

March 28, 2013

Dear Ms. Gong,
Thank you for your response.

For the record, I will point out that your letter fails to address the worsening condition of the playing field and how the combination of the school construction and lacrosse playing severely limits where children can play, especially as the weather warms up. No doubt this is a matter of differing jurisdictional responsibilities.

Most important, your letter makes clear child safety was an afterthought, at best, in the decision to allow lacrosse practice in such an established family-friendly space. Asking coaches to advise parents about the dangers of errant lacrosse balls is risible on any number of accounts but in particular, why should children and their parents be responsible for avoiding being hit by lacrosse balls when they are in a public park?

I understand nothing of substance will be done this spring, and I will not ask you for further response. But this letter puts on record again our concern about children's safety in the event of an injury prompted by the lacrosse team practice.

Sincerely,
Allan Gold
President, Huntington Terrace Citizens' Association

March 28, 2013

Dear Mr. Clayman and Mr. Gold:

Thank you for bringing this matter regarding use of the Bradley Local Park field to my attention. As the Director of Community Use of Public Facilities Office, I am responding to the issues raised.

Bradley Local Park field is maintained by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF) is the permitting agency for the field. According to M-NCPPC, parks fields such as Bradley LP may be used on a first-come, first-served basis unless the field has been reserved by a permitted user.

Per Jeff Devlin, Park Manager of the Cabin John Region, the ongoing construction at Bradley Hills Elementary School has not affected access to Bradley LP field and parking is sufficient to support scheduled field use. No restrictions have been placed on use of the field pertaining to current field conditions. As such, CUPF has issued permits for use of the field during the spring.

Many County high schools, such as Walt Whitman HS, must hold sports team practices off site due to the limited amount of practice field space at their respective schools. These high schools receive free use of MCPS fields at elementary and middle schools, but must pay designated fees to reserve fields at Parks properties such as Bradley LP.

Whitman High School Athletics paid for, and was issued, permits for the use of fields at Bradley LP, Whittier Woods LP, and Carderock Springs ES.

Since receiving your emails, CUPF has contacted Whitman's athletic director, Andy Wetzel, and informed him of your concerns regarding use the field at Bradley LP. Mr. Wetzel confirmed that he would speak to his coaches to remind them of the established conditions of use guidelines restricting use during periods of inclement weather. In addition, Mr. Wetzel stated that he would instruct his coaches to speak to parents of children playing in the surrounding areas at Bradley LP to remind them of the potential of lacrosse balls leaving the field of play.

At this time, Whitman's students will continue to use the field for the remainder of the school year. However, if you note further infractions we urge you to report the situations to Park Police ([301-949-3010](tel:301-949-3010)) and CUPF ([240-777-2725](tel:240-777-2725)) so that corrective action can be taken.

Sincerely,

Ginny Gong

Director, CUPF

From: Allan Gold

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2013 7:57 AM

To: Reservations, Cupf; Bolt, Chad

Cc: Anthony Clayman; Amy Royden-Bloom; Edwin Rock; Godwin, Stephen; Keary Cope; Stephen Brown; Mary Beth Sitrick

Subject: Re: Bradley Park

Sirs,

Allow me to second Mr. Clayman's comments. There are three issues that I would like to emphasize:

-- The field is degraded, and hardly fit for safe play.
-- Re-construction of Bradley Hills Elementary has been under way for one year. In this time, we have lost the use of a playing field adjacent to the school, the entire school black-top, half of the playground equipment, and the tennis courts. Now comes the Whitman lacrosse team, essentially making the field off limits to children.
-- Danger to children from the lacrosse balls. No, this is not a joke. I watched as our children and their friends sprinted through what's left of the playground to avoid being hit by the hard balls. This is not the fault of the players.

Given these points, one must stop and ask if any official actually paused to think through the implications of allowing the team to use the field?

In closing, let me note that a main reason we chose to live in this neighborhood was access to these playing areas, especially in the spring. It's one of the great assets of the Bradmoor/Huntington Terrace communities. I would urge you to review the decision to permit the team to practice here, and to attempt to repair the damage to the playing field.

Thank you,
Allan Gold
President, Huntington Terrace Citizens' Association

On Tue, Mar 19, 2013 at 5:57 PM, Anthony Clayman wrote:

CUPF:

Bradley Park, adjacent to Bradley Hills Elementary School has always been way over used--more mud than grass. But the situation there is now beyond awful.

As you may know Whitman Lacrosse has been practicing at the park. But they are completely ignoring the counties rain policy. They were practicing in a total downpour yesterday, and now the field is trashed. This is not the first time I have seen them practicing with standing water on the field.

When you compare it to Arylawn Local Park, just on the other side of Greentree it is night and day--Bradley has historically had little, if any, grass/weeds covering the area. Now it is worse.

And in recent years the small area just behind the community garden, along Madison Street has had one kids soccer practice after another--to the point where that is now mostly mud.

It is not impossible to take kids over there to play catch or even let them run around the field, as kids should be doing, without their shoes being ruined.

At this point, the field needs to be closed and replanted. Let some weeds grow back so

the community can use it, along with responsible sports leagues.

Please address this situation ASAP.

Anthony Clayman

Bethesda