

From: [Matt Breslin](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: [Weber, Carl](#); [Matt Breslin](#)
Subject: MOCO Fields - Planning Committee - Bethesda Lacrosse
Date: Sunday, February 1, 2026 11:36:45 AM
Attachments: [Bethesda Lacrosse Athletic Field Use Permit Policy_013026.docx](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Chair Harris and Members of the Planning Board,

Please see attached for our (Bethesda Lacrosse Association – a long time user of Montgomery County Fields) feedback regarding the county field discussions. We wanted to get this to you prior to the 2/2/26 deadline.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me for further discussion.

Thank you for your review and consideration of our feedback.

Thanks,
Matt Breslin
Executive Director
Bethesda Lacrosse Association

BETHESDA
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February 1, 2026

Dear Chair Harris and Members of the Planning Board,

Bethesda Lacrosse Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1989 to provide an outstanding opportunity for youth lacrosse players (pre-k through 8th grade), to learn and play the great sport of lacrosse. We have programs for beginners who are just picking up a stick for the first time to intermediate players who are looking for practice and game play to elite year-round travel/club players who want to compete at the top of the youth lacrosse landscape.

Our mission and objectives are to foster a love of sport in all our players. We teach this fast-paced and fun game to young people who have never played before, accommodate as many recreational players as possible, and provide top-notch competitive opportunities for advanced players. Our goal is to give our community youth a great sports experience including life-long lessons of sportsmanship, teamwork, and leadership.

Our staff, board and coaches are long-time Montgomery County residents, and our organization's operations, volunteers, and families are deeply rooted in the communities we serve. We have 12 staff members, a 10 person board, approximately 200 coaches and over 250 program volunteers from the Montgomery County community that give their time and effort to make this the best sports-based youth development program possible.

We have 3,000 players registered annually (vast majority being Montgomery county residents – over 90 percent) in our boys and girls programs. We are incredibly grateful for the ability to use Montgomery County fields as we rely heavily on them for our practices, games and clinics.

We have reviewed the materials on the policies being discussed regarding field rentals and field permitting moving forward. We would obviously love to see more field options in the county. In the meantime, efficient utilization of existing fields needs to be addressed. Bethesda Lacrosse has a few concerns that we would like to formally share with the committee.

Ghost Permitting - This is a major concern for us. We hope to have the ability to return historic fields in a given year if they are not needed so others can use them, but not be penalized by losing them as historic fields the following year. Our field needs vary from year to year based on number of players, location of coaches/teams so some years we need certain fields much more than others. The current policy as written (not just the proposed policy) says we would lose any returned fields. Our aim would be to have the ability to return the field in a given year so others could use it, but continue to have access to it in the following year (just for one year and then it could go back into the pool for new users). If that is clearly stated, we believe that would benefit new and old users and we are confident that would cut down on "ghost permitting."

Overlay Fields - The policy as written suggests that baseball/softball get priority for overlay fields in the spring, while field sports (lacrosse/soccer) get priority in the fall. We would like to make sure our historic permits on overlay fields will be respected/kept in place and this new policy would *only* impact new permits on other overlay fields. Our program depends heavily on our existing permits and specifically with respect to overlay fields, our Boys Rec program, for example, relies significantly on Burning Tree Local Park (an overlay field) for games in both the spring and fall. It would be devastating to our program to have that access limited to either spring or fall.

Data Collection - Bethesda Lacrosse recognizes the value of collecting participation data to inform planning and allocation decisions. However, we have privacy concerns and the administrative burden that will carry for our part time and volunteer staff.

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10319 Westlake Drive #191
Bethesda, MD 20817

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Go Live Process - We also would push for improving the Go Live Event process making it easier and more user friendly. It would not only benefit historic users, but also non-historic users to get access to fields. The field search process is so cumbersome so it's nearly impossible for entities to get consistent field times through Go Live.

We greatly appreciate Montgomery Parks' efforts to modernize and standardize the Athletic Field Use Permit Policy. We share the goal of a system that is predictable, transparent, and equitable. However, we have concerns (some laid out above) that several proposed provisions may have consequences that reduce youth access to athletic fields and impact existing community-based nonprofit organizations.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and look forward to continued collaboration.

