

## **PLAY ALL DAY PARKS PROGRAM**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS**

5/24/2016

#### **Introduction:**

**Play All Day** is an exciting commitment to build 30 new joint-use parks. This is an ambitious goal made possible by strong collaboration between the City of San Diego and the San Diego Unified School District to expand recreational opportunities in our city. The initiative strengthens the long-standing partnership between the City and the School District to maximize the shared use of public facilities and resources for educational and community use. The new park facilities will be opened on existing school sites and, for the most part, will be constructed with Proposition Z bond funding. The City will commit to operate and maintain the new park facilities.

#### **How were the joint-use sites selected?**

The determination to jointly use the selected school sites were made in partnership with the School District. A number of factors were evaluated based on the specific merits of each site. The following factors were taken into account in the selection of the Play All Day park sites:

- Identified in the Community Plan or Facilities Finance Plan as a future joint-use facility
- Located in park-deficient communities
- Adjacent to an existing park
- Located in an area where residents do not have a park in close proximity to their homes
- Access to hardcourts and off-street parking
- Visibility from public streets
- Pre-identified for School District funding
- On the School District's schedule for implementation

*NOTE: Factors above are not listed in order of priority*

### **How can we increase security, especially by locking the gates?**

Closing the joint-use facility at night will be done by the School District during the week when school is in session. When school custodial staff are not available to lock and open the gates, the City's Park and Recreation Department will request operational funds to hire a security company to lock the fields in the evening and reopen the gates in the morning. All budget requests are subject to approval by the City Council, and are not guaranteed year to year. The specific hours of use will be determined with each school site, and will be dependent on the school's schedule. This information will be reflected in the joint-use agreement for each school site.

### **Can we increase screening and privacy?**

The City and School District will examine screening options for Play All Day sites, such as adding slats in the joint-use boundary fence where adjacent to residential properties. The outcome of the evaluation will be site specific, since conditions vary from school to school. The screening must be accomplished without compromising the surveillance of the joint-use park.

### **Can we have trees in the joint-use area?**

A small number of shade trees may be included in joint-use sites if funding is available. However, shade trees will not be planted within the turf field area. All tree plantings must be irrigated, and tree species will be selected from the School District's list of approved trees.

### **Will the joint-use fields have lighting?**

Lighting of fields, even on a temporary basis, will not be contemplated at joint use facilities where lighting would negatively impact residential neighbors.

### **What can be done to mitigate noise impacts?**

The City and School District will work with the community regarding noise amplification. During the City's normal hours of operation, City staff will respond to complaints of excessive noise. If noise is determined to be the result of league play, staff will take action with league permit holders.

### **Will the project include additional parking?**

Project impacts, including proposed parking on weekends and evenings, will be studied as part of the School District's environmental review. Any identified impacts will be addressed. In addition, the City's Park and Recreation Department will work with the community sports leagues on the permitting and scheduling of the league play activities to reduce parking impacts.

### **How can a natural-grass turf field comply with water restrictions given our region's serious drought?**

The City's Park and Recreation Department is proud of its record of conserving water during the current drought. Overall usage in the City has decreased significantly, beyond the mandated reduction of 16 percent. The department is applying new watering methodologies to irrigate responsibly within San Diego's various climate zones, and the department is prioritizing water use on athletic fields such as joint-use areas. According to the current San Diego Municipal Code, the department is exempt from watering time restrictions; but, it must comply with targeted water-use restrictions, including reductions of overall water use. Active recreational turf areas are currently, irrigated three times per week. However, in the future, if watering restrictions increase, watering may decrease to comply with meeting required conservation mandates. In addition, irrigation is permitted any day/time for the establishment, repair and renovation of public-use fields for schools and parks. The following sites can provide additional information:  
<https://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/drought>,  
<http://www.sdcwa.org/drought-resources>, and  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/>.

### **Why aren't we considering synthetic turf at the proposed joint-use areas?**

At this time, the City is not able to make a commitment that funding will be available to replace the synthetic turf fields in 10 years. Therefore, no joint-use agreements requiring the replacement of synthetic turf will be pursued with San Diego Unified School District.

## **Are dogs allowed at the proposed joint-use areas?**

The Municipal Code has no prohibition of leashed dogs on public property. The City will place signage that reminds patrons that off-leash dogs are not permitted within the joint-use fields. The sign will include a phone number to reach County of San Diego Animal Control for any out-of-control or leash-free dogs. Dog waste stations and trash cans will be provided at the entrance to joint-use areas.

## **How will laws be enforced?**

When a park patron or resident observes that a crime is being committed or a regulation is being violated in the joint-use area, they should either call 911 if it's an emergency or (619) 531-2000 if it's not an emergency. The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) will respond to these issues. Other issues related to permitting, unruly groups and other matters that do not warrant police attention should be referred to Park and Recreation. City staff monitors field use, but there is no on-site staff; and other than maintenance staff, there will not be daily visits. Park and Recreation staff work closely with user groups to ensure their use of the fields does not negatively impact neighborhoods (such as noise issues). Park and Recreation staff do not have the ability to issue citations or arrest individuals for criminal activity. County Animal Services enforces off-leash dog issues, and SDPD is responsible for enforcing other laws and curbing criminal activity on joint-use sites during City joint-use hours.

## **May we donate an item to include in the proposed joint-use areas?**

Donated items such as trees or benches can be included in joint-use parks. Contact the school principal for specific requests. Donated items must conform to all school accessibility and safety standards.

## **Questions**

For more information, please contact Shannon Scoggins, City of San Diego, Planning Department at (619) 236-6894, [sscoggins@san diego.gov](mailto:sscoggins@san diego.gov) or Aaron Golde, San Diego Unified School District, Facilities, Planning and Construction at (858) 637-3604, [agolde@sandi.net](mailto:agolde@sandi.net)