

Playing Fields Task Force  
Online Remote Meeting Agenda  
7:45 am – 9 am – Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
The meeting will be live on local cable TV Comcast 8/Verizon 40  
<https://www.wellesleymedia.org/live-streaming.html>

1. Call to order
2. Citizen Speak
3. Minutes
4. Field Applications
  - a. Spring User Group Applications
  - b. Summer Applications
5. Sound Discussion
6. Project updates
  - a. Lacrosse Wall
  - b. Field Utilization Study
  - c. WHS Track and Field
  - d. Sprague Bathrooms
7. General Fields discussion
8. Adjourn

Next meeting: Meetings are generally the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month at 7:45 am. Meetings are sometimes rescheduled to coordinate with other Board schedules.

REMOTE MEETING PROTOCOL Residents can view the meeting from the Wellesley Media link above. Residents seeking to participate in Citizen Speak or on a particular agenda item should email [recreation@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:recreation@wellesleyma.gov) prior to the meeting and they will be given the Zoom link.

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WARREN BUILDING  
90 WASHINGTON STREET  
WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 02481

DIRECTOR  
MATTHEW G. CHIN

TELEPHONE: 781-235-2370  
FAX: 781- 237 -3558

DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
BRANDON G. FITTS

## FIELD PERMIT APPLICATION

Name: Casey Curry Organization: Jewish Arts Collaborative

Mailing Address: 1320 Centre St Suite 201, Newton Centre, MA 02459

Email: caseyc@jartsboston.org Daytime Phone # 541.505.6462

Field Requested: The field at Schofield Elementary School

For what activity/sport: For an art installation rehearsal.  
For details about the project see jartsboston.org/foodscape/

DATE (S) – List all

Saturday, May 27

Day (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Time: Start Anytime Finish Approx. 3-4 hours  
after start

Rain Date (if needed): Friday, May 26

Approximate # of people: 5 # of Wellesley Residents: n/a

### To Request a field permit:

- **Complete this form and submit to: Recreation Director Matt Chin (Address above)**
- **For Questions contact Matt Chin at 7881-235-2370 or [mchin@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:mchin@wellesleyma.gov)**
- Requests to use Warren, Brown, Perrin, Phillips, Ouellette & Hunnewell Park (Town Hall Green) will be forwarded to the Natural Resources (NRC) for approval. \*
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- SEE BELOW FOR FEES AND POLICIES

## WELLESLEY FIELD PERMIT REQUEST INFORMATION

**Keep this for your records.**

### General Policies:

- No alcohol, no illegal drugs, no smoking and/or vaping.
- Public property may not be used to conduct a private business, unless certain requirements are met. The Recreation Director can aid you with this process. See “Public Facility Use for Private Gain Policy” at [www.wellesleyma.gov](http://www.wellesleyma.gov) click Government, click Recreation, click Facility & Fields, click Playing Fields Task Force & Field Applications, click Playing Fields Task Force Documents
- Users are responsible for any damage.
- Users are responsible for checking the Town website for field conditions/closures. Fields will be posted when closed during the spring, summer and fall seasons. Assume that fields are closed during the winter.
- If selling food, you must receive authorization from the Board of Health.
- In general, Wellesley fields do not have sanitary facilities.
- **WELLESLEY GREEN INITIATIVE:** The Playing Fields Task Force is partnering with Wellesley Green Schools on an important initiative to reduce waste on town fields. We require you to tell coaches, teams, family & friends, to help in the following ways: 1) Please ask players & visiting teams to BRING REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES TO ALL GAMES & PRACTICES; 2) Please consider eliminating the extra drinks & snacks that are often brought to practices & games (studies show that this has a positive health benefit as well); 3) Consider naming a team captain to oversee garbage collection & recycling or encourage players to clean up after themselves; and 4) Please remind players and visiting teams that the Town of Wellesley is committed to sustainable principles and has installed working water fountains & recycling bins at almost all Town fields.

