

Community Change and Sustainability of Athletic Fields in Brooklyn Park: Group 2 Report



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Resilient Communities Project

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Driven to DiscoverSM

The project on which this report is based was completed in collaboration with the City of Brooklyn Park as part of the 2016–2017 Resilient Communities Project (RCP) partnership. RCP is a program at the University of Minnesota’s Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) that connects University faculty and students with Minnesota communities to address strategic projects that advance local resilience and sustainability.

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Brooklyn Park Field Usage

Jessica Stevenson, Luke Schneider, Mitch Brown, Steve Lipovetsky, and John Koch in partnership with the Resilient Communities Project (RCP) at the University of Minnesota

Brooklyn Park Athletic Fields

There are 30 parks that have athletic fields with more than 70 softball or baseball fields and 21 soccer fields in Brooklyn Park. These fields are owned and maintained by the City of Brooklyn Park and are available to rent for games and tournaments.

The most commonly rented locations are the Zane Sports Park and Noble Sports Park. Together, they offer the community 17 soccer fields, 5 baseball and 8 softball fields. Other parks also offer softball, baseball and soccer, as well as fields for lacrosse, football and cricket.

Project Experience

Goals/Objectives:

Assess current use of athletic facilities by user groups specifically identified by the city contact.

Project future demand for use of athletic facilities among those user groups.

Programs

Athletic Field Scheduling

Athletic fields within the City of Brooklyn Park are provided for the leisure time pursuits of Brooklyn Park residents. Certain rules and regulations are needed to ensure the proper use and control of facilities so that high-quality fields exist for the players.

Athletic fields are available for play beginning the middle of April through the end of October (depending on weather) from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Due to the limited number of fields and the high demand for field use, priority of use is given to community-based youth athletics. Permits are issued for the use of fields for games and tournaments only (fields are not scheduled for practice time and are available on a first-come, first-served basis).

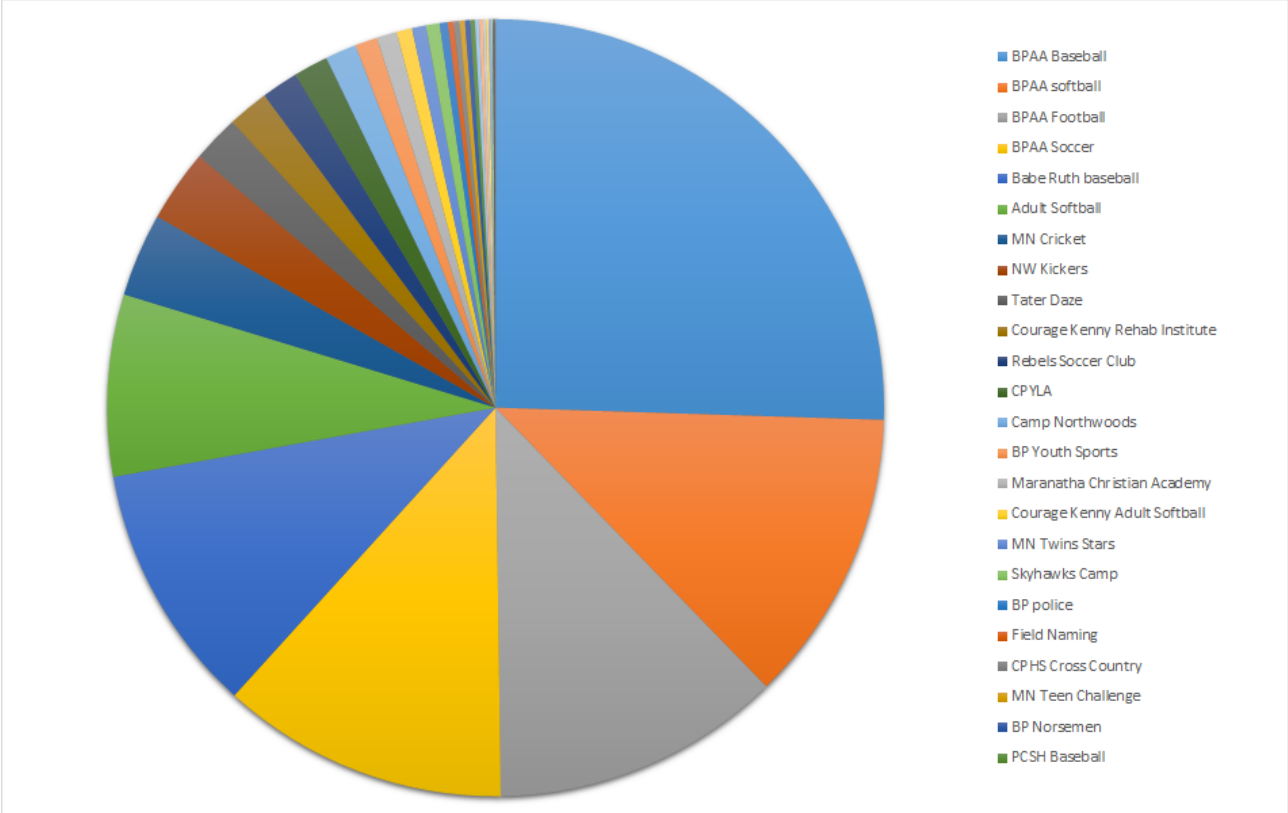
2016 Master List - Athletic Fields Users