Sincerely,
Matt Breslin (Executive Director)
Bethesda Lacrosse Association Staff
Bethesda Lacrosse Association Board of Directors

Bethesda Lacrosse is a 501(c)3 organization. Tax ID # 56-2506650

Be Part of It!
10319 Westlake Drive #191
Bethesda, MD 20817

From: [David Schneider](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: [Weber, Carl](#); [Jean Kurtz](#)
Subject: Fw: BCC Baseball re: Athletic Field Use Permit Policy Update
Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 3:37:37 PM
Attachments: [BCC Baseball re Athletic Field Use Permit Policy.pdf](#)

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Dear Chair Harris,

I am following up to confirm receipt of our testimony. I see the meeting agenda was revised this morning, but our testimony was not added.

Thanks for your attention to the matter.

Best,
David

From: David Schneider
Sent: Monday, February 2, 2026 3:39 PM
To: MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org <MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org>
Cc: Weber, Carl <carl.weber@montgomeryparks.org>; Jean Kurtz <jkurtz@bccbaseball.com>
Subject: BCC Baseball re: Athletic Field Use Permit Policy Update

Dear Chair Harris,

Please see attached testimony in opposition of the proposed update to the athletic field use permit policy.

Please let us know if you need anything else.

Thanks,
David



**40A Southlawn Court
Rockville, MD 20850**

February 2, 2026

Montgomery County Planning Board
2425 Reedie Drive, 14th Floor
Wheaton, MD 20902

Dear Chair Harris and Members of the Planning Board,

Bethesda Chevy Chase Baseball, Inc. (BCC Baseball) is a nonprofit youth baseball and softball organization founded in 1993. At our core, BCC Baseball operates recreational baseball and softball leagues during the Fall (September–October) and Spring (April–June) seasons for players ages 4–17, from preschool through 12th grade. In addition, BCC provides developmental clinics, select programs, travel teams, high school showcase teams, and college recruiting support.

BCC Baseball was established to meet a community need for youth baseball in the lower portion of Montgomery County and has since grown into a large, community-based organization serving nearly 1,700 players each Spring season and 1,500 each Fall in both baseball and softball.

Our staff and leadership are long-time Montgomery County residents, and our organization's operations, volunteers, and families are deeply rooted in the communities we serve.

BCC Baseball serves a geographically concentrated population. Approximately 85 percent of our participants reside in Bethesda, Potomac, Chevy Chase, Silver Spring, Rockville, and Kensington. Proximity to fields is therefore a critical factor in participation, transportation logistics, and reliable volunteer engagement. Though our community is heavily concentrated, we have a long tail of participants that includes families in Burtonsville, Gaithersburg, Olney, Poolesville, Wheaton, and more.

Beyond league play, BCC Baseball provides multiple public and community benefits. BCC Baseball offers opportunities for students to earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours, provides need-based scholarships totaling thousands of dollars annually, maintains 14 high school baseball and softball fields throughout the lower and eastern portions of Montgomery County, investing more than \$300,000 per year in maintenance labor and materials, and provides a service for college recruiting. We function as a community-serving nonprofit whose activities directly support County goals related to youth development, public health, recreation access, and furthering education.

As longtime stewards of this community, it was important that we engaged deeply in the policy development process. We participated in the focus groups, submitted our feedback on the proposal, and asked our community to share their concerns as well.

Our most significant concern related to the new policy is the proposed limits on priority use. Section 3B proposes limiting priority use to no more than three weekdays and one weekend day per week per organization per field.

For BCC Baseball, application of this limit would result in the annual loss of up to 160 hours per week of spring field access, up to 116 hours per week of fall field access, and more than 2,400 hours of reduced permitted access annually.

Our primary concern is that while the proposed policy aims to redistribute access, it does not actually expand systemwide capacity. We suggest that policies intended to improve equity should be paired with strategies to increase field inventory or usable hours, rather than primarily limiting existing users.

We respectfully submit that the principal driver of conflict among users is a structural shortage of field supply. Long-term solutions should include additional identification of new field sites, additional expansion of multi-use facilities, and a maximization of existing assets through lighting, turf conversion, and reconfiguration where appropriate.

Besides overall capacity, efficient utilization of existing fields must be addressed. BCC Baseball echoes the concerns identified in Attachment D related to “ghost permitting.” In considering policy changes, we urge Parks to include enforceable mechanisms to return unutilized permits to the active pool before Go-Live scheduling, without losing priority-use forever. Permitted but unused blocks should be made available for community-based access, not held by entities that often do not ultimately utilize them. Absent a clear reclamation process, prioritizing County agencies perpetuates the same inefficiencies and undermines equitable community access to available inventory.

