

## **Normal Heights Community Planning Group - Normal Heights Elementary Shared Use**

The Normal Heights Elementary School grounds were designed for public access outside of school day operations. The Normal Heights Community Planning Group (NHCPG) wants and expects that access will be provided as originally planned as the school site was being designed and contracted for via the Shared Use Agreement.

Other than the recommendation below, the main thing missing may be the addition of added lighting and security personnel to clear the area, then lock and unlock the gates. It should be noted that all new City-District joint-use agreements include provisions for security, and the NHCPG recommends this be included in this joint-use agreement revision as well.

If public access for our community is removed for exclusive school use, we expect and request that a dollar value be established for the lost space/use and that equivalent or better alternative public park space and amenities be provided in Normal Heights; funded by the School District.

The NHCPG recommends and requests:

1. Public access provided through and to the "soccer field" when school is not in session. See item 6.
2. Public access provided for the "Mid City Urban Trail" to/from Ward Canyon Park, the soccer field, and the Ward Road entrance to the school - this involves three gates though other always-locked gates exist that, if open, would enhance southerly residents direct access. See item 6.
3. Public access and use of the play areas - basketball courts, playgrounds, climbing wall, grass areas, and the concrete play areas - to be available when school is not in session. See item 7.
4. The Park & Rec Dept. and the School District should determine access and maintenance responsibility and post information regarding appropriate uses, times, and phone contacts for the responsible parties.
- 5.. While the lunch court area and restrooms provide useful resources to the community, we appreciate that making them available would require enhanced maintenance and security. Therefore, they should probably only be included for public access if the city and the School District and/or Park & Recreation Dept. can provide added security and maintenance for these areas. As necessary, fencing off the lunch areas and locking the restrooms could be accomplished; with exceptions for approved Park & Rec or school activities.
6. As needed, a rolling curfew dusk to dawn would be acceptable if applied subject to modification for approved special events; community or school meetings, etc. <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/night>

