



# ROCHESTER PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

## POLICY ON LIGHTING IN PARKS

### **PURPOSE**

To establish a policy regarding Park Department's position on providing security lighting in city owned lands under Park Board authority. The issue of security lighting in parks should not be interchanged with facility use lighting that occurs on athletic fields or trail lighting.

### **HISTORY**

The Park Department is responsible for many acres of parkland and openspaces. Adjacent property owners, facility users, law enforcement personnel, neighborhood associations and city staff frequently request that the Park Department provide additional lighting in park areas. To date, there does not seem to be a basis for either approving or denying these requests.

The lighting in the system includes both sports lighting and security lighting. The security lighting that exists in the Park system is a combination of lites owned and maintained by Rochester Public Utilities with rental rates for these lights billed to either the Park Department or the Public Works Street Lighting fund or the lites owned and maintained by the Park Department. Sports field lighting is all owned by the City and consists of varying styles and ages.

### **POLICY ISSUES**

Staff needs to be able to respond consistently to citizen requests for additional lighting in park properties. The Department should provide lighting to minimize vandalism and theft of City owned facilities and property. However, It is not reasonable or practical for the Department to provide uniform lighting across all of neighborhood and community parkland within the City.

Staff also needs to address the requests and desires for sports field lighting. Again it is not reasonable, financially/environmentally, to light every sports field in the City parks.

## **POLICY ADMINISTRATION**

### 1) Park Lighting

- a) The following park facilities shall be provided with security lighting as funds and electrical service are available:
  - i) restroom / shelter buildings
  - ii) parking lots of Department owned facilities
  - iii) playground equipment will be reviewed on a case by case basis with neighborhood parks having the least lighting intended.
  - iv) Event locations may have area lighting to support activities. These may include areas such as Silver Lake, Soldiers Field, and Cascade Lake Parks.
  - v) Park activation areas to support park use during non daylight hours. Areas such as hockey rinks, pool areas etc.
- b) As a general policy, the following park facilities shall not be provided with security lighting:
  - i) sidewalks or trails other than those trails currently lit along the Rochester River Corridor
  - ii) general park areas
  - iii) park bridges other than those located along the currently lit Rochester River Corridor

### 2) Sports Field Lighting

- a) The following types of sports fields shall be considered for lighting
  - i) sports field that are 'game designated' and generally utilized evening hours that tend to be beyond sunset times and where the quantity of fields are not adequate to manage all usage needed during the daylight hours. Historically this would include Baseball/Soft Ball fields.

### 3) Installation, Maintenance & Replacement

- a) Any new installation of lighting will need to be analyzed to confirm the need exists, funding is available for installation, and funding is available for ongoing operations.
- b) General and routine maintenance will be managed by Park Operations in the course of their normal business
- c) Replacement of lighting
  - i) Will require an analysis of the existing conditions and potential risks
  - ii) Ongoing need of the facility
  - iii) Consideration of upgrades to improve efficiencies.
  - iv) Have adequate funding to support replacement
  - v) Have an identified phasing plan to match funding available of the needed facility.
  - vi)