- Adult Softball League, Youth Sports, Tiny Tots & Rec Dept. -Dept. run athletic programs
- Adult Softball- Courage Kenny -Wheel Chair Adult Softball user
- Alternatives for People with Autism -Brooklyn Park Adult home for Autism
- Babe Ruth Baseball- Brooklyn Area -Brooklyn Park Athletic Association for baseball ages 13-18 years
- BP Norseman- Adult Baseball team -Champlin Park area adult baseball team
- BPAA Baseball -Brooklyn Park Athletic Association for baseball ages 5 – 12 years
- BPAA Fast Pitch Softball -Brooklyn Park Athletic Association for Fast Pitch Softball ages 9-18 years
- BPAA Football -Brooklyn Park Athletic Association for football ages 5 – 16 years
- BPAA Youth Soccer -Brooklyn Park Athletic Association for youth soccer ages 5 – 18 years
- BPAA Adult Soccer -Brooklyn Park Athletic Association for adult soccer ages 18 years +
- BPAA Youth Slow Pitch Softball -Brooklyn Park Athletic Association for Slow Pitch Softball ages 5-18 yrs
- Champlin Park High School Baseball -Champlin Park High School Baseball teams
- Champlin Park High School Cross Country -Champlin Park Cross Country home meets
- Champlin Park Youth Lacrosse Association (formerly Northwest Lacrosse) -Champlin Park/North Brooklyn Park Lacrosse teams ages 8 – 14 years
- Courage Kenny Youth Softball -Wheel Chair Youth Softball user
- Fergie's Soccer Academy -Youth Soccer training camps in Brooklyn Park
- Kickers Adult Soccer team -Adult Soccer team in Brooklyn Park area
- Minnesota Cricket Association (MCA) -Minnesota Cricket Association (MCA)
- Maranatha Christian Academy -High School softball, baseball and soccer teams
- Team Xtreme -Brooklyn Park area all-star youth slow pitch girls team
- Boomers Baseball- MN SR. Men's Amateur Baseball Association -MN SR. Men's Amateur Baseball Association Team
- Minnesota Team Challenge -Softball Tournament
- Minnesota Twin Stars Soccer Club -Youth soccer 8 – 18 years serving southwest Brooklyn Park & adjacent communities
- Minnesota Senior Soccer League (MSSL) -Minnesota Senior Soccer League (MSSL)
- NW Kicker Soccer Club -Brooklyn Park area youth 5 – 18 years soccer club
- Park Center High School Baseball -Park Center High School Baseball
- Brooklyn Park Police Department -Brooklyn Park Police Department
- Rebels Youth Soccer Club -Soccer Club serving youth 5 – 18 years in north Brooklyn Park and adjacent communities
- OLM- Origination of Liberian Men/Old-timers Soccer Association of MN -Brooklyn Park Area Origination of Liberian Men's Soccer
- Tater Daze -Brooklyn Park Community Event Celebration
- Woodland Elementary -Use Noble Sports Park for classes and functions