BCC Baseball recognizes the value of collecting participation data to inform planning and allocation decisions. But we have concerns about the administrative feasibility of several proposed requirements for data collection. Many youth sports organizations in Montgomery County operate with minimal or volunteer-only administrative staff. Requiring detailed roster and team data submission increases administrative burden, creates compliance challenges for volunteer-run organizations, and favors larger entities with professional staff capacity.

From an implementation standpoint, several practical questions remain unanswered, including:

1. How additional days obtained through Go-Live interact with priority use limits
2. Whether repeated Go-Live success establishes new priority use history
3. Which entity tracks organization-level compliance
4. What systems ensure public transparency

Clarification of these issues is necessary to ensure consistent administration.

These challenges are compounded by the County's split field management structure in which Montgomery Parks administers only a portion of the County's athletic fields, while a significant portion is managed by Montgomery County Government's Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF). Policy changes affecting only one portion of the system may shift burdens rather than resolve inequities. A coordinated, countywide analysis of field inventory, demand, and allocation across both systems would better support equitable outcomes.

BCC Baseball appreciates Montgomery Parks' efforts to modernize and standardize the Athletic Field Use Permit Policy. We share the goal of a system that is predictable, transparent, and equitable. However, we have significant concerns that several proposed provisions may have unintended consequences that reduce youth access to athletic fields and disproportionately impact existing community-based nonprofit organizations. Our suggested revisions are below.

Suggested Revisions

BCC Baseball supports Montgomery Parks' objective of establishing a fair and consistent athletic field permitting framework. In developing an updated field use and permitting policy, we request that the Planning Board consider revisions that 1) avoid reducing existing youth access without offsetting capacity increases; 2) incorporate stronger utilization accountability; 3) minimize administrative burdens on volunteer organizations; and address countywide field shortages.

In consultation with our coaches, players, families, and other leagues in the area, we offer six specific recommendations for your consideration.

1.) Pair Allocation Reforms with a Field Capacity Strategy

Equity outcomes improve most effectively when total supply grows, not only when existing supply is redistributed. In conjunction with advancing allocation caps, Montgomery Parks should:

- Prepare a Lower Montgomery County Field Capacity Assessment identifying:
 - Gaps between demand and supply
 - Priority areas for new rectangular and diamond fields
 - Opportunities for synthetic turf, lighting, and multi-use conversion
- Tie major allocation changes to demonstrated increases in usable hours or inventory, so access is not reduced before capacity is expanded

2.) Pilot the Priority Use Caps Before Full Implementation

To allow for data-driven refinement and avoid irreversible, unintended consequences, Parks could adopt a phase-in schedule instead of permanent and immediate field adoption:

- Implement the 3-weekday / 1-weekend limit as a time-limited pilot (e.g., one season or one year)
- Collect data on:
 - Actual utilization rates
 - Unused permitted hours
 - Participation impacts
 - Distribution across organization types
- Require a public evaluation before permanent adoption.

3.) Create a “Use-It-or-Lose-It” Reversion Window

To improve utilization without changing priority categories, and to directly address ghost permitting challenges, Parks should establish formal mechanism where:

- Any permitted block not confirmed for use by a defined deadline automatically reverts to a shared pool
- Reverted hours are released to the public, notifying interested parties.
- Priority Use users can retain fields given back if not used that exact season. If the field/time is given back two years in a row, then historic use can be removed.

4.) Replace Hard Caps with Tiered or Sliding Priority Bands

In recognition of varying organizational roles and structures, instead of a universal 3-weekday cap, implement a tiered or sliding system in which each tier has appropriate maximum thresholds:

- Create priority bands based on verified utilization and community impact, such as:
 - Tier A: High-utilization, community-based youth nonprofits
 - Tier B: Regional or specialized organizations
 - Tier C: Occasional or event-based users

5.) Allow Excess Hours on High-Utilization Fields

To maintain neighborhood-based programming and reduce participants’ travel burden, allow Permit organizations that demonstrate consistently high utilization and concentrated density of residents to obtain additional days on fields where demand is demonstrably generated by that organization’s community.

6.) Simplify Team Data Requirements

Adopting a graduated reporting model would preserve the integrity and validity of data collection while avoiding saddling an organization with an excessive administrative burden. The model would distinguish between:

- Small volunteer organizations: estimated team counts, age ranges
- Medium organizations: team counts, seasonal roster totals
- Large organizations: full roster-level data

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and look forward to continued collaboration.

