

RENTAL FEES FOR SPORTS FIELDS

Executive Summary

Outdoor Sports is a growing niche regionally and nationally. This research investigates rental fees charged for use of athletic fields in local municipalities and regional parks. A comparative analysis will be done to determine whether it is feasible or not for Fort Bend County to consider adding a fee/cost component to its existing License Agreements for Use of Athletic Fields in County Parks. Fort Bend County will have the additional benefit of hosting recreational and club programs in support of residents.

Increased demands are being placed on recreational fields. In order that the County might adequately fulfill its promises to provide recreational facilities for the citizens of the County, to promote the sport and hobby of youth sports and develop the spirit of good sportsmanship and cooperation with the citizens of the County, field use times must be allocated among many organizations to accommodate this growing demand.

The increase in demand for use of County athletic fields will require greater upkeep, maintenance, improvements, security and utilities. For these reasons, Field Use Fees, although historically not charged to the citizens of this county, will financially supplement and lend greater overall cost support to the County's upkeep and maintenance of its Parks.

A National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review is an important resource to Parks and Recreation Departments.ⁱ It provides guidance to park and recreation professionals to evaluate the performance of their parks. For example, if the parks and fields are sufficiently funded.

In reviewing this guidance, we were able to conclude the following:

Notably, there is not a single set of standards for parks and recreation because different agencies serve different communities that have unique needs, desires and challenges. Agencies also have diverse funding mechanisms.

This research analyzed reservation fees that would contribute to the future of parks and recreation systems and planned projects, and to address the community's current and future recreational needs. The upgrading and developing of more fields will assure the highest level of service and safe utilization to users. Use and activities fees accomplish this mission.

The participant recreational activities fees will be affordable to allow broad participation and enjoyment of recreation facilities.

On a national average, the cost of operating and maintaining a mid-level baseball field for instance, comes in at around \$10,000 to \$12,000.ⁱⁱ

In Fort Bend County there are presently several baseball, football, soccer and cricket fields that are being reserved without cost.

Overview of Rental Fees

An overview of rental fees of parks fields were done city by city.
 The following data was researched: (1) Resident or Non-Resident Rate per Hour,
 (2) Deposit, and (3) Lights and (4) Practices.

Field Reservation Fees---- LOW

<u>Location</u>	<u>Deposit</u>	<u>Resident per Hour</u>	<u>Non- Resident per Hour</u>	<u>Lights</u>	<u>Practices Per Hour</u>
<u>City of Rosenberg</u>		\$9 w/o lights \$25 w/lights	\$9 w/o lights \$25 w/lights		
<u>City of Missouri City</u>	\$50	\$15	\$15	\$10 Hr.	
<u>City of Katy</u>	\$100	w/o lights NO FEE Lighted \$5	w/o lights \$25 w/lights \$30		
<u>Fort Bend County</u>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	

Field Reservation Fees ----AVERAGE

<u>City of Sugarland</u>	\$63.50	\$22.25 w/o lights \$33.45 w/ lights	\$27.75 w/o lights \$44.50 w/lights		
<u>City of Huntsville</u>	\$50	\$25 Day or Night	\$25 Day or Night		
<u>City of El Campo</u>	\$200 Keys Soccer/ \$100	\$0	\$0	\$7.50 / hr.	
<u>City of Friendswood</u>		\$25 Per Field	\$25 Per Field		

Field Reservation Fees --- HIGH COST

<u>City of Deer Park</u>	\$500	\$25	\$25	\$10	\$25
<u>City of La Porte</u>	\$150	\$50 3 hours field pre included		\$50	\$25 1 ½ Hours no field prep
<u>City of Alvin</u>	\$200	Daytime NO FEE Nighttime \$35/HR per Field	Daytime \$35/HR per Field Nighttime \$60/Hr per Field	\$20-\$30 (size of field)	\$10/ 90 minutes Lighting not available
<u>City of San Marcos</u>		\$99/fd/day	\$196/fd/day	\$19/hr/fd	Adult \$26/hr Youth \$20/hr
<u>City of Leander</u>		\$125 / 90 Minutes Per Multipurpose Field	\$200/90 minutes Per Multipurpose Field		
<u>City of Beaumont</u>	\$150	Softball \$125/Day \$40/2 hours Multi- purpose \$35/Day	Softball \$125/Day \$40/2 hours Multi- purpose \$35/Day		

Conclusion

Nearly everyone loves parks and recreation and makes a habit of enjoying amenities and services. Parks and recreation’s success results from its vast offerings of parks and other recreational facilities.

As Fort Bend County continues to grow, people have an increasing need for breaks from day-to-day living and working indoors. To meet this growing demand, Parks and recreation becomes a valuable contributor to our way of life. As the demand increases, the need for further improvement, maintenance, and up-keep also increases.

Rental Use fees are an important and necessary component to support our efforts in keeping our County Parks and Recreational Pavilions safe, enjoyable and increasingly meeting the growing demands of our Fort Bend County citizens.

We recommend that the Commissioner’s Court support a fee table of \$15 per hour for non-lighted fields and \$25 per hour for lighted fields. Recognized 501c3 agencies with Facility Use Agreements in place with Fort Bend County Parks will continue to receive complimentary field use per the terms of their agreements.

ⁱ “2020 NRPA Agency Performance Review and NRPA Park Metrics”, [nrpa.org/site assets/nrpa-agency-performance-review.pdf](http://nrpa.org/site/assets/nrpa-agency-performance-review.pdf). Accessed 12 March 2021

ⁱⁱ [David Nardone and Mark Novak]. “Field Maintenance: Keep In-House or Hire a Pro?” *Athletic Business* April 2011, athleticbusiness.com/Budgeting/when-to-keep-field-maintenance-in-house-and-when-to-hire-a-pro-html. Accessed 12 March 2021.