Scheduled Field Use: Field Inventory and Data from 2016 Facility Permits

Field	User Group	Hours Used
<i>CRICKET</i> Fair Oaks Park – 1 field 7650 June Ave Lakeland Park – 1 field 67th & Jersey Ave	MN Cricket MN Cricket	512 271
<i>WHEELCHAIR SOFTBALL</i> Northwoods Sports Park – 1 field 107th & Quebec Ave	Camp Northwoods Courage Wheelchair Champlin Park High School	296 119 8
<i>SOFTBALL</i> Bass Creek Park – 1 field 67th & Boone Ave Birch Grove Elementary – 1 field 81st & Noble Ave Central Park – 2 fields (fenced at 240') 82nd – 84th Ave & Regent Crestview Elementary – 2 fields 82nd & Zane Ave Edinbrook Park – 1 field 2900 Edinbrook Parkway Hamilton Park – 1 field Candlewood Drive & Zane Ave Harktkopf Park – 3 fields 74th Ave & Jersey to Douglas Drive Iris (Striefel) Park – 1 field 67th & Iris Drive Monroe Park – 1 field 901 Brookdale Drive Northern Trail Park – 1 field 10201 France Ave Norwood Park – 4 fields 81st & Newton Ave Noble Sports Park – 4 fields (fenced at 310') Oak Grove Parkway (97th) & Noble Parkway Pinebrook Park – 1 field 9432 Fallgold Parkway River Park – 2 fields 81st Ave & Mississippi Lane	0 0 BPAA Football BPAA Softball BPAA Fastpitch Softball Marie Protas 0 BP Youth Sports 0 BP Police BPAA Football Alternatives for people with Disabilities 0 BPAA Baseball BPAA Baseball BPAA Baseball BPAA Softball Tournaments Maranatha Christian Academy Adult Softball MN Teen Challenge Tater Daze BPAA Baseball 0 0	0 0 308 126 8 15 0 15.75 0 4 1274.5 2 0 221 151 505 224 56 1720 52 32 140 0 0

	0	0
<i>BASEBALL</i>		
Noble Sports Park – 1 field Oak Grove Parkway (97th) & Noble Parkway (Field fenced with 90' base path)	MN Men's Amateur Baseball Association	23
	Champlin Park Baseball	9
	Park Center Senior High	42
	BP Norsemen	51
	Tater Daze	59
	Babe Ruth Baseball	443
Zane Sports Park – 2 fields 87th–93rd Ave & Zane (fenced with 90' basepath)– 2 fields 87th–93rd Ave & Zane (fenced with 75' base path)	BPAA Fastpitch Softball	500
	BPAA Baseball	513
	Babe Ruth Baseball	1927
	Maranatha Christian Academy	80.5
	BPAA Youth Sports	144
Brookdale Park – 2 fields 75th & June Ave (Fields fenced with 75' base path)	Field naming	56
	BPAA Softball Tourneys	394
Northwoods Sports Park – 4 fields 107th & Quebec Ave (Fields fenced with 75' base path)	BPAA Baseball	1023+
	Courage Wheelchair	180
Willows of Aspen -9838 Fallgold Pkwy	Champlin Park High School	32
	BPAA Baseball	3035+
	BP Youth Sports	17.5

