

# BALLFIELD ASSESSMENT 2018

Overlook Park and North Mesa Sports Complex



**MARCH 20, 2018**

# Parks & Recreation Board

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**STEPHANIE NAKHLEH, CHAIRPERSON**

# Parks & Recreation Board Direction Regarding Ballfield Assessment

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## Parks & Recreation Board Response to County Council Direction of August 29, 2017

- Evaluate Issues and Formulate Recommendations
  - Softball and baseball capacity needs
  - Facility uses
  - Lighting

# Overlook Sports Complex





# North Mesa Sports Complex



# Information Gathering Process

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- Review Current Ballfields
  - Onsite workshops
  - Physical condition, benefits to the community
- Discussion Points
  - Usage
    - Field user meetings
    - April 1 – Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> scheduled use
    - Feb – March: Increased scheduled use

## Results and Recommendations

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- Capacity gaps
  - Capacity needs met presently
  - Growth through collaborative scheduling
- Improve land use – to accommodate all alternate user groups/types
- Recognize alternate user groups: drop-in community uses, pocket park/natural area, trails, trailheads, playgrounds, special events
- Ballfields are an integral part of park, meet changing needs of all users
- Incorporate surrounding neighborhoods with park based decisions



## Results and Recommendations (cont'd)

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- Strategies to Maximize Multiple Uses
  - Moveable outfield fencing
  - Portable pitching mounds
  - Scheduling to match actual usage
  - Ultimate Frisbee, picnics, hacky sack, pickup games, kickball and volleyball, informal practice for baseball, softball & special events
  - Field rotation options for turf regeneration



## PRB Recommendation

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### The Motion: Unanimous Vote

“That Los Alamos County promote maximum utilization of the ballfield facilities for current and future needs, while making the most of the present facilities, through multiple use and the recommendations as described. Further that sports complex maintenance and the prioritization of improvements be added to the FY19 Work Plan, so that the maintenance condition of the fields be optimized and so that timely continued partnership efforts coincide with future funding in addition to ensuring the varsity softball field solutions continue be kept in mind”.

## Parks and Recreation Board Work Plan and Next Steps

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- Based on Ballfield Assessment recommendations, provide continued public updates on progress and next steps for Overlook Park and North Mesa Sports Complex.
- Meet in the field with and invite more groups and individuals to the Parks and Recreation Board meetings to outline their programs, interests, current challenges and suggested solutions to strengthen the Board's connections with the community that uses the parks, recreation programs and facilities.

## Special Thanks

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The Parks and Recreation Board would like to thank those individuals, organizations, coaches, volunteers and dedicated participants in helping to develop this assessment and resulting recommendation.

# Staff Comments

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**BRIAN BROGAN, CSD DIRECTOR**



## Capacity Needs

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At this time, there are not capacity issues. If the users groups grow as they are projecting, we will have capacity issues in the near future.

Possible solutions to explore in the future:

- Artificial turf on more fields to allow for high use
- Stadium lighting to create playable fields after dusk

# 2018 Field User's Schedule

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec			
North Mesa Sports Complex															
Bomber		LAPS HS Varsity Baseball M-F 3:00p-6:00p													
Major (Lou Caveglia)		Youth Little League Baseball ~ 4:00p - 9:00p													
Minor		Youth Little League Baseball ~ 4:00p - 9:00p													
Tee Ball		Youth Little League Baseball ~ 4:00p - 9:00p													
Senior		LAPS HS Jr Varsity Baseball M-F 3:00p-6:00p													
Overlook Park															
Byers		Youth Little League Baseball ~ 4:00p - 9:00p													
Virchow		LAPS Middle School Baseball M-F 5:00p-8:00p													
Virchow		Youth Little League Baseball ~ 4:00p - 9:00p													
Minor A		LAPS HS Girls Varsity Softball M-F 3:00p-6:00p													
Minor A		Youth Little League Baseball ~ 4:00p - 9:00p													
Minor B		LAPS HS Girls Jr. Varsity Softball M-F 3:00p-6:00p													
Minor B		Youth Little League Baseball ~ 4:00p - 9:00p													
Softball Fields															
NM Bun Ryan		Youth Little League Baseball ~ 4:00p - 9:00p													
OL Softball 1						Adult Softball League Mon - Thurs 5:45p - 9:15p									
OL Softball 2						Adult Softball League Mon - Thurs 5:45p - 9:15p									
OL Softball 3						Adult Softball League Mon - Thurs 5:45p - 9:15p									
OL Softball 4				Lacrosse Mon - Fri 5:00p - 5:45p			Adult Softball League Mon - Thurs 5:45p - 9:15p								
OL X-Lovato				Youth Little League Baseball Monday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday ~ 8:00a - 4:00p											
OL X-Lovato		Feb-May 7 - LAPS Girl's Softball M-F 3p - 5:45p				May 8-Nov - Adult Softball League M-Th 5:45p - 9:15p									

## Facility Uses and Safety Concerns

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In meeting with the user groups we identified desired facility use improvements and safety concerns. Some of the improvements are currently being addressed. Others are being planned for upcoming years.

Some examples:

- New irrigation systems
- Spectator shading
- Backstop improvements
- Fencing improvements
- Turf improvements
- Portable fencing
- Safety netting
- Educating groups on field wear patterns

## Stadium Lighting

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Lighting is not currently needed. If the user groups grow or we desire to host large tournaments, lighting will be needed to accommodate these groups.



## Summary

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We are excited to be able to accommodate our current users and look forward to making improvements to the existing fields. When capacity issues arise we will execute our plan and work with the user groups and the Parks and Recreation Board to accommodate our community.