

**AGENDA STATEMENT
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Arabo Parseghian, Senior Management Analyst
DATE: November 9, 2016
SUBJECT: **Discussion of Field Closure process for Joint Use Fields.**

RECOMMENDATION:

Parks and Recreation Commission receive report on the field closure process for the City Joint Use Fields and planned 2017 Field Closure dates.

BACKGROUND:

Currently, the City has three types of closures on the City Joint Use Fields:

Regular Closures. The two regular closures occurring on the Joint Use Fields are the annual winter and summer closure periods. The winter closure typically begins the first day of LCUSD's winter break and extends one week past the break period. The summer closure has historically been the first three weeks of the month of August.

Maintenance Closures. These closures are only when work is taking place on the field that makes the field unsafe for play or use of the field would disturb the project taking place.

Inclement Weather. These closures that place when weather conditions, such as rain, occur and use of the field would compromise the integrity of the turf.

In each of these situations the City restricts access to the fields when possible and updates the City's Sports Field Weather Hotline with the closure information. Users can access the hotline 24 hours per day by calling (818) 790-8898. Additionally, when the City has sufficient notice, the closure information also appears in the City's "Semi-Monthly Report".

During the annual field closures the Sheriff's Department is available if necessary to enforce field closures. In the past, at the LCHS JV/Varsity Baseball Field a fence dividing the two fields of play was installed. This year multiple segments of mesh fencing will again be installed to discourage use. However, the fencing does have to be removed once LCUSD Schools are back in session.

2017 Annual Winter Field Closure:

On the morning of Monday, December 19, 2016, the City plans install the chain link fence dividing the LCHS JV and Varsity Fields. The youth soccer groups games on the LCHS JV/Varsity Fields will be concluded for the year at this time and the fencing will be put in place to prevent pick-up soccer games on the field. The City also plans to install the temporary mesh fencing throughout the Field on Monday, December 19, 2016, to discourage all pick-up use and will be re-opened the morning of Monday, January 9, 2017. On Thursday, December 21, 2017, joint use fields will be closed for the remainder of the calendar year to be re-opened in January 2018 on a date to be determined.

2017 Annual Summer Field Closure:

The City has always observed an “Annual Summer Field Closure”, which is an important closure for the recovery of the athletic fields. It’s a down time after the baseball season, occurring during a period of warmer weather, when the turf can regenerate. Typically, this period has been late July through the month of August.

However, the La Cañada Unified School District has been shifting their academic calendar with an earlier summer release date and an earlier academic start date to align AP testing with college acceptance schedules.

This coming academic year **LCUSD Schools last day will be Wednesday, May 31, 2017.** The first day of the new school year will be Morning, August 14, 2017. This new academic schedule once again will require the Commission to move the annual field closure period to earlier in July (or June) to maintain an appropriate period of time for the fields to recover.

City Staff would suggest closing both the LCHS JV/Varsity Baseball Fields and the Oak Grove Field on the morning of Thursday, July 13, 2017. The fields at LCHS, as they have field lights, get greater usage necessitating a longer recovery period. The other City fields could be closed at a later date, if needed, to accommodate youth baseball.

With these changes noted above City staff would recommend changing the closure periods to the following:

Current 2016 Closure Dates

FIS Lower & FIS Upper
July 22, 2016 – August 15, 2016

LCHS JV/Varsity Baseball Fields
July 22, 2016 – August 15, 2016

Oak Grove Field
July 22, 2016 – August 15, 2016

New Proposed 2017 Closure Dates

FIS Lower & FIS Upper
July 9, 2017 – July 23, 2017
(Re-opening on July 24, 2017)

LCHS JV/Varsity Baseball Fields
July 13, 2017 – August 13, 2017
(Re-opening on August 14, 2017)

Oak Grove Field
July 13, 2017 – August 13, 2017
(Re-opening on August 14, 2017)

OPTIONS:

1. Approve the 2017 Field Closures dates closing the FIS Fields from July 9 – July 23, 2017; the LCHS JV/Varsity Baseball Fields from July 13 – August 14, 2017; and the Oak Grove Field from July 13 – August 14, 2017.
2. Discuss and provide direction to staff.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Option # 1 – Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission approve the 2017 Field Closures dates closing the FIS Fields from July 9 – July 23, 2017; the LCHS JV/Varsity Baseball Fields from July 13 – August 14, 2017; and the Oak Grove Field from July 13 – August 14, 2017.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 2017 Field Scheduling Letter.