

Response to Questions on the FY 2008 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Supervisor Gross

Question: Is anyone keeping track of synthetic field usage?

Response:

The Department of Community and Recreation Services (CRS) is responsible for scheduling the following synthetic turf athletic fields:

- Ø EC Lawrence Park #2
- Ø Lewinsville Park #2
- Ø Mason District Park Rectangular Field #3
- Ø Vienna Elementary School Rectangular Field #1/90' Field #1 (Waters Field)
- Ø Wakefield Park Rectangular Field #5

The spring 2007 scheduling season is the first in which CRS has had responsibility for scheduling all five of these fields. Each field is fully allocated during community use times, from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. during the week and from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Any unused space during these times is due to weather conditions or scheduling gaps internal to the user groups that went unreported to CRS. With the exception of EC Lawrence, all turf fields are scheduled to local high school teams before community use begins during the week. This helps relieve the impact of high school practices on natural turf fields both on campus and at other community use locations.

While the groups assigned to each field vary according to the field's circumstances, the fields are serving youth and adults in a variety of sports. The community groups using these fields are serving over 16,000 participants during this spring 2007 scheduling season. Groups that partnered with the County to develop the fields are accorded first right of scheduling on those fields; unallocated space is assigned to other organizations. Large organizations and small groups have been assigned on turf fields to play soccer, football, lacrosse, baseball, and rugby. CRS staff will be working with the Athletic Council over the coming months to determine allocation patterns and procedures for the new fields being developed through the Park Authority bond and other means.