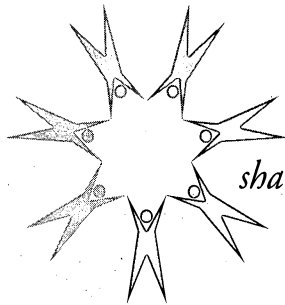


Department of Human Service Programs



sharing resources...building community

Jill Herold
Assistant City Manager

To: Robert W. Healy/City Manager

From: Jill Herold/Assistant City Manager
Paul Ryder/Director of Recreation

RE: Council Order #054, dated 9/22/97 RE: Report on the Use of Playing Fields.

Childcare

Date: October 10, 1997

Commission for
Persons with Disabilities

In response to Council Order #054, dated 9/22/97, regarding the use of playing fields, the following is offered:

Community and Youth

I. A detailed description of how fields are scheduled, including what criteria, including residency, is requested of applicants: Priority for the athletic use of City fields is given to Cambridge youth leagues, Cambridge Rindge and Latin athletic teams and DHSP sponsored adult leagues. Typically, these specific programs will submit season long schedule requests after the first of the calendar year. The permit schedule is then established for the spring, summer and fall season. After that process has been completed and the youth needs are met, the Recreation Division attempts to meet the requests of various non-city sponsored adult programs such as softball, baseball, soccer and ultimate frisbee. These adult requests are filled on a first come/first serve basis and the limited availability of field space.

Community
Learning Center

Coordinating Council for
Children, Youth and Families
(Kids' Council)

Council on Aging;
Elderly Services

Low Income
Fuel Assistance

Multi-Service Center;
Homeless Services

Office of Workforce
Development

Planning & Development

Recreation

In regard to residency, all non-city sponsored adult programs requesting use of city fields must have 50% Cambridge residents or be a Cambridge business or organization. The one exception to this rule is the use of Mayor Thomas W. Danehy Park. Because this site was constructed with state funding, it must be considered a regional facility open to surrounding communities.

II. What steps (signage, fines, police action) are taken to prevent the use of fields by unauthorized teams (not to be confused with area residents using the fields for impromptu games: Based on the specific problems surrounding the unauthorized use of Russell Field that occurred this past spring, the Recreation Division has developed a system of forwarding league and permit schedules to the Cambridge



Police Department in order to alleviate this situation. Typically, because of the quantity of permitted activities already occurring on City fields, the unauthorized use is limited to sites such as Russell, which is posted for youth use only, and the lighted Hoyt and Donnelly fields during the slower fall months. In addition, the Recreation Division has developed a program of working with neighborhood representatives to schedule neighborhood use of fields during the year. Examples of this are the weekend use of Hoyt Field and the weekday use of the Raymond Street Park.

III. A report on what teams have scheduled which fields thus far this season: As Attachments 1 - 3 illustrate, a large percentage (74%) of Cambridge fields are scheduled for Cambridge youth. The specific fields scheduled this season per program are as follows:

A. YOUTH PROGRAMS

1. Cambridge Youth Soccer - Cambridge Common, Lusitania, Raymond Street, Sennott Park, Sacramento Field, Tobin School, Ahern Field, Rafferty Park, Pacific Street, Gold Star Mother's Park (Gore Street) and Danehy Park.

2. Little League Baseball - Comeau Field, Samp Field, Lindstrom Field, Donnelly Field and Tobin School Fields.

3. Babe Ruth Baseball - Rindge and St. Peter's Baseball Fields.

4. Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School - Danehy Park, Russell Field, Cambridge Common, St. Peter's Field and Rindge Field.

5. Cambridge Girl's Softball - Danehy Park, St. Peter's Field, Hoyt Field, Gold Star Mother's (Gore Street), Ahern, Donnelly Field and Glacken Field.

6. Cambridge Elementary School Intramural Program - Hoyt Field, Donnelly Field, Sennott Park, Danehy Park, Rafferty Park and the Tobin School.