### Priority of Use:

- 1) Town-Wide Special Events
- 2) School Use/School Coaches’ Clinics
- 3) Wellesley Resident Youth Leagues
- 4) Wellesley Recreation Department Programs
- 5) Wellesley Resident Adult Groups
- 6) Wellesley Resident – One-Time Use
- 7) Charitable Groups
- 8) Non-Resident Groups / Non-Recreation Department Camps and Clinics

### Fees, as approved in the Playing Fields Policy:

- 1) Town-wide Special Events: No fee,
- 2) School Use: No fee,
- 3) School Coach(es) Clinics: \$15 per participant,
- 4) Wellesley Resident Youth Leagues: \$30 per participant per season (\$15 to Turf Field Fund),
- 5) Wellesley Resident Youth League Clinics: \$15 per participant,
- 6) Wellesley Recreation Department Programs: No fee,
- 7) Organized Use of the High School Track: \$15 per participant per season; if not a seasonal rental: \$150,
- 8) Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell) for Adult Softball: \$40 per participant per season (\$25 to Recreation lighting account)
- 9) Wellesley Resident – One-Time Use: \$50 for a grass field, including the Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell), but \$75 if using lights (incremental \$25 to Recreation lighting account); \$75 for a turf field,
- 10) Charitable Groups: No fee,
- 11) Non-Resident (Adults and Youth): Grass field and Sprague turf field: \$150; High School turf field: \$375 (fee is for field use only; utilization of scoreboard and sound system is not allowed), and
- 12) Non-Recreation Department Camps: \$35 per participant on a grass field; \$50 per participant on a turf field. (Camps catering to participants over the age of twelve years shall, whenever available, be assigned to turf fields).
- 13) All track and field rentals that are not charged per participant are figured in increments of 1.5 hours. Fees collected shall be deposited into the DPW Field Use Fund, unless otherwise noted or a rental of a turf field; revenue from turf field rentals shall be deposited into the Turf Field Fund.

## **General Field Use Rules**

### **Hours of Operation:**

Fields may be used until dusk with the exception of the lighted Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell). Lights may remain on until 9:30 pm, except for Reidy Field, where lights may remain on until 9:45 pm. No play before 8:00 am on Sunday at any field that abuts homeowners.

### **Prohibited Activities:**

Any prohibited activities posted on signage at the High School track or any fields, consumption/possession of drugs or alcoholic beverages; use of fields beyond permitted dates or times; use of grass fields during wet field conditions or before they are declared available for use; and any activity that may cause field damage. Users must show good judgment when using fields and must stop play if the field shows damage during activity. Any group who causes damage to any field will be responsible for repair costs.

### **Field Closures:**

<http://www.wellesleyma.gov/1049/Playing-Fields-OpenClosed-Status> or call (781) 235-2370 for the latest field closures. If a field is closed, no use is permitted at all. The field status webpage and the hotline are for informational purposes only; field signage and/or direct communication from the Wellesley DPW Park and Tree Division (DPW) take precedence. Whenever possible, DPW will email user groups and post signs when fields are closed.

Please note that grass fields can be closed even when the weather appears good at the time because of standing water, previous damage or other field condition issues. The DPW, in consultation with the PFTF, will recommend when fields should be closed in order to rest them to prevent significant damage from overuse or for maintenance reasons.

### **Weather:**

Since lightning can strike up to 10 miles from a storm, users should seek safe shelter as soon as they hear thunder or see lightning. They should wait for 30 minutes without hearing thunder or seeing lightning before returning to the field.

### **Maintenance of Baseball/Softball Infields:**

Baseball/softball players and coaches are expected to groom the infields after each game and practice. Equipment for grooming is supplied and coaches are responsible for knowing the storage box combinations.

### **Litter, Trash and Recycling:**

All users are responsible for picking up any trash or litter on the field at the completion of their practice or game session regardless of whether this trash was there when they first got on the field or not. Pick up trash when you leave the field, even if it is not yours. Consider naming team captains at each practice or game to oversee litter collection and recycling.

Users are expected to use trash and recycling receptacles located on or near the fields or to take their waste home for disposal. If the group expects to generate excess trash, they must provide a means for removing trash themselves. Bring a trash bag with you to games and practices. Please pick up and recycle all plastic bottles. Inform coaches, players, players' families, and attendees at games and practices that there are water fountains at the majority of the active playing fields and that participants are strongly encouraged to utilize reusable and refillable water bottles for all practices and games.

The last group to use a field for the day is responsible for leaving a clean, litter free field. If you consistently find trash when you arrive at the field please contact the Recreation Director at (781) 235-2370, who will attempt to identify the users who might be leaving the field in such condition.

Users are urged to support the preservation and sustainability of Wellesley's playing fields through responsible use of the fields and respect for those who neighbor the fields. It is the responsibility of all coaches, managers, referees and parents to lead by example by educating our children on the proper use of field space and emphasizing the importance of caring for our community assets and maintaining a clean environment.

