

Questions/Answers

In an attempt to answer your questions before you enroll or take part in any of the Highland Parks & Recreation activities or utilize any of our facilities, please take a moment to find the answer. Because there are so many facets of the department that are almost impossible to answer and if the answer to your question is not mentioned, please feel free to contact us at 618.651.1386. We'll be happy to take the time to make sure you get an answer.

1. Why aren't there more sports for boys and girls in High School?

Answer: Although there are limited options available for boys and girls in High School, we do offer fall outdoor soccer for boys and girls, baseball for Jr. High Boys and softball for grades up to the tenth grade. Due to the availability of Legion Baseball and the Southwest Baseball League for high school aged boys, there is great difficulty in retaining an ample number of players to form teams.

2. Why are there no trails connecting the parks to neighborhoods and key areas of the community?

Answer: The City of Highland is currently working to developing an "intra-city" trail system that will eventually link parks to neighborhoods and key areas of the community. A trail master plan is expected to be delivered to the City Council for discussion by the spring of 2008.

3. Why can't I sign my child up for a program after the registration deadline?

Answer: Although there are occasions when we do allow late registrations, the main reason is that staff needs time to complete recruiting coaches, compiling a schedule to accommodate the number of teams, (normally attendance numbers change and the ability to duplicate schedules does not always work), Outdoor Soccer and BASEBALL/SOFTBALL require the development of a schedule with other communities.

In addition, late registrations cause confusion and delay in beginning sports seasons, disrupt rosters that already have an ample amount of players and in this case, take playing time away from those that did register on time and can overburden a coach with having to be able to develop a plan that allows each child to play enough time.

4. When will the City erect a new playground at Lindendale Park?

Answer: Other than the Highland Community Pool, the remaining land at Lindendale Park is owned and operated by the Helvetia Sharpshooters. The City has no control over their land.

5. Why are the sports programs conducive to the mentality that “we’re all winners”?

Answer: Because the sports programs administered through the Parks & Recreation Department appear to be a “we’re all winners” mentality, it is the philosophy of the Highland Youth Sports Advisory Commission (HYSAC) to take into consideration the child that may not display the talent of an exceptional athlete at their particular stage of life. The mission of the HYSAC is to provide an athletic setting that is positive in nature and to retain the enthusiasm of the sport by providing them with an environment that teaches teamwork, responsibility, the feeling of being part of a team and the opportunity to learn some of the fundamentals of a particular sport. Through years of experience, it has been determined that there is an ultra-fine line in keeping athletics competitive in a recreational environment that can meet the needs of the parent who believes their child demonstrates athletic talent at an earlier age and the parent who simply wants their child to be in an organized event and/or part of a team.

6. What is the HYSAC?

Answer: The HYSAC stands for the Highland Youth Sports Advisory Commission. This is a volunteer committee comprised of parents from the Highland School District that sets policies for youth sports in Highland. They are charged with the responsibility to develop rules and policies that will focus on keeping youth sports fun for all ages without the “win at all costs” mentality that has been documented to burn youth out at an early age.

7. Why are there no programs for children under 4 years of age?

Answer: Although there are many schools of thought on this subject, the main reason is due to a lack of staff and facilities. In addition, it is our philosophy that parent/child interaction is most important at these early ages.

8. Why can't the Korte Recreation Center be used for leagues and tournaments?

Answer: The Korte Recreation Center is supported through memberships. It was decided before construction of the facility that members and daily patrons paid for the availability of the center and won't be disrupted from using the gymnasium for leagues. Limited use of the gymnasium is available for practices however.

9. What is the policy for cancelling games?

Answer: Because no life is worth being lost, the Highland Parks & Recreation Department has adopted the IHSA weather cancellation policy for outdoor games and practices which states that *“A combination of the 30 second flash-to-bang count*

to suspend play and the 30-minute delay after the last lightning flash to resume activity is commonly referred to as the "30-30 Rule."

Lightning is one of the most consistent and underrated causes of weather-related deaths or injury in the United States. Nearly all lightning-related injuries occur between the months of May and September and between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Therefore the greatest concern for injuries in an outdoor contest appears to be during that time.

For basketball games and practices, if school is either cancelled for a full day or school is let out early, games for that evening will be cancelled. Make-up games will not always be guaranteed for all games however.

10. Why are the older parks not getting updated?

Answer: Actually there have been improvements to the older parks, in particular Merwin Park (1998), Tot-Lot/Watertower Park (2002), Spindler Park (2003) and Silver Lake Park (2005). Unfortunately vandals destroyed the play feature at Silver Lake Park since then and caused it to be removed.

All of the play features have been updated with new play features. In addition, poured-in-place surfaces were added to the playgrounds at Glik Park, Hoffman Park, and the Korte Recreation Center's childcare playground. Plans to install this poured-in-place surface are targeted to be installed under all play features by the year 2010.

11. How can I help?

Answer: Depending on your interests, anyone can help in any way possible. Heading up a volunteer work crew to address litter, trail maintenance or simply sprucing up a landscaped area, are excellent ways to help, even as an individual. Consideration and evaluation of the HYSAC determines whether or not help is needed for coaching a youth athletic team, however, if you have a vast experience in a specific sport and it can be utilized for teams during practices should the head coach/manager deem it as vital to his/her team, arrangements can be made. In addition, if you have a unique or special skill that you want to share with others so they can learn or be exposed to something new, just let us know, we'll be happy to discuss the option with you.

12. How much of the City's budget goes to the Parks & Recreation Department?

Answer: Approximately 4.5% of the entire City Budget goes to the Department. As a result, the department is forced to work diligently to maintain the 180 acres of green space, provide recreational programs (summer playground, baseball/softball, indoor/outdoor soccer, basketball, track & field, tennis, arts & crafts and swim lessons to name a few) maintain the Korte Recreation Center, the Weinheimer Community Center, Cemetery and almost 1,100 acres surrounding Silver Lake with 11 full-time employees.

13. What is there for a Senior Citizen to do?

Answer: In 2001, the City of Highland created the Senior Drop-In Center at the Weinheimer Community Center. Seniors of Highland can utilize this facility during normal working hours by playing pool, cards, board games, watching TV, reading a magazine, or simply socializing with friends. The Weinheimer Senior Citizens Club also hosts monthly meetings at the Weinheimer on the second Wednesday of each month. Here a pot-luck lunch is served, followed by either a guest speaker or entertainment and ending the day with a game of cards or bingo. The Senior's also schedule day trips to various places throughout the metro-east and St. Louis metropolitan area. For more information, feel free to call the Weinheimer at 618.654.6071.

14. Why does it seem that the parks don't appear to be as well maintained after school starts?

Answer: The main reason why the parks seem to be less maintained when school starts is because they are. The Parks Maintenance division employs 10 part-time employees in the months of May – August. During the months of April - October, not only do five full-time employees oversee the maintenance of 180 acres of green space by mowing, trimming, preparing athletic fields (7 baseball/softball fields, 10 soccer fields and one football field) tree care, trash, building maintenance, but the numerous other duties that are issued. During the months of November – March, four full-time employees repair picnic tables, tend to tree care needs, over-seed, winterize outdoor facilities and equipment, take inventory and perform indoor building maintenance duties as needed, to name just a few examples.

15. How can I register to receive program updates online?

Answer: From the City's website, www.ci.highland.il.us, click on **City Depts.** After clicking City Depts, navigate to **Parks & Recreation** and click again. At the bottom of the parks & rec. homepage, you will notice at the bottom of the page **click here to subscribe to the Parks & Recreation notices!** Simply click on this title bar and follow the directions to receive updates