

Brooklyn Park Athletic Fields Usage



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This project was completed by students in REC 3281:



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The contents of this report represent the views of the authors, and do not reflect those of RCP, CURA, the Regents of the University of Minnesota, or the City of Brooklyn Park.



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Goal of Project

“The goal of the project is to help the City of Brooklyn Park assess current use of athletic facilities by several user groups specifically identified by the city contact and project future demand for use of athletic facilities among those groups.”

Records from Brooklyn Park

Sports played: Soccer, cricket, lacrosse, football, softball, baseball, & rugby.

Fields are used by: The Brooklyn Park Athletic Association, Brooklyn Park Recreation & Parks Youth Sports, Brooklyn Brumbies Rugby, Champlin Park High School, Champlin Park Youth Lacrosse Association, Maranatha Christian Academy, Minnesota Cricket Association, Northwest Kickers Soccer Club, Park Center High School, and the general public.

Field reservations: have increased by 88% since 2011. This increased use causes increased wear, safety concerns, fields closures for extended maintenance periods, and increased budget need.

Phase 1 - Focus the Evaluation

- **Behavioral Outcomes:** Increased usage by groups that previously had little to no usage of facilities. More interest is using the facilities and participating in events. Bring the community together.
- **Impacts:** The ability to offer more athletic facilities to a higher demand sport, offering better maintenance programs for the fields that are used most often, listening to user feedback and attempting to satisfy their requests. Higher diversity of participants, bring forth more resources to attract populations that are not as represented in the park systems as of now. Build community strength.

Phase 1 - Focus the Evaluation

Purpose

To help the City of Brooklyn Park assess current use of athletic facilities by several user groups specifically identified by the city contact and project future demand for use of athletic facilities among those groups.

Who will use the results? How will they use the results?

The City of Brooklyn Park will use the results in order to project future demand for use of the athletic facilities.

Key Questions

What groups are currently using the athletic facilities in Brooklyn Park?
What usage is expected in the future by each group? What ways can the fields improve?

Phase 1 - Focus the Evaluation

- **Inputs:** Expense reports/time reports for maintenance, staffing of the fields, and obtaining supplies/equipment needed. Organizing use of facility space through reservations. Surveys and interviews from both participants and staff members.
- **Outputs:** User demographics. Data on programs offered/how the facilities are used.
- **Reactions:** User satisfaction surveys (email or by phone).
- **Learning Outcomes:** Assess the current use of athletic facilities, including the different groups. Project future demand for use of athletic facilities by each group and future demand for maintenance and staffing needs.

Phase 2 - Design the Evaluation

What data do you need to answer the key questions and where can this data be obtained?

Reservations of athletic fields (Brooklyn Park Records)

Group satisfaction of usage of athletic fields (Questionnaire)

What are the best methods to collect the data?

Questionnaire sent to primary field users, phone interviews, and emails

How will the data be analyzed?

Description of the data, similarities in answers, differences in answers, find the common themes.

Phase 3 - Our Questionnaire

1. What kind of program(s) do you run?
2. Which facilities/fields does your organization currently use?
3. How are you currently using the Brooklyn Park athletic fields?
 - Are you satisfied with this current use?
 - Do you find yourself in need of using the fields outside of scheduled time?
 - Do you find yourself using different park facilities due to unavailability of Brooklyn Parks' fields?
 - How could your use be improved in other ways (such as quality and maintenance of the field, location/parking, etc.)
4. In the upcoming year, do you anticipate needing to use the facility /fields less time, the same amount of time, or more time than you currently schedule it?
 - Describe the ideal if you answered less or more time.

Phase 3 - Our Questionnaire Continued

5. Do you predict that your use will be increased, decreased, or about the same?
6. Are there facilities /fields that your group would like to use in the future that you are not using now? Which ones?
7. Is there enough availability for you to schedule the amount of time that your group needs throughout the year?
8. Are there any resources that you think could be better utilized?
9. Is there anything else that we need to know?
10. Is your program participation rate rising or declining in comparison to previous years, and if you know, why?
11. If available, how much facility/field use would you like to utilize in the future?
12. Do fees limit your use of the fields? How much more would you like to use the fields if fees were not used?