Concerns related to the maintenance/condition of the High School track or any field should be addressed to the Assistant Superintendent/Deputy Tree Warden of the Park Division at [dpw@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:dpw@wellesleyma.gov).











TOWN OF WELLESLEY



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MATTHEW G. CHIN

TELEPHONE: 781-235-2370  
FAX: 781-237-3558

DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
BRANDON G. FITTS

### FIELD PERMIT APPLICATION

Name: Maura Renzella Organization: WHS Girls Soccer

Mailing Address: 116 Bradley Avenue Wellesley

Email: mbrenzella@gmail.com Daytime Phone # 781-727-1821

Field Requested: WHS Stadium

For what activity/sport: Soccer

DATE (S) – List all

June 27, 29  
July 4, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27

Day (s): Tuesday + Thursday Time: Start 5:00 pm Finish 8:00 pm

Rain Date (if needed): \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate # of people: 30 # of Wellesley Residents: 30

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FIELD PERMIT APPLICATION

Name: Maura Renzella Organization: WHS Girls Soccer

Mailing Address: 116 Bradley Ave, Wellesley

Email: mbrenzella@gmail.com Daytime Phone # 781-727-1821

Field Requested: Sprague 2

For what activity/sport: WHS Girls Soccer pre-season clinic

DATE (S) - List all

August 7, 8, 9

Day (s): M-T-W Time: Start 5:00pm Finish 7:30pm

Rain Date (if needed): N/A

Approximate # of people: 30 # of Wellesley Residents: 30

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
BRANDON G. FITTS

### FIELD PERMIT APPLICATION

Name: Chris DiCecca Organization: ProPath Soccer

Mailing Address: 542 Worcester Street, Wellesley, MA 02482

Email: CDicecca@ProPathSoccer.com Daytime Phone # 978-604-4227

Field Requested: Perrin Park

For what activity/sport: Soccer

DATE (S) - List all

7/10, 7/12, 7/17, 7/19, 7/24, 7/26, 7/31, 8/2

Day (s): Monday + Wednesday Time: Start 5:15 Finish 8:00

Rain Date (if needed): N/A

Approximate # of people: 40 # of Wellesley Residents: 40

#### To Request a field permit:

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## **PLAYING FIELDS TASK FORCE**

### **MINUTES**

**April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**7:45 am online zoom meeting**

#### **Attending:**

##### Voting Members:

Bea Bezmalinovic – Natural Resources Commission (NRC); Laurance Stuntz – Recreation Commission (RC) (Chair), Linda Chow – School Committee (SC), Beth Sullivan Woods – Select Board (SB), Jeff Wechsler – Board of Public Works (BPW); Jerry Nigro – Boys Lacrosse (BL), Kelly Uller – Girls Lacrosse (GL); Michael Bessette – Field Hockey (FH); Charles Bauminster – Wellesley United Soccer (S); Ann Williams – Wellesley Youth Baseball and Softball (LL); Maura Renzella – Wellesley Youth Football (F); Jay Russell – Adult Softball (AS)

##### Board/Commission staff and other guests:

Wendy Paul – Advisory; Christopher McGrath – SC; Tim Bania – BPW; Dave Hickey - BPW; Matt Chin – Rec; Angela Snyder - FH

1. Call to order by Laurance Stuntz at 7:48 am
2. Citizen Speak: None
3. Minutes:

Kelly Uller the group about pricing for clinics and camps – are they done per participant, or for field rental time. Matt Chin described the pricing for clinics and camps (which is per participant per week).

**Motion:** By Michael Bessette: To approve the Minutes from the March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting

**Seconded:** by Maura Renzella

Voted in Favor: Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC; Linda Chow –SC; Jerry Nigro –BL; Kelly Uller –GL; Michael Bessette –FH; Charles Bauminster - S; Ann Williams – LL; Maura Renzella – F

Abstained: Beth Sullivan Woods – SB; Jeff Wechsler – BPW; Jay Russell - AS

4. Field Applications:
  - a. Spring Field Applications
    - i. Wellesley Police, Charity Softball Game on 5/18

**Motion:** By Jerry Nigro: To approve the permit.

**Seconded:** by Beth Sullivan-Woods

Voted in Favor:

Voted in Favor: Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Linda Chow –SC, Beth Sullivan Woods – SB; Jeff Wechsler – BPW; Jerry Nigro –BL, Kelly Uller –GL; Michael Bessette –FH; Charles Bauminster - S; Ann Williams – LL; Maura Renzella – F; Jay Russell - AS

- b. Summer Field Applications
    - i. Zachary Gray presented on behalf of Grays Anatomy Academy. The applicant is providing a one-week soccer camp offering focused on strength and conditioning for



youth athletes with speed, agility and footwork drills for soccer, 4-hour block 9-3 or 9-1. Targeted different age groups 6-9, 10-12, 13-16. Targeting week of 8/14 or 8/21.