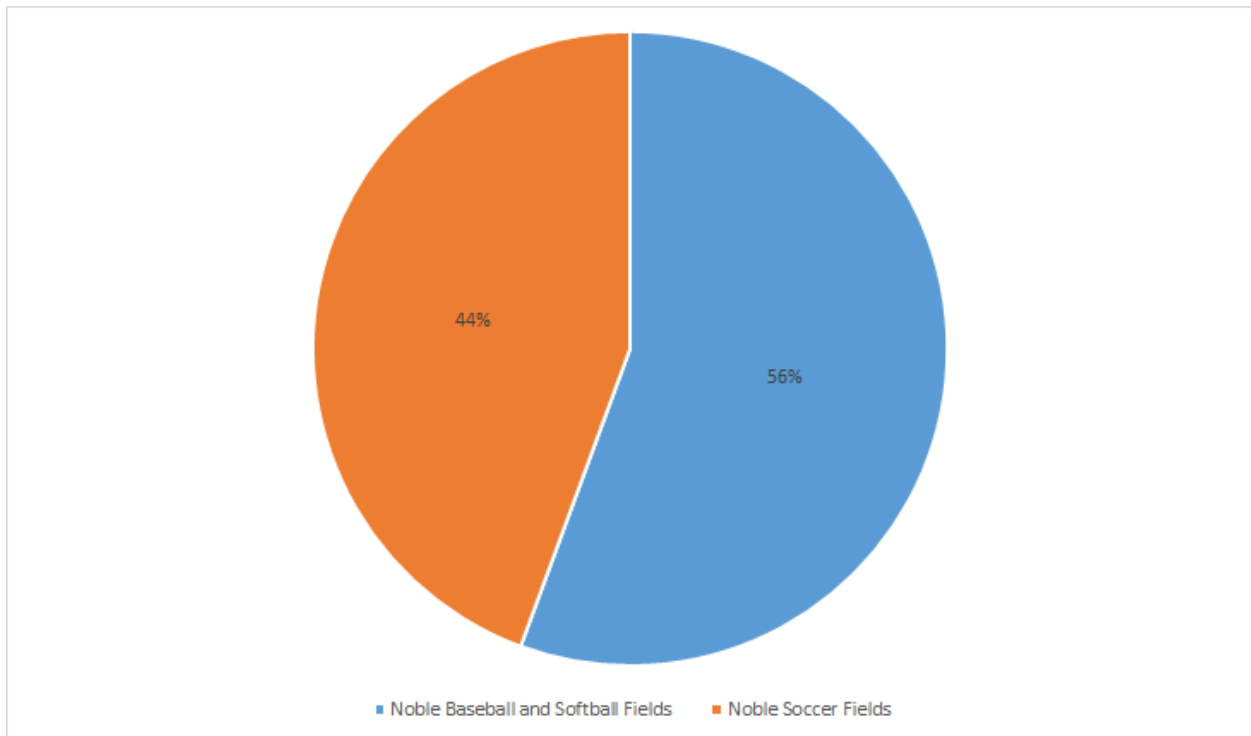


Top 10 Field Users (as measured in hours)

