

CITY OF LA VISTA
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REPORT
MAY 1, 2012 AGENDA

Subject:	Type:	Submitted By:
FIELD USAGE FEES	◆ DISCUSSION ORDINANCE RECEIVE/FILE	SCOTT STOPAK RECREATION DIRECTOR

SYNOPSIS

Representatives from the La Vista Youth Baseball Association (La Vista Panthers) attended the February 21, 2012 City Council meeting to request that Council consider reducing the City's field use fees. Council directed staff to prepare a response to their presentation which is attached and being presented for discussion.

FISCAL IMPACT

Field usage fees are \$40.00 for two hours of use by any non-City of La Vista sponsored team.

RECOMMENDATION

Review level of service provided and usage fees to determine appropriate levels of both. It is further recommended that a single fee be established for all non-City sponsored use regardless of residency. Field use fees for baseball, softball, soccer and flag football generated \$32,677.00 in FY11.

BACKGROUND

As noted in the synopsis, the La Vista Panthers, a private youth baseball program not affiliated with the La Vista Recreation Department, has requested a reduction in their field usage fees. At the February 21, 2012 City Council meeting representatives of the program presented Council with information obtained through their research of neighboring communities.

Council directed staff to review the documentation in order to ensure like comparisons and provide additional information if necessary. The results are identified in the following documents:

- 2012 Preparation Information & Summary of Neighboring Jurisdictions (Narrative)
- 2012 Baseball/Softball Field Fee Comparison
- 2012 Field Preparation Costs

City of La Vista
Field Preparation Information &
Summary of Neighboring Jurisdictions
2012

At the February 21, 2012 City Council meeting the La Vista Panthers, a private youth baseball program addressed the Mayor and Council about the City's field usage fees. Specifically, they have requested a reduction in their field usage fees.

The City has always strived to provide its citizens with quality opportunities for recreation and as a result, the Recreation Department offers a variety of youth and adult sports. Upon registering for a City sponsored sport team, the registrants receive a variety of services including equipment, uniforms, game scheduling, paid officials and practice/game field usage. Both the practice fields and the game fields are maintained on a daily basis.

Non-City sponsored private programs requesting to utilize City fields are charged a usage fee of \$40.00 for two hours for games or practices. This covers only a portion of field up-keep costs, which includes bases, pitching rubber, home plate, dragging, chalking and mowing, as well as restroom facilities, lights, fertilizing, pest control, employee salaries and benefits. The City's costs are estimated at approximately \$80.17 per field per day.

It is difficult to compare La Vista's field usage fees with fees charged by other cities and private clubs, because of the significant differences in services. While the usage fees identified in the La Vista Panthers 2012 report for surrounding area fields appear to be accurate when looking at the various websites, after conducting further research and personally contacting directors of these different organizations, it has been determined that the fees stated on-line do not represent the actual fees charged. The actual fees charged are much closer in alignment with the City of La Vista fees. Following is an explanation of the differences in fees and services. Also included is a Baseball/Softball Field Fee Comparison chart.

City of La Vista

- Provides fields for non-City sponsored (private) teams at a fee of \$40/2 hours for practices and games.
- Fields are maintained on a daily basis by our Public Works Department.
- Maintenance includes regular mowing, fertilization, pest control, dragging and chalking.
- Lighting, bases, pitching rubbers and home plates are provided by the City.
- Restroom facilities are provided and maintained by the City.

City of Omaha

- Provides fields at a fee of \$60/2 hours for games, and \$7.50/hour extra for usage of field lights.
- Provides fields at a fee of \$5.00 per practice.
- Practice fields are dragged a maximum of once per week.
- Grass is mowed on an as-needed basis.
- Bases, pitching rubber and home plates must be provided by the individual teams who use the field for practices.
- Restroom facilities are not available at all fields.

- Fields are maintained by the City.

Millard Athletic Association (MAA)

- MAA is a private youth sports league.
- MAA sublets fields from the City of Omaha at a rate of \$2.50/hour.
- MAA sponsored teams have unlimited usage of fields for games and practices at no charge.
- Non-MAA sponsored teams pay MAA a usage fee of \$55 per game.
- MAA is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the fields.

City of Council Bluffs

- Council Bluffs Recreation Department teams are charged \$4/hour for practices which is in addition to the registration fees. (Games are included in registration).
- Non-recreation department teams are charged \$14/hour for practices; \$50/day for games, and an extra \$30 for lights.
- Fields are maintained by the City.

City of Bellevue

- City of Bellevue does not charge for practices or games for Bellevue Recreation Department teams.
- For private teams, the City of Bellevue charges \$25 for practice or games, plus \$25/hour for lights.
- Fields are maintained by the City.

City of Papillion

- Offers limited recreation youth sports as soccer, baseball, and softball are provided by PRO (Papillion Recreation Organization).
- Follows an “80/20” rule. If your team is 80% Papillion residents and/or Papillion-La Vista school district students, the team will be a “recognized” team.
- Recognized teams pay a fee of \$2 per child per year for Papillion residents/students.
- Recognized teams pay a fee of \$10 per child per year for non-residents/students.
- Non-recognized teams pay a fee of \$40/2 hours for field usage.
- Fields are maintained by the City.

City of Gretna

- Does not provide any recreation department sports.
- City owned fields available for use by private youth sport clubs.
- City does not maintain any of the fields.
- Maintenance is entirely the responsibility of the private clubs.

CITY OF LA VISTA
Recreation Department
Baseball/Softball Field Fee Comparison
2012

	City of La Vista	City of Omaha	Millard Athletic Assoc.	City of Council Bluffs	City of Bellevue	City of Papillion *	City of Gretna
** Recreation Dept. Sponsored Teams - Practices	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	\$4.00	\$0.00	n/a	n/a
** Recreation Dept. Sponsored Teams - Games	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	\$0.00	\$0.00	n/a	n/a
** Non-Recreation Dept. and/or Private Teams - Practices	\$40.00	\$5.00	\$55.00	\$14.00	\$25.00	\$40.00	n/a
** Non-Recreation Dept. and/or Private Teams - Games	\$40.00	\$60.00	\$55.00	\$50/Day	\$25.00	\$40.00	n/a
Recognized Teams - 80/20 Rule	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$2.00/\$10.00	n/a
Non-Recognized Teams	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$40.00	n/a
***Lighting (per hour)	\$0.00	\$7.50/hr	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$25.00/hr	\$0.00	n/a
Maintenance/Field Prep Responsibility	City	City	M.A.A.	City	City	City	Private Clubs

Field Usage (per 2 hours unless otherwise stated)

* City of Papillion bases their fees on resident/non-resident and school district affiliation for "recognized teams" and "non-recognized teams"

** Some cities are without recreation dept. youth sports, and allow private club teams to utilize and manage fields.

*** City of La Vista lighting is built into the registration and/or fee.

CITY OF LA VISTA
Recreation Department
Baseball/Softball Field Preparation Costs
2012

	<u>Per Field</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Parks Salary/Benefits	\$40.27	\$40.27
PT Labor	\$21.50	\$21.50
Rec Salary/Benefits	\$6.24	\$6.24
Material (fertilizer/insect control)	\$0.08	\$0.08
Utilities	\$0.30	\$0.30
Aggregate/Chips/Paint	\$0.94	\$0.94
General Maintenance-Labor	\$6.76	\$6.76
GM-Materials	\$0.15	\$0.15
<u>Equipment</u>	<u>\$3.91</u>	<u>\$3.91</u>
Total	\$80.17	\$80.17