**Motion:** By Michael Bessette: To approve the application subject to clarification with the Board of Health whether this is a clinic or a camp and subject to field availability as determined by Matt.

**Seconded:** by Kelly Uller

Voted in Favor: Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Linda Chow –SC, Beth Sullivan Woods – SB; Jeff Wechsler – BPW; Jerry Nigro –BL, Kelly Uller –GL; Michael Bessette –FH; Charles Bauminster - S; Ann Williams – LL; Maura Renzella – F; Jay Russell - AS

## 5. Project Updates

### a. Sprague Bathrooms

- i. Town Meeting approved the Community Preservation Committee's motion to allocate funding for the Sprague Bathrooms. Funds will be available with the new fiscal year.

### b. High School Track and Field

- i. Linda Chow provided an extensive update about the process of moving forward with the design and permitting process for the lights, team rooms, and bathrooms.
- ii. Wetlands Protection Committee has issued an RFP to do a peer review of the Epsilon study completed by the School Committee as part of their project proposal. This expense will be borne by the applicant (the School Committee) and this will push back the overall project.

### c. Lacrosse Wall

- i. Dave Hickey and Tim Bania reported on progress. We are in the final stretches, anti-graffiti covering is on the wall, post foundations are poured, and the netting will be installed shortly. Highway has a few inches of stone dust to put down and Parks will do some landscaping and then we will be ready for use. Almost done!

### d. Field Utilization Study

- i. Bea reported that the next steps are to do some benchmarking over the summer and develop some recommendations with a working group.

## 6. General Fields discussion

- a. Bea Bezmalinovic reported that the NRC will be reviewing their general policies for field use over the coming meetings. Please watch the agendas for upcoming meetings.
- b. Bea also reported that the NRC has been reviewing storage needs and usage of the storage containers across all of their fields and will be working with the teams to optimize storage.
- c. Beth Sullivan-Woods reminded the group that May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> will be Wellesley Wonderful Weekend. The town has issued a permit for Hunnewell Fields for the fireworks and fair and there will be a parade on Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup>. The celebration organizers would like to maximize youth participation in the parade and celebration and so Beth passed on the ask that athletic teams try to avoid scheduling practices and games that would compete with the parade so that youth can attend the parade.

## 7. Adjourn:

**Motion:** To adjourn by Kelly Uller

**Seconded:** by Bea Bezmalinovic

Voted in Favor: Bea Bezmalinovic – NRC; Laurance Stuntz – RC, Linda Chow –SC, Beth Sullivan Woods – SB; Jeff Wechsler – BPW; Jerry Nigro –BL, Kelly Uller –GL; Michael Bessette –FH; Charles Bauminster - S; Ann Williams – LL; Maura Renzella – F; Jay Russell - AS

May 8, 2023

Dear Playing Fields Task Force Members:

We recently applied to the Natural Resources Commission to provide music at programs we help direct for Wellesley Youth Baseball's PreK, Kindergarten & 1st Grade leagues. NRC deferred a decision citing a need to engage The Playing Fields Task Force in the Town's discussion of sound requests for all Town playing fields.

Understanding the challenge balancing community and neighbor needs, we ask PFTF to consider our application and other current sound requests to serve as opportunities to lead discussion of priorities and processes.

We believe our request demonstrates beneficial community service within reasonable guidelines, and ask PFTF to support it as an opportunity for the Town to begin to study and develop sound processes and policy this spring.

No set of principles, rules, or decisions will be perfect, especially not initially. With hopes all will approach this process with a spirit of cooperation and compassion, by working together our Town can develop sound policies balancing community and neighbor needs serving all.