Sincerely,

Jean Kurtz (Executive Director)

David Schneider (Director of Operations)

Bethesda Chevy Chase Baseball, Inc.

From: [Gus Delgado](#)
To: [MCP-Chair](#)
Cc: [Wendy Calhoun](#)
Subject: MSI Testimony about Montgomery Parks Athletic Field Use Permit Policy Update.
Date: Wednesday, February 4, 2026 2:19:31 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[2-2025 Planning Board Written Testimony re Field Use Policy.pdf](#)

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear MCP Chair,

Please accept my written testimony on behalf of MSI about the Montgomery Parks Athletic Field Use Permit Policy Update.

Thank you for your consideration,



Gus Delgado

Executive Director

[Montgomery Soccer Incorporated](#)

301 762-4674 ext. 107

gdelgado@msisoccer.org



A Level of Play for Everyone!

Best of Bethesda Reader's Choice '24, '25 & '26: Best Youth Sports Program



February 4, 2025

Montgomery County Planning Board
2425 Reddie Drive, 14th Floor
Wheaton MD 20902

Dear Chair Harris and Members of the Planning Board:

MSI is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to positively shaping youth development by making soccer accessible to players of all ages and abilities. We offer an accessible and affordable level of play for everyone, from four-year-olds just discovering the game to young adults across Montgomery County. Our programs span early childhood play and skill development, community-based recreational leagues for students in grades one through twelve, Classic soccer for players seeking a higher level of competition without the costs and travel demands of elite play, and a travel program designed for players competing at the highest levels of the game and demonstrating exceptional commitment and skill.

Founded in Montgomery County over five decades ago, MSI was asked by the Department of Recreation in the 1970s to manage the county's recreational soccer program. That program has since grown, shaping MSI into a truly county-wide organization. As reflected in the attached heat map, we serve families throughout the entire county.

Since 1971, MSI's "Level of Play for Everyone" model has prioritized inclusion and affordability, intentionally pushing back against "pay-to-play" barriers. In addition, our free recess soccer program introduces the game to more than 2,000 MCPS students at 20 elementary schools each year. Over the many decades MSI has been in existence, we have provided millions of dollars in scholarships to youth players throughout Montgomery County.



We thank you for the opportunity to provide written input on the proposed updates to field access and management policies. As an organization with deep roots in the community we serve, and one that is directly affected by this policy, we made it a priority to engage fully in the development process. Our involvement included participating in focus groups, submitting formal feedback on the proposal, and encouraging our community to share their perspectives. MSI appreciates Montgomery Parks' efforts to improve field utilization, efficiency, and community access. We support several elements of the proposal and offer the following comments and recommendations for your consideration.

Return Fee Adjustment

We support the change from a flat \$50 return fee to a fee equal to 25% of the permit cost. This is a meaningful improvement that creates a more proportional and economical incentive for organizations to return unused fields rather than holding permits unnecessarily.

Conditional Reimbursement to Encourage Early Returns

To further improve field utilization, we recommend considering reimbursement of permit fees (less the 25% administrative fee) only when a returned field is successfully re-rented. This approach would encourage organizations to return fields as early as possible, allowing Montgomery Parks to reallocate them efficiently while still covering administrative costs.

Priority Status for Responsible Returns

Organizations should not lose priority status for returning unused fields. Maintaining priority status encourages responsible permit management and allows organizations to make realistic decisions for any given date without fear of penalty in subsequent years. Penalizing organizations for returning fields creates a disincentive to release unused time and ultimately reduces overall access.



Roster Submission and Privacy Concerns

We have significant concerns regarding the requirement to submit rosters containing names and addresses, particularly for youth participants. This raises privacy and data protection issues, including potential FOIA exposure. We would require clear assurances that all submitted data would remain confidential, securely stored, and protected from disclosure.

Operational Feasibility of Roster Review

From an operational standpoint, blanket roster submission may not be feasible or effective. MSI alone manages approximately 600 teams and more than 8,000 youth players each season. Reviewing rosters at this scale would require substantial staff resources. We question whether Montgomery Parks has the capacity to review this volume of data and whether this is the best use of limited staff time.

If concerns exist about specific permits, organizations, or teams, we recommend amending the rules to allow Montgomery Parks to request and review rosters on a targeted, as-needed basis rather than requiring universal submission. A targeted review process would be more efficient and effective.