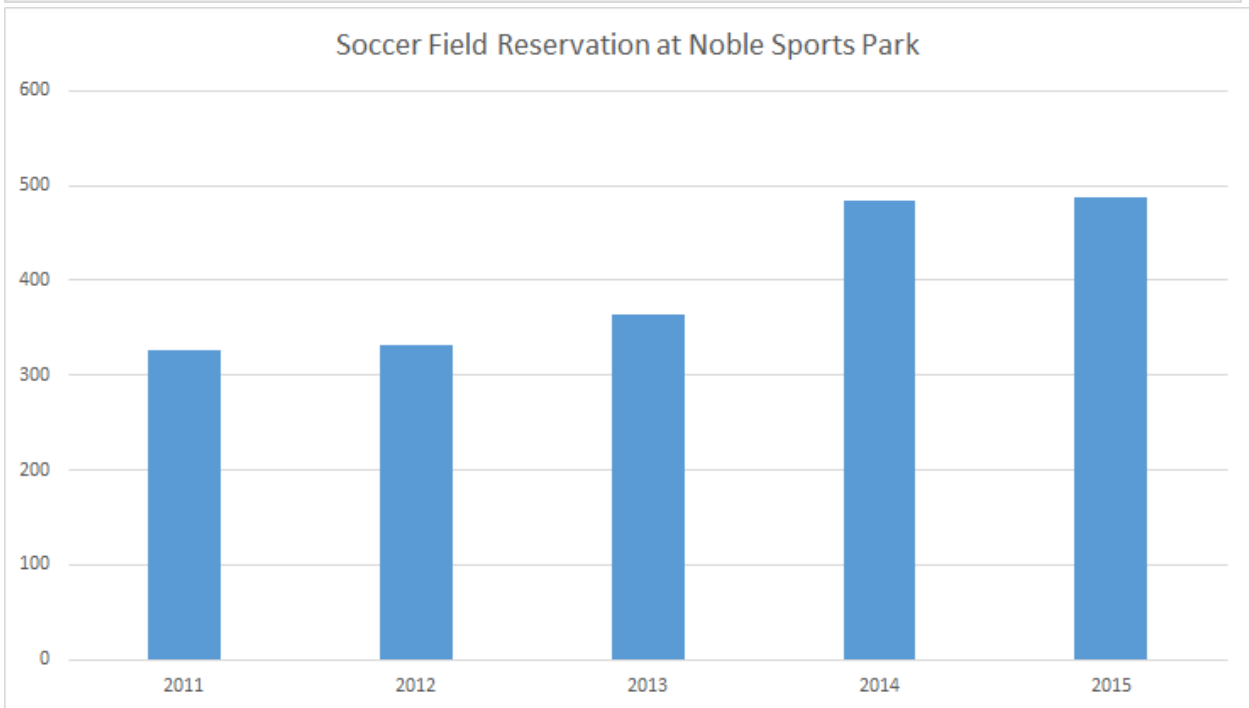
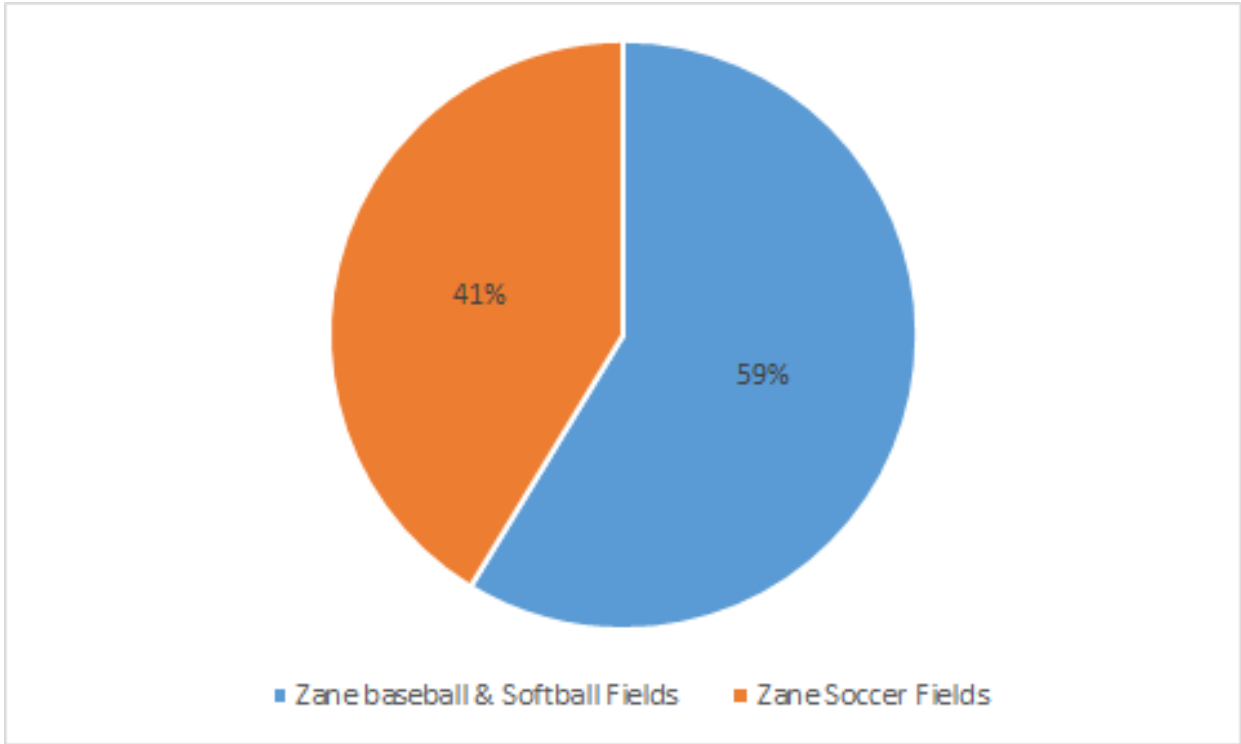
Group Name	Total Field Hours
BPAA Baseball	5801
BPAA softball	2782
BPAA Football	2742.5
BPAA Soccer	2718
Babe Ruth baseball	2370
Adult Softball	1720
MN Cricket	789