Sincerely,  
Joe Roberts  
63 Pine Plain Road  
Wellesley, MA 02481

**Application Attached**

## **Town of Wellesley Playing Fields Sound Application:**

**Applicant:** Terriers Sports

**Program:** Wellesley Youth Baseball PreK, Kindergarten & First Grade Spring Leagues

**# of Participants:** 200

**% of Wellesley Resident Participants:** 100%

### **Playing Fields:**

Kelly Playing Fields:

Saturdays, 1:15-3:15 pm, 5/20, 6/3, 6/10, 6/17

Sundays, 12:15 - 2:15 pm, 5/21, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18

Upham II Playing Field

Sundays, 12:15 - 2:15 pm,, 5/21, 6/4, 6/11, 6/18

**Reason/s for Field Selection:** Both sites provide WYB the ability to host all teams together.

**Event Purpose:** Enjoyable introductory experiences through skill development & games.

**Sound Request Purpose:** Providing enjoyable Introductory baseball experiences to young participants is extremely challenging. Based on numerous studies showing music having a positive effect on movement and social emotional development, we provide music to help often anxious participants relax, engage, connect and enjoy active play,

**Sound Supervisor:** Joe Roberts, Terriers Sports

**Speaker Specifications:** Bose S1 Portable Speaker, 150 watts, 12 x 9 inches.

**Speaker Location:** Center of Kelly & Upham II Fields, directed away from neighbors.

**Decibel Limits & Measurement:** Volume shall not exceed 85dBA at any property line adjacent to the field. Site director will use a decibel meter to conduct decibel tests prior to, and during field use.



## **Applicant & Additional Information:**

Serving Wellesley since 1991, Terriers programs support the physical, social and emotional wellness of children through community recreation. Led by student coaches, we have been proud to provide generations of local youth fun focused, inclusive community based experiences serving participants ranging from kindergarten through college in a variety of active play, coaching, music and media programs.

Well before the pandemic, kids were suffering. The rapid emergence of mass technology resulted in growing electronics addiction, interpersonal social retraction, inactivity, and obesity that profoundly affected our youth at increasingly earlier ages, pre-Covid. Equally disturbing, pre-pandemic, was decreased participation and value in community recreation. Sports used to be a healthy outlet for kids. Studies showed that 70 percent of kids quit by age 13, nationally, with the number one reason being that sports aren't fun.

In 2014, in response to dramatic increases in youth obesity, anxiety, depression and suicides, a group of Wellesley parents with experience in youth development, teaching, coaching, management and mental health founded Community Investors, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the physical, social and emotional wellness of youth communities. The inspiration for the organization has been to model and openly share the uniquely enjoyable, inclusive community based recreational experiences successfully developed over three decades by members of our board.

For far too long, too few noticed or cared, but when the pandemic took play away, we all saw the damaging effects. Now, with anxiety, depression, and suicide rates surging, the U.S. Surgeon General warns that our nation's youth are facing "devastating health effects as a result of the challenges experienced by their generation." Dr. Nassir Ghaemi, Professor of Psychiatry at Tufts University School of Medicine calls it a "national mental health crisis."

With numerous studies showing music has a positive effect on movement and social emotional development, our unique dynamic is a harmony of student music and coaching that delivers relaxed, joyful, positive, and impactful experiences through choreographed active play. Our "PlayRox" Music Mission EmPowers Happy & Healthy Students ROCKING The Power of Play! CI provides a variety of free enrichment programs to Wellesley Middle School, Wellesley High School as well as schools and organizations serving students from Framingham, East Boston, Chelsea and Roxbury. CI's PlayRox! programs have been designated "Best Practitioners of PLAY" by the United States Department of Health and Human Services and by Denise Pope, co-founder of Stanford University's Challenge Success Wellness initiative serving Wellesley Public Schools. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Joint Education Committee has requested continued development of curriculum and program blueprints to reach and serve more communities.

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Email: mbrenzella@gmail.com Daytime Phone # 781-727-1821

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Mailing Address: 116 Bradley Ave, Wellesley

Email: mbrenzella@gmail.com Daytime Phone # 781-727-1821

Field Requested: Sprague 2

For what activity/sport: WHS Girls Soccer pre-season clinic

DATE (S) - List all

August 7, 8, 9

Day (s): M-T-W Time: Start 5:00pm Finish 7:30pm

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### FIELD PERMIT APPLICATION