Questionnaire Respondents - 15/31 from 2016 Master Athletic Fields User Contacts provided by Brooklyn Park

Brooklyn Park Adult Softball League, Youth Sports, Tiny Tots and Recreation Department

Courage Kenny

Alternatives for People with Autism

Babe Ruth Baseball

BPAA Baseball,

BPAA Fast Pitch Softball

BPAA Youth Soccer

BPAA Youth Slow Pitch Softball

Champlin Park High School Cross Country

Minnesota Teen Challenge

Minnesota Twin Stars Soccer Club

Park Central High School Baseball

Brooklyn Park Police Department

Rebels Youth Soccer Club

Questionnaire Results

Satisfaction:

15/15 users were satisfied or very satisfied with their use

Availability:

Only 2/15 users found that they needed to use the field outside of scheduled time. This was for practice or an extended season (BPAA Youth Slow Pitch Softball and Minnesota Twin Stars Soccer Club)

Expected Need/Future Use:

11/15: Same, 1/15: Decrease, 3/15: Increase

Suggested Improvements to Improve Usage:

Batting cages at Northwoods and Noble Sports

Dugout fences at Hamilton Park and Brookdale #5 (and other lesser used fields)

Increased parking (brought up by multiple users)

Higher nets to contain baseballs

Lights to increase evening usage

Email Summary for Brooklyn Park

In summary of our findings, the user groups at the Brooklyn Park athletic fields are satisfied with their current use. However, some improvements have been suggested, the most popular being increased parking. These users also predicted their future need and usage of the fields. Brooklyn Park Adult Softball League, Youth Sports, Tiny Tots and Recreation Department predicted that they will need the same or less usage. Courage Kenny Softball, Alternatives for People with Autism, BPAA Baseball, BPAA Fast Pitch Softball, BPAA Youth Soccer, Champlin Park High School Cross Country, Minnesota Teen Challenge, Park Central High School Baseball, Brooklyn Park Police Department, Rebels Youth Soccer Club, and Woodland Elementary all predicted the same usage. Finally, Babe Ruth Baseball, BPAA Youth Slow Pitch Softball, and Minnesota Twins Stars Soccer Club predicted that they will need the same or increased usage. A more detailed report of these findings will be analyzed and provided by RCP.

Informational Sheet for RCP

Community Change & Sustainability of Athletic Fields

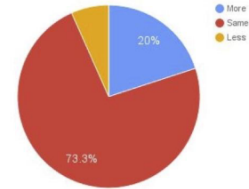
Questionnaire Respondents:

Adult Softball League, Youth Sports, Tiny Tots and Recreation Department
Adult and Youth Softball- Courage Kenny
Alternatives for People with Autism
Babe Ruth Baseball- Brooklyn Area
BPAA Baseball
BPAA Fast Pitch Softball
BPAA Youth Soccer
BPAA Youth Slow Pitch Softball
Champlin Park High School Cross Country
Minnesota Teen Challenge
Minnesota Twin Stars Soccer Club
Park Center High School Baseball
Brooklyn Park, Police Department
Rebels Youth Soccer Club
Woodland Elementary

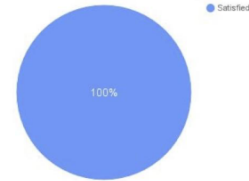
Programs:

Youth and adult sports (practices and games)
Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute- adaptive sports programs
Alternatives for People with Autism
Youth Baseball programs - Brooklyn Park Athletic Association
Youth Soccer club
BPAA girls slow-pitch softball
High School Cross Country
Annual Softball Tournament
7-12 grade athletic and non-athletic - all seasons
Community and Youth engagement for the Police Department
Special events (Tater Daze Festival, Farmers Market
School events (PE classes)

Predicted Future Use



Satisfaction



Facilities/fields used:

Northwoods Park (Todd Anderson Field)
Hartkopf Park
Willowstone
Noble Sports - more common
Zape Sports
Brookdale
Norwood
Zane Sport - more common
Elm Creek
River Park
Central Park

Our Overall Experience

Data Analysis

Did not get responses from enough of the contacts

All questionnaire respondents were satisfied and predicted the same (or slight increase) in usage

Difficult having two groups working on the same project

Schedules conflicted

Sometimes not on the same page

Difficult working for Tony, RCP, and Brooklyn Park

Sometimes there were different expectations from each

Confusion on different aspects of the project

Working together

Divided tasks to help get work done efficiently

Communicated well to ensure we were doing what we had to