

RESOLUTION 2024-136

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE WEST BRANCH PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY, PARK, SPORTS FIELD USE AND FEES POLICY.

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the West Branch Parks Department and Recreation Department to control the use of recreation facilities, parks and sport fields, to protect these resources and to allow usage to individuals, groups and organizations based on availability and priority; and

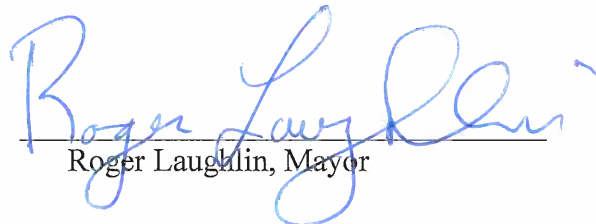
WHEREAS, the use of such facilities (See Exhibit A) shall be consistent with City Policies and Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, it the intent of the City of West Branch to promote wellness, recreation, and positive participation and sportsmanship; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to be supportive of such use and will schedule and help facilitate their use in accordance with the requirements of this policy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of West Branch, Iowa, that the aforementioned policy is hereby approved.

Passed and approved this 16th day of December, 2024.



Roger Laughlin, Mayor

ATTEST:



Leslie Brick, City Clerk



West Branch Parks and Recreation

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Recreation Facility, Park, Sport Field Use & Fee Policy

It is the policy of the West Branch Parks and Recreation Department to control the use of recreation facilities, parks, and sports fields to protect these resources and to allow usage to individuals, groups, and organizations based on availability and priority. Use shall be consistent with City Policies and Ordinances, and promote wellness, recreation, positive participation, and sportsmanship. The City desires to be supportive of such use and will schedule and help facilitate their use following the requirements of this policy.

➤ **Purpose**

This policy is intended to enhance the recreation opportunities and events available to the citizens of West Branch; to facilitate City and non-City use and scheduling of recreational venues; to offer recreation programming for participants and spectators and to adequately reimburse the City for expenses related to providing this use. While not all scenarios or situations can be anticipated, the following are intended to guide in the appropriate application of fees.

➤ **Guidelines**

Reservations & Scheduling

1. West Branch Parks and Recreation reserves the right to schedule activities and events on facilities and parks on an "as available" basis. West Branch Parks and Recreation reserves the right to cancel any scheduled activity due to conditions or circumstances that are determined to be detrimental, unsafe, or in conflict with City Ordinances and policies.
2. Scheduling must be requested annually. No automatic or protected right to use because of previous use shall be granted. The City reserves the right to deny the use of City facilities to any user that, in the City's opinion, has had public relations problems, has abused City facilities or property, has administered its programs in such a way to cause discredit to the City or has not paid all fees due or past due.
3. Park bathrooms are closed for the winter from the middle of October through March.
4. Reservations do not stop the public from using park amenities that do not allow for reservations, such as playgrounds, trails, restrooms, or courts

Cancellations

5. Cancellation of an event before it begins due to weather, facility or field conditions, or city-declared emergency will be rescheduled, if possible, or refunded. Playability of fields will be determined by the West Branch Parks and Recreation Director. Cancellation of an event after it has begun will not result in a refund.
6. Cancellation of an event due to the user failing to comply with this policy or City Code and policies, or due to acts or activities deemed to be offensive or harmful, shall not receive a refund. The City reserves the right to prohibit the user from future use of or scheduling of the facilities.
7. Cancellation of an event by the user due to their own decision or reasoning must be done 14 days before a reservation or a refund shall not be received.

Park Use Rules

8. Alcohol is allowed at city parks so long as all laws and guidelines of West Branch City Code Chapter 47.07 are followed.
9. Users shall make every reasonable and prudent effort to keep the area in which user's activities are held, clean and free from trash or other debris. User will clean up any trash and debris generated by user's activities and place it in trash containers provided by the City. The user is responsible for any maintenance or cleanup cost incurred through the negligence of the user of any area or facility.
10. All lights must be turned off by 10:00 p.m. Park hours are 7:00am to 10:00pm daily unless approved by a Special Event permit.

Fees

11. The recreation facilities, parks, and sports field use fees will be paid in advance of use. Teams, team members, or individuals who do not pay the fee by the deadline will have all future reservations deleted until the previous bill is up to date. If paying by check, it must be received at City Offices no less than 10 business days before the use/event.
12. Users can be invoiced for the use of City facilities without a reservation if the Parks and Recreation Director determines the use qualified for the need of a reservation.

City Obligations

13. Users conducting their activities for commercial or individual financial gain are not endorsed by the City. Conducting business or sale of merchandise for profit is prohibited without prior approval. A Special Event or Peddler, Solicitor, Transient Merchant permit will be required if activities fall under the requirements.
14. User shall release, indemnify, and hold harmless the City of West Branch, its elected and appointed officials, officers, employees, and volunteers from any and all claims, damages, lawsuits, losses, and expenses (including attorney fees) arising out of or resulting from User's performance or failure to perform this agreement and all of User's activities conducted on City's facilities/property.
15. The City assumes no financial responsibility for the user's group, programs, or any of their constituents.

Other

16. Users shall abide by sport or event-specific rules and field usage rules. All tournaments, games, and practice games need to be scheduled through West Branch Parks and Recreation. A game is defined by any one of the following criteria:
 - A. If there is more than one team present.
 - B. If there are officials present, certified or not, or coaches acting as officials.
 - C. If players are in uniform.
 - D. If one of the teams travels to the game site from another city or location.
17. No painting or altering of fields is allowed. Moving of bleachers, tables or other equipment owned, maintained, or managed by the City is not allowed.
18. Concessions will be maintained and operated by the City of West Branch or a contracted party unless specifically directed otherwise by the Parks and Recreation Director.
19. Users are allowed to charge a gate fee to spectators of the event; however, park patrons will not be charged the fee.

20. Requests for Cubby Park made before April 24th for May-June may be delayed in approval to allow for City league schedules to be finalized and scheduled first.
21. All activities must also meet all rules outlined in the City code, expressly Chapter 47 – Municipal Park Policies and Regulations.

➤ **Fees**

Town Hall

- Monday-Thursday: \$10/hour resident, \$15/hour non-resident
- Weekend Full Day (8:00am – 10:00pm): \$100 resident, \$180 non-resident
- Weekend 6-hour block (8:00am – 2:00pm OR 4:00pm – 10:00pm): \$60 resident, \$90 non-resident

Lion's Field

- Field (all or nothing): \$5/hour resident, \$10/hour non-resident

Beranek Park

- Shelter-\$5/hour resident, \$10/hour non-resident
- Volleyball Courts (all or nothing)-\$5/hour resident, \$10/hour non-resident

Cubby Park Fields

- Field for practice (bases in, field dragged, no chalk): \$5/hour resident, \$10/hour non-resident
- Field for game (bases in, dragged, equipment for chalking provided): \$10/hour resident, \$20/hour non-resident
- Tournament (all 3 fields, bases in, dragged, equipment for chalking provided): \$175/day resident, \$350/day non-resident

Wapsi Park

- Via Special Event permit only

Mural Park

- Via Special Event permit only

Heritage Square

- Via Special Event permit only