



ROCHESTER PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

POLICY ON AMPLIFIED SOUND EVENTS IN PARKS

PURPOSE

To establish a policy and procedures for making recommendations on sound amplification permit application where the site of the amplified sound is a City park.

HISTORY

The Department has had an increase in requests to reserve parks for the exclusive use of individuals desiring to stage events requiring amplified sound for significant periods of time exceeding two hours. Sound amplification permits are issued by the city council pursuant to RCO ch. 117. The several departments of the City are asked to make recommendations following referral of the sound amplification permit application to them. It is the Park Board's conclusion that several of the parks are better suited for these events of longer time durations, and that alternatives are available when an application is submitted for an event at a park where the noise may be a source of complaint by neighboring residents and property owners.

POLICY ISSUES

The following items are appropriate for consideration as the Park Board adopts policy and procedures for use of sound amplification.

1. Is the park facility located adjacent to residential areas?
2. Is the topography of the park and the adjacent properties such that amplified sound produced in the park impacts adjacent properties?
3. Which parks are best situated to handle amplified sound of extended duration without disturbing adjacent properties?
4. Which parks have electrical services to support sound amplification?
5. Which parks have a history of citizen complaints regarding noise and amplified sound?
6. What alternative sites are available and more appropriate for amplified sound?

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

- I. The Director of the Parks and Recreation Department or designee shall act as the department's administrator of the policy
- II. Applicant to submit City sound amplification permit application obtained from City Clerk
 - A. Application to contain date and time of amplification
 - B. Application to contain site plan showing location of amplification equipment and direction sound will directed.
 - C. Application to contain the name, address and telephone number (land line and wireless) of the applicant and contact person named by the application to implement and to be on site during the event for which the permit is sought.

III. Department Application Review Criteria

- A. A favorable recommendation will be given to any sound amplification permit applications in all parks if duration of the amplification is 2 hours or less
- B. A negative recommendation will be give to any sound amplification permit application indicating the use of amplified sound outside of established park hours
- C. A favorable recommendation will be give to sound amplified permit applications lasting more than 2 hours at the following parks or portions of the following parks where there is a history of amplified sound events with little or no complaint from adjacent property owners.
 - A. Essex Park shelter or parking lot area
 - B. Bear Creek Park shelter area
 - C. McQuillian Field parking lot or central shelter area with sound to be directed to the west or south only away from residential areas
 - D. Foster Arend Park shelter area, beach area or parking lot
 - E. Mayo Field with sound directed to north
 - F. Mayo Park
 - G. Central Park 4 hours of sound max, end by 8:00 PM with sound directed to north away from medical and residential areas
 - H. Soldier's Field Park east side of park only
 - I. Northern Hills Golf Course clubhouse and parking lot area
 - J. Hadley Creek Golf Course clubhouse and parking area
 - K. Eastwood Golf Course club house and parking area
 - L. Soldier's Field Golf Course club house with sound directed to south or east
 - M. Faud Mansour Sport Complex
 - N. Rochester Youth Baseball Complex
 - O. Rochester Youth Fastpitch Softball Complex
 - P. Watson Sport Complex shelter area with sound directed to east