NW Kickers	687
Tater Daze	443
Courage Kenny Rehab Institute	389

Noble field use of soccer compared to baseball and softball (measured in hours):



Zane field use of soccer compared to baseball and softball (measured in hours):



Quantitative Analysis

Using the data that we were provided, we came to these consensus, and represented them in the graphs shown.

- ❖ The data that we extracted suggests that baseball and softball still make up a large portion of total field use hours
 - ❖ BPAA football has surpassed soccer, making it the third in field usage
 - ❖ Although soccer may have been on the rise, it is now plateauing in popularity on these fields
 - ❖ Champlin Park High School Cross Country, MN Teen Challenge, and BP Norsemen are among the lowest user-groups
 - ❖ Rise in non-traditional sports like Cricket (making the top 10 list)
-

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?
 - a.** Are you satisfied with this current use?
 - b.** Do you find yourself in need of using the fields outside of scheduled time?
 - c.** Do you find yourself using different park facilities due to unavailability of Brooklyn Parks' fields?
 - d.** 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.
- 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 field/facility 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?

Organizations that Responded:

BPAA Park and Youth Recreation
Courage Kenny Adult and Youth Softball
Alternatives for People with Autism
Babe Ruth Baseball
BPAA Baseball
BPAA Youth Slow Pitch Softball
BPAA Youth Soccer
BPAA Fast Pitch Softball
Champlin Park High School Cross Country
MN Team Challenge
MN Twin Stars Soccer Club
Park Center High School Baseball
Brooklyn Park Police Department
Rebels Youth Soccer Club
Woodland Elementary School

Organizations that Did Not Respond:

BP Norseman Adult Baseball team
BPAA Football
BPAA Adult Soccer
Champlin Park High School Baseball
Champlin Park Youth Lacrosse Association
Fergie's Soccer Academy
Kickers Adult Soccer Team
MN Cricket Association (MCA)
Maranatha Christian Academy
Team Xtreme (girls slow pitch softball)
Boomers Baseball (senior men)
MN Senior Soccer League (MSSL)
NW Kickers Soccer Club
Origination of Liberian Men/Old timers Soccer Association of MN (OLM)
Tater Daze

Qualitative Analysis

Using the data that we were provided in responses to the questionnaire, we came to these consensuses:

Satisfaction of field use-

- ❖ All users stated they were either satisfied or very satisfied with the fields.

