



Agenda Item: 11.D
Date of Meeting: December 11, 2023
Department: Community Services

STAFF REPORT

To: City Council
From: Dan McElroy
Subject: **Bishop City Park Facility Use 2023-2024**
Prepared On: December 5, 2023
Attachments: Community Use and Partnerships
Facility Use 2022-2023

Background/History:

The City of Bishop Community Services Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the maintenance, usage and scheduling at the Bishop City Park. The City Park has been a regional partner for Youth and Adult organizations. Local organizations that use these facilities are Bishop Union High School Soccer, Football, Softball, and Baseball, AYSO Soccer, Bishop Little League, Bishop Youth Football, Bishop City League Softball and Soccer. Regional organizations that use these facilities are Mammoth High School Soccer, Softball, and Baseball, Mammoth AYSO Soccer, and Lee Vining High School Baseball. Along with the use by these organizations, we see community use by Adult Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, and Softball Tournaments.

The City of Bishop Community Services Parks and Recreation Department works with all of the groups to accommodate use requests. However, there are often scheduling conflicts and constraints due to increased use and available space.

Analysis/Discussion:

The 2022-2023 winter season saw unprecedented precipitation fall throughout the entire region. The Bishop City Parks were impacted by these adverse conditions and making accommodations for local and regional users became challenging. The Community Services Department saw an increase of requests for use from regional users during this time due to the amount of snowfall in Mono County.

In the Spring of 2023 this was brought to the attention of the City of Bishop Parks and Recreation Commission. Through this discussion the Community Services Department began exploring options to accommodate both local and regional users. To best serve these groups we developed a scheduling practice to address any conflicts.

- High School Sports are given first priority due to the fact that many students rely on sports related activities for scholarships in higher education.
- Bishop Youth Organizations are given second priority as these are scheduled seasonally.

- Mono County in-season Youth Organizations are given third priority.
- All other organizations are given space based on availability.

While exploring options to create space and availability for use, staff conducted a 2022-2023 City Park facility use study. The data collected from this study shows the heavy use of the City Park facilities.

One option that was identified is the use of Millpond Recreation Area. The Community Services Department has worked with Inyo County Parks and Recreation to prepare an Action and Maintenance Plan for the renovation of Millpond Recreation Area. This was presented to the ESCOG on October 19th, 2023, for discussion and to seek regional collaboration for renovation.

The second option is to add lighting to the existing fields at the Bishop City Park. The data collected from the field use study shows the one existing lit field, (Field 1) has a significantly larger use. This data shows the potential opportunity to having expanded use on the other existing fields. The use of lighting would expand the operational period. The Community Services Department is currently working with Bishop Little League on a lighting plan for Fields 2, 3, and 4. An environmental document is currently being filed to facilitate this process. The Bishop Little League is drafting plans to install lighting on Fields 2, 3 and Field 4 in the near future. Once this plan and permits are in place, Bishop Little League will start work on this project with Southern California and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to install lights on field 3. Field 3 is the smallest of fields at the City Park and will take the allow for the least amount of disruption during the Baseball/Softball season. Field 2 would be the next best option as existing infostructure will be in place to facilitate the next phase of the lighting project. The third phase of the lighting project will be Field 4 then continuing to Field 5. Fields 4 and 5 will present challenges such as existing infostructure and cost due to the fact that these fields are larger. The Community Services Department will continue to work with professionals in the Sports Lighting industry to keep up to date with costs associated with the purchase and installation of field lights.

The third option is to develop the Bishop City Park Master Plan. The City Park Master Plan was developed to address the growth of the community and to create space for Sports Fields. This plan is a long-term goal of the Community Services Department. To accomplish the build out of the Master Plan, this will require long-term budget planning and seeking Grant funds when available.

Economic Impacts:

Creating space and availability allows for opportunities to host large Sports Tournaments at the Bishop City Park. These events will invite visitors to frequent local business and hotels.

Budget Impacts:

Long-term budgeting for implantation of the Bishop City Park Master Plan.

Legal Review:

Recommended Action:

City Council of the City of Bishop to have a discussion and give input on the City Park Facility Use.

Approved By: Deston Dishion 12/6/2023

Approved By:
Approved By:
Approved By: