107	75	80
Community - DH	3	20	45	900	17	28	60
Community	10	10	126	1260	73	53	100
Recreation - DH	1	20	16	320	16	0	20
Recreation	6	10	70	700	26	44	60
TOTALS	54		826	12010	417	409	800
WOMEN'S SOFTBALL							
Community	5	10	82	820	39	43	50
Recreation	6	10	106	1060	61	45	60
TOTALS	11		188	1880	100	88	110
CO-REC SOFTBALL							
Municipal - DH	6	20	92	1840	61	31	120
Municipal	6	10	48	480	28	20	60
Community - DH	7	20	111	2220	64	47	140
Community	27	10	495	4950	280	215	270
Recreation - DH	4	20	68	1360	54	14	80
Recreation	23	10	416	4160	257	159	230
Restaurant	7	10	132	1320	100	32	70
TOTALS	80		1362	16330	844	518	970
CO-REC KICKBALL							
National	14	10	233	2330	193	40	140
Municipal	17	10	295	2950	168	127	170
Community	9	10	184	1840	137	47	90
TOTALS	40		712	7120	498	214	400
GRAND TOTALS	210		3250	39932	1907	1343	2680

ANN ARBOR REC & ED
LEAGUE & TEAM SPORTS
PRACTICE PARTICIPATION REPORT

PRACTICE REPORT

SPORT: Softball/Baseball/Kickball

SEASON: Summer

YEAR: 2010

Activity Type	Total No.	Total	Total	Participant	Resident	Non-Res.
League/Division	of Teams	Practices	Enrollment	Uses	Participants	Participants
MEN'S BASEBALL						
Baseball	5	17	87	1479	33	54
TOTALS	5	17	87	1479	33	54
MEN'S SOFTBALL						
American	2	12	29	348	13	16
Municipal	2	18	32	576	31	1
Community	2	10	31	310	14	17
Recreation	2	4	34	136	10	24
TOTALS	8	44	126	1370	68	58
WOMEN'S SOFTBALL						
Community	2	11	32	352	17	15
Recreation	2	2	35	70	20	15
TOTALS	4	13	67	422	37	30
CO-REC SOFTBALL						
Community	6	30	114	3420	67	47
Recreation	4	15	75	1125	39	36
Restaurant	1	9	23	207	20	3
TOTALS	11	54	212	4752	126	86
CO-REC KICKBALL						
National	2	2	43	86	28	15
Community	1	1	19	19	11	8
TOTALS	3	3	62	105	39	23
GRAND TOTALS	31	131	554	8128	303	251

ANN ARBOR REC & ED
LEAGUE & TEAM SPORTS
PRACTICE PARTICIPATION REPORT

Practice Report

TERM - YEAR: Summer 2010

DIVISION: Team Sports

PROGRAM: Youth Baseball / Softball

Activity Type (League)	Total Teams	Practices	Total Enrollment	Participation Uses	Resident Participation	Non-Resident Participation	Total Practices
Boys Coach Pitch 1st Grade Baseball	12	9	172	1548	169	3	108
Boys Coach Pitch 2nd Grade Baseball	13	9	178	1602	164	14	117
Boys Coach Pitch 3rd Grade Baseball	12	9	170	1530	164	6	108
Boys 4th grade Baseball	14	9	228	2052	209	19	126
Boys 5th grade Baseball	11	9	166	1494	154	12	99
Boys 6th grade Baseball	8	9	127	1143	112	15	72
Boys 7th & 8th grade Baseball	11	9	162	1458	153	9	99
Girls Coach Pitch 1st & 2nd Grade Baseball	6	9	99	891	90	9	54
Girls Coach Pitch 3rd Grade Baseball	6	9	78	702	76	2	54
Girls Coach Pitch 4th Grade Softball	7	9	102	918	99	3	63
Girls 5th grade Softball	6	9	100	900	82	18	54
Girls 6th grade Softball	7	9	98	882	90	8	63
Girls 7th & 8th grade Softball	6	9	98	882	89	9	54
Grand Total	119		1778	16002	1651	127	1071

ANN ARBOR REC & ED
LEAGUE & TEAM SPORTS
GAME PARTICIPATION REPORT

Game Report

TERM - YEAR: Summer 2010

DIVISION: Team Sports

PROGRAM: Youth Baseball / Softball

Activity Type (League)	Total Teams	Games/ Team	Total Enrollment	Participation Uses	Resident Participation	Non-Resident Participation	Total Games
Boys Coach Pitch 1st Grade Baseball	12	7	172	1204	169	3	84
Boys Coach Pitch 2nd Grade Baseball	13	7	178	1246	164	14	91
Boys Coach Pitch 3rd Grade Baseball	12	10	170	1700	164	6	120
Boys 4th grade Baseball	14	10	228	2280	209	19	140
Boys 5th grade Baseball	11	10	166	1660	154	12	110
Boys 6th grade Baseball	8	10	127	1270	112	15	80
Boys 7th & 8th grade Baseball	11	10	162	1620	153	9	110
Girls Coach Pitch 1st & 2nd Grade Baseball	6	7	99	693	90	9	42
Girls Coach Pitch 3rd Grade Baseball	6	10	78	780	76	2	60
Girls Coach Pitch 4th Grade Softball	7	10	102	1020	99	3	70
Girls 5th grade Softball	6	10	100	1000	82	18	60
Girls 6th grade Softball	7	10	98	980	90	8	70
Girls 7th & 8th grade Softball	6	10	98	980	89	9	60
Grand Total	119		1778	16433	1651	127	1097