

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Annual park membership and daily fees to Spencer Park were increased 25% and the Yates daily permit fee was increased 66% in 2000. Bloomer Park daily permits matched the increased Spencer Park daily fee. Senior citizen and handicap permits were not increased. Our current motor vehicle entry fee schedule is comparable to other regional parks and higher than most municipal park systems in our area. To increase the fees at this time could discourage additional users to our park system.

The field usage fees, however, have not been increased since 1995. In this 10-year period, costs to maintain these fields, including water usage, fertilizer, field aeration, field marking, mowing, and lighting, have risen substantially. The demand for these fields by sports groups continues to increase and our supply of fields is limited. Demand is so strong that a lottery system has been devised to allocate times for these various sports groups. As these fields continue to be well maintained and are in high demand, the Parks staff feels an increase in field usage fees could be absorbed by the various sports groups using our parks without adversely affecting the number of fields rented. Therefore, we ask the Leisure Activities Committee to support the recommendation that the fee increases for field usage as proposed by the Parks Division be approved by City Council.