7. DHSP Flag Football League - Sennott Park, Rindge Field, Ahern Field, Donnelly Field and Glacken Field.

B. ADULT PROGRAMS

1. DHSP Recreation Division - Municipal Softball League - Danehy Park, St. Peter's Field, Hoyt Field and Donnelly Field.
2. Company, organization or resident softball - Donnelly Field, Cambridge Common, Ahern Field, Danehy Park and Raymond Street Park.
3. Adult soccer and ultimate frisbee - Danehy Park, Lusitania Field and Glacken Field.

In conclusion, although the athletic fields are currently used a great deal, a systematic approach to "resting" a field for scheduled maintenance needs such as sodding specific wear areas is being considered. This approach would require timely dialogue between the users and the City but could result in extending the costly needs for complete renovations. An example of this occurred last fall at Danehy Park Youth Soccer Field Number Two. Meetings were held with Cambridge Youth Soccer representatives which resulted in that program moving their games and practices to the Danehy Park Softball Fields in late October so that the goal mouth and mid-field wear areas could be re-sodded. The re-sodding was completed during the next few weeks and resulted in a healthy field for the next spring season.

ATTACHMENT 1.

ATHLETIC FIELD USAGE

INFORMATION FOR PIE CHARTS

I. TOTAL FIELD USAGE

- A. ADULT USE - 24.3 %
- B. YOUTH USE - 75.7 %

II. FIELD USAGE BY PROGRAM

- A. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERMITTED HOURS - 18,340 HOURS

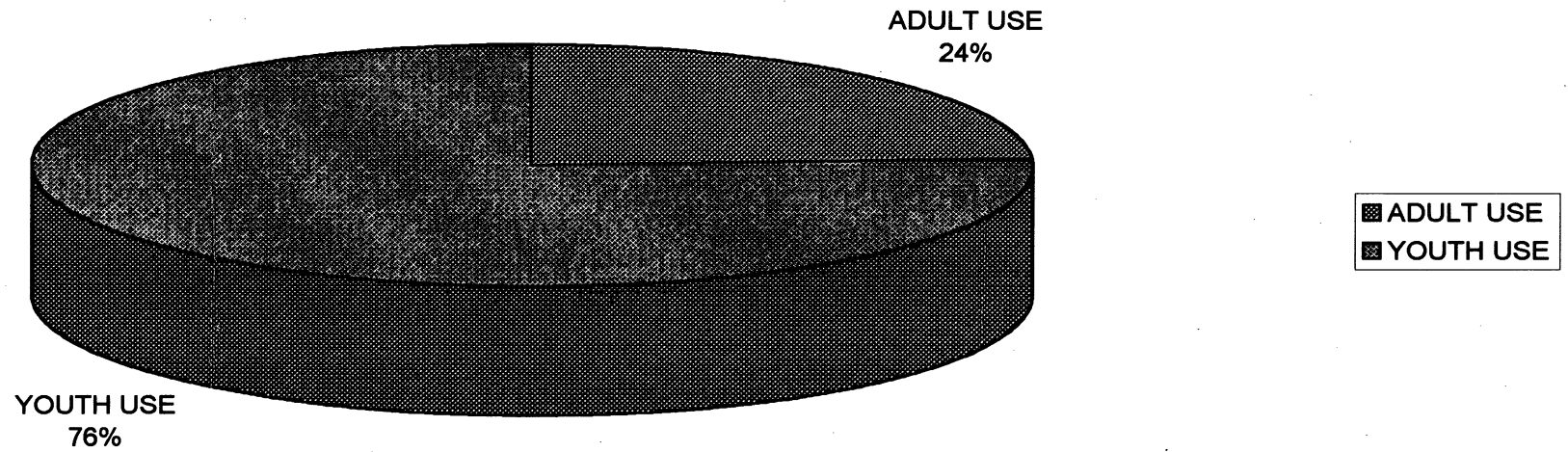
- B. YOUTH PROGRAMS

- 1. YOUTH SOCCER - 5,390 HOURS OF PERMITS = 29.3% OF TOTAL.
- 2. LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL - 4,004 HOURS OF PERMITS = 21.8% of total.
- 3. BABE RUTH BASEBALL - 1,716 HOURS OF PERMITS = 9.3% OF TOTAL.
- 4. CAMBRIDGE RINDGE AND LATIN HIGH SCHOOL - 1,452 HOURS OF PERMITS = 7.9%
- 5. GIRL'S YOUTH SOFTBALL - 512 HOURS OF PERMITS = 2.7%
- 6. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL INTRAMURAL PROGRAM - 368 HOURS OF PERMITS = 2%
- 7. POP WARNER FOOTBALL - 258 HOURS OF PERMITS = 1.4%
- 8. YOUTH CENTERS FLAG FOOTBALL - 160 HOURS OF PERMITS = .87%