Permit Limits and Organizational Coordination

We are concerned about proposals that limit the number of days an organization can hold priority access to a field. Organizations are often expected to serve as coordinators for multiple teams. Restricting priority days undermines this consolidated role and makes it more difficult for organizations to manage schedules efficiently and equitably.

In our experience, individual soccer coaches have been directed to reserve fields through the organization *specifically to reduce conflicts and streamline coordination*. Additionally, Montgomery County, decades ago, asked MSI to administer the county's Recreation soccer program because of its size and complexity. Policies that limit organizational access risk shifting that administrative burden back onto individual volunteers and the county, increasing confusion and reducing the effective delivery of youth soccer recreation programming that is affordable for everyone in the county.



Evaluating Actual Field Usage vs. Permit Counts

If the intent of limiting permits is to increase community access, we strongly recommend evaluating actual field usage rather than simply counting the number of days an organization holds permits. For example, MSI frequently schedules multiple teams to share a field, allocating one-hour blocks per team. A single two-hour permit can accommodate up to four teams, maximizing utilization and access. This model is significantly more efficient and inclusive than allowing a single team or individual to reserve an entire field for the same duration.

Alternative Metrics for Priority Access

We encourage Montgomery Parks to explore alternative priority metrics, such as allocating access based on total hours per organization, scaled to membership size, rather than fixed days per field. This would better reflect real demand, promote equity, and reward efficient scheduling practices.

Community Field Maintenance Program

Finally, we strongly advocate for the creation of a community maintenance program that allows trained and adequately insured individuals or organizations to assist with basic field maintenance—such as painting lines, mowing grass, or moving goalposts—under Montgomery Parks supervision and in accordance with strict Parks guidelines. Such a program would improve field conditions for all users at no additional cost to Montgomery Parks.

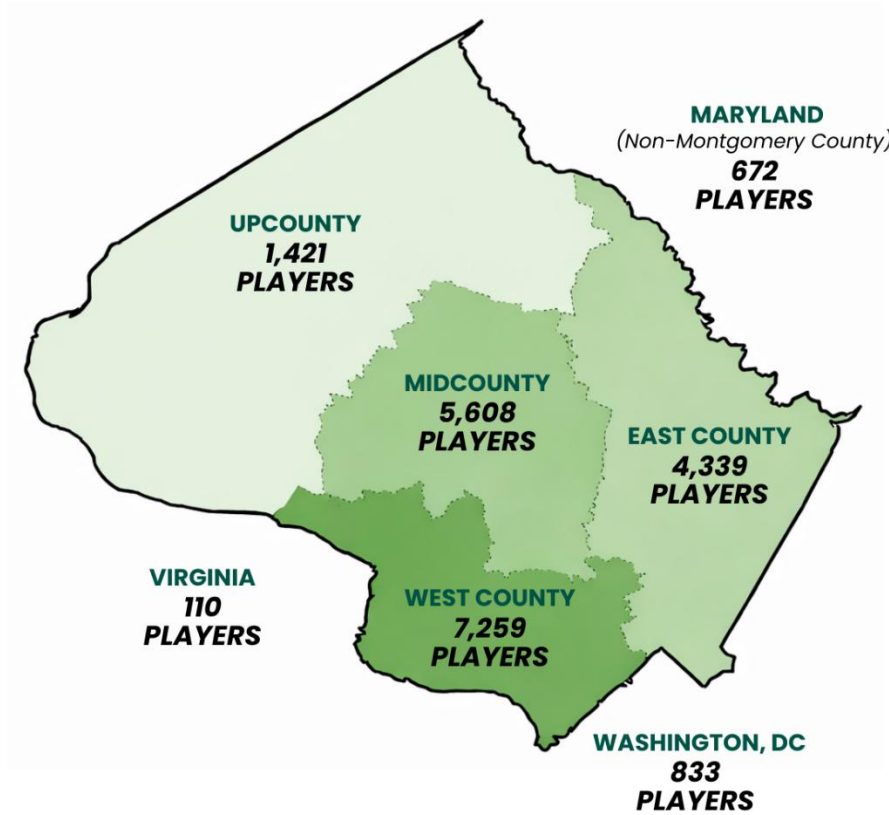
Thank you again for the opportunity to provide written testimony. We appreciate your consideration of these comments and look forward to continued collaboration as final decisions are made.

Sincerely,

Gus Delgado
Executive Director
Montgomery Soccer, Inc (MSI)



MSI Heat Map



ALL of MoCo!

~20,000 unique registered players
between 2023 and 2025
(based on their home zip codes)