Current need of fields outside of scheduled time/future needs-

- ❖ 13/15 users stated they do not have a demand for fields outside of scheduled time.

Usage of other fields due to lack of availability-

- ❖ 13/15 users stated that they do not use other fields due to lack of availability.

Improvements needed-

- ❖ General consensus is that the needs of the users are being met, with the exception of some requests for more accessible parking.

How fees affect or don't affect field usage-

- ❖ Fees do not affect usage of fields, and support the community.

Project Experience Limitations:

We felt limited by the amount of time we had to work on a project of this scope. We also felt limited by the lack of data provided by user groups. This made it difficult to stick to our timeline of analyzing the data, and preparing our presentation. One contact forwarded the questionnaire to another member of their organization, so perhaps we did not receive updated contact information. There were a few unknowns and uncertainties in the process of doing this project. In the beginning, it was difficult to decide what the best approach to organizing the data would be. Once we made choices about organizing the data, we did encounter some flawed data. Specifically, on 5/6/16, there were several permit times for field use entered incorrectly. Another data issue was our inability to know which permit days were actually used instead of ones placed on schedule for rain days or field maintenance. Time to collect and analyze all the data about anticipated future use we wanted to use was the biggest limiting factor.

Project Experience Recommendations for the City of Brooklyn Park

Based off our data and analysis we have created some recommendations for possible changes/improvements:

- ❖ The creation of more parking spaces at fields.
- ❖ Keep fees at current level or drop them in order to encourage more scheduled use of fields.
- ❖ Continued Investment in non-traditional sports such as Wheelchair sports, Cricket, and more as these provided positive feedback and allow Brooklyn Park to offer unique spaces.
- ❖ Address the need for assessing and tracking customer satisfaction and future field use by establishing an ongoing online tool for the various user groups. Remind stakeholders to utilize it annually, prior to requesting permits for the upcoming year.

Group Project Experience Conclusion

“We truly value our partnership with the city of Brooklyn Park and Todd Anderson Field. This field is unlike any other in the Midwest and we appreciate the staff in the ease of scheduling and maintaining this field” -Cara Gulbranson (Wheelchair Program Coordinator at Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute)

- ❖ Data provided from documented use, combined with some feedback provided to us in questionnaires, shows that non-traditional sports like Wheelchair sports and Cricket are on the rise, and accommodating them is a positive avenue for Brooklyn Park to invest in.
- ❖ In addition to these non-traditional sports, Brooklyn Park should continue to cater to the steady demand of traditional sports that are successfully running their programs on these fields.
- ❖ Current users are generally very happy with Brooklyn Park fields and scheduling.

Resources Used in Data Collection and Analysis

- ❖ Master Contact list of 2016 Athletic Fields Users, provided by the City of Brooklyn Park, in order to collect answers to questionnaires.
- ❖ Spreadsheet with Facility Permit information from the past year provided by the City of Brooklyn Park.
- ❖ Online information and city logo found at www.brooklynpark.org

Group Name	Total Field Hours
BPAA Baseball	5801
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Babe Ruth baseball	2370
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MN Cricket	789
NW Kickers	687
Tater Daze	443
Courage Kenny Rehab Institute	389
Rebels Soccer Club	350
CPYLA	325.2
Camp Northwoods	296
BP Youth Sports	212.25
Maranatha Christian Academy	191
Courage Kenny Adult Softball	147.5
MN Twins Stars	133
Skyhawks Camp	128
BP police	77.5
Field Naming	56
CPHS Cross Country	53
MN Teen Challenge	52
BP Norsemen	51

PCSH Baseball	42
Fergie Soccer Camp	40
Tiny Tots	35
Woodland School ISD 279	29
Old Timers Soccer	26
MN mens amateur baseball association	23
Marie Protas	15
Champlin Park Baseball	9
MSSL	8
Kickers Mens Soccer	6
Alternatives for people w/ Disabilities	2