Name: Chris DiCecca Organization: ProPath Soccer

Mailing Address: 542 Worcester Street, Wellesley, MA 02482

Email: CDicecca@ProPathSoccer.com Daytime Phone # 978-604-4227

Field Requested: Perrin Park

For what activity/sport: Soccer

DATE (S) - List all

7/10, 7/12, 7/17, 7/19, 7/24, 7/26, 7/31, 8/2

Day (s): Monday + Wednesday Time: Start 5:15 Finish 8:00

Rain Date (if needed): N/A

Approximate # of people: 40 # of Wellesley Residents: 40

#### To Request a field permit:

- Complete this form and submit to: Recreation Director Matt Chin (Address above)
- For Questions contact Matt Chin at 781-235-2370 or [mchin@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:mchin@wellesleyma.gov)
- Requests to use Warren, Brown, Perrin, Phillips, Ouellette & Hunnewell Park (Town Hall Green) will be forwarded to the Natural Resources (NRC) for approval. \*
- Requests to use school fields will be presented to the Playing Fields Task Force and the School Athletic Director for approval. \*
- \* These committees may only meet once a month. Do not expect a quick turnaround for permit approval.
- Requests for fields made by vendors operating summer camps will not be approved until that vendor has satisfied state and local Board of Health requirements.
- SEE BELOW FOR FEES AND POLICIES





WARREN BUILDING  
90 WASHINGTON STREET  
WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS 02481

DIRECTOR  
MATTHEW G. CHIN

TELEPHONE: 781-235-2370  
FAX: 781-237-3558

DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
BRANDON G. FITTS

## FIELD PERMIT APPLICATION

Name: Casey Curry Organization: Jewish Arts Collaborative

Mailing Address: 1320 Centre St Suite 201, Newton Centre, MA 02459

Email: caseyc@jartsboston.org Daytime Phone # 541.505.6462

Field Requested: The field at Schofield Elementary School

For what activity/sport: For an art installation rehearsal.  
For details about the project see jartsboston.org/foodscape/

DATE (S) – List all

Saturday, May 27

Day (s): \_\_\_\_\_ Time: Start Anytime Finish Approx. 3-4 hours  
after start

Rain Date (if needed): Friday, May 26

Approximate # of people: 5 # of Wellesley Residents: n/a

### To Request a field permit:

- **Complete this form and submit to: Recreation Director Matt Chin (Address above)**
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## WELLESLEY FIELD PERMIT REQUEST INFORMATION

**Keep this for your records.**

### General Policies:

- No alcohol, no illegal drugs, no smoking and/or vaping.
- Public property may not be used to conduct a private business, unless certain requirements are met. The Recreation Director can aid you with this process. See “Public Facility Use for Private Gain Policy” at [www.wellesleyma.gov](http://www.wellesleyma.gov) click Government, click Recreation, click Facility & Fields, click Playing Fields Task Force & Field Applications, click Playing Fields Task Force Documents
- Users are responsible for any damage.
- Users are responsible for checking the Town website for field conditions/closures. Fields will be posted when closed during the spring, summer and fall seasons. Assume that fields are closed during the winter.
- If selling food, you must receive authorization from the Board of Health.
- In general, Wellesley fields do not have sanitary facilities.
- **WELLESLEY GREEN INITIATIVE:** The Playing Fields Task Force is partnering with Wellesley Green Schools on an important initiative to reduce waste on town fields. We require you to tell coaches, teams, family & friends, to help in the following ways: 1) Please ask players & visiting teams to BRING REUSABLE WATER BOTTLES TO ALL GAMES & PRACTICES; 2) Please consider eliminating the extra drinks & snacks that are often brought to practices & games (studies show that this has a positive health benefit as well); 3) Consider naming a team captain to oversee garbage collection & recycling or encourage players to clean up after themselves; and 4) Please remind players and visiting teams that the Town of Wellesley is committed to sustainable principles and has installed working water fountains & recycling bins at almost all Town fields.

### Priority of Use:

- 1) Town-Wide Special Events
- 2) School Use/School Coaches’ Clinics
- 3) Wellesley Resident Youth Leagues
- 4) Wellesley Recreation Department Programs
- 5) Wellesley Resident Adult Groups
- 6) Wellesley Resident – One-Time Use
- 7) Charitable Groups
- 8) Non-Resident Groups / Non-Recreation Department Camps and Clinics