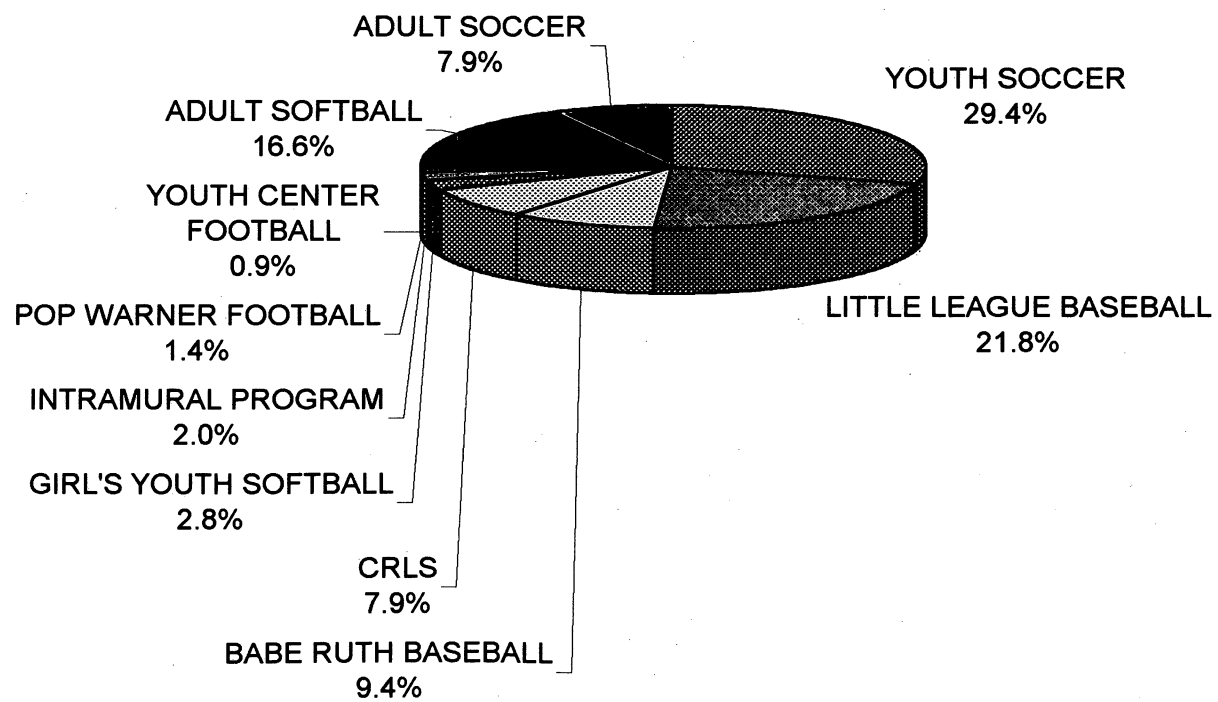
- C. ADULT PROGRAMS

- 1. ADULT SOFTBALL - 3040 HOURS OF PERMITS = 16.5%
- 2. ADULT SOCCER/FRISBEE - 1440 HOURS OF PERMITS = 7.8%

TOTAL FIELD USAGE



FIELD USAGE BY PROGRAM





CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307



15.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

October 20, 1997

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 18, regarding a report on the use of playing fields, received from Assistant City Manager for Human Services Jill Herold.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #15

S-637

Relative to Awaiting Report Item Number
Eighteen, regarding a report on the use
of playing fields.

In City Council October 20, 1997

Report Accepted
and referred
to Public Service
Committee