### Fees, as approved in the Playing Fields Policy:

- 1) Town-wide Special Events: No fee,
- 2) School Use: No fee,
- 3) School Coach(es) Clinics: \$15 per participant,
- 4) Wellesley Resident Youth Leagues: \$30 per participant per season (\$15 to Turf Field Fund),
- 5) Wellesley Resident Youth League Clinics: \$15 per participant,
- 6) Wellesley Recreation Department Programs: No fee,
- 7) Organized Use of the High School Track: \$15 per participant per season; if not a seasonal rental: \$150,
- 8) Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell) for Adult Softball: \$40 per participant per season (\$25 to Recreation lighting account)
- 9) Wellesley Resident – One-Time Use: \$50 for a grass field, including the Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell), but \$75 if using lights (incremental \$25 to Recreation lighting account); \$75 for a turf field,
- 10) Charitable Groups: No fee,
- 11) Non-Resident (Adults and Youth): Grass field and Sprague turf field: \$150; High School turf field: \$375 (fee is for field use only; utilization of scoreboard and sound system is not allowed), and
- 12) Non-Recreation Department Camps: \$35 per participant on a grass field; \$50 per participant on a turf field. (Camps catering to participants over the age of twelve years shall, whenever available, be assigned to turf fields).
- 13) All track and field rentals that are not charged per participant are figured in increments of 1.5 hours. Fees collected shall be deposited into the DPW Field Use Fund, unless otherwise noted or a rental of a turf field; revenue from turf field rentals shall be deposited into the Turf Field Fund.

## **General Field Use Rules**

### **Hours of Operation:**

Fields may be used until dusk with the exception of the lighted Multi-Purpose Field (at Hunnewell). Lights may remain on until 9:30 pm, except for Reidy Field, where lights may remain on until 9:45 pm. No play before 8:00 am on Sunday at any field that abuts homeowners.

### **Prohibited Activities:**

Any prohibited activities posted on signage at the High School track or any fields, consumption/possession of drugs or alcoholic beverages; use of fields beyond permitted dates or times; use of grass fields during wet field conditions or before they are declared available for use; and any activity that may cause field damage. Users must show good judgment when using fields and must stop play if the field shows damage during activity. Any group who causes damage to any field will be responsible for repair costs.

### **Field Closures:**

<http://www.wellesleyma.gov/1049/Playing-Fields-OpenClosed-Status> or call (781) 235-2370 for the latest field closures. If a field is closed, no use is permitted at all. The field status webpage and the hotline are for informational purposes only; field signage and/or direct communication from the Wellesley DPW Park and Tree Division (DPW) take precedence. Whenever possible, DPW will email user groups and post signs when fields are closed.

Please note that grass fields can be closed even when the weather appears good at the time because of standing water, previous damage or other field condition issues. The DPW, in consultation with the PFTF, will recommend when fields should be closed in order to rest them to prevent significant damage from overuse or for maintenance reasons.

### **Weather:**

Since lightning can strike up to 10 miles from a storm, users should seek safe shelter as soon as they hear thunder or see lightning. They should wait for 30 minutes without hearing thunder or seeing lightning before returning to the field.

### **Maintenance of Baseball/Softball Infields:**

Baseball/softball players and coaches are expected to groom the infields after each game and practice. Equipment for grooming is supplied and coaches are responsible for knowing the storage box combinations.

### **Litter, Trash and Recycling:**

All users are responsible for picking up any trash or litter on the field at the completion of their practice or game session regardless of whether this trash was there when they first got on the field or not. Pick up trash when you leave the field, even if it is not yours. Consider naming team captains at each practice or game to oversee litter collection and recycling.

Users are expected to use trash and recycling receptacles located on or near the fields or to take their waste home for disposal. If the group expects to generate excess trash, they must provide a means for removing trash themselves. Bring a trash bag with you to games and practices. Please pick up and recycle all plastic bottles. Inform coaches, players, players' families, and attendees at games and practices that there are water fountains at the majority of the active playing fields and that participants are strongly encouraged to utilize reusable and refillable water bottles for all practices and games.

The last group to use a field for the day is responsible for leaving a clean, litter free field. If you consistently find trash when you arrive at the field please contact the Recreation Director at (781) 235-2370, who will attempt to identify the users who might be leaving the field in such condition.

Users are urged to support the preservation and sustainability of Wellesley's playing fields through responsible use of the fields and respect for those who neighbor the fields. It is the responsibility of all coaches, managers, referees and parents to lead by example by educating our children on the proper use of field space and emphasizing the importance of caring for our community assets and maintaining a clean environment.

Concerns related to the maintenance/condition of the High School track or any field should be addressed to the Assistant Superintendent/Deputy Tree Warden of the Park Division at [dpw@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:dpw@wellesleyma.gov).