

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department

To: Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Commission

From: Kristine Butteris, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry

Date: 6/16/2025

Subject: YMCA Program fees

Background

The Watertown Area YMCA has been utilizing our outdoor recreational spaces for their paid programming. To ensure consistency and clarity in how our facilities are used and rented, we would like to formally distinguish between *league activities* (games and practices) and *programs*.

In April, a vote was held to align YMCA usage with the same policies that apply to all other organizations using our facilities. Under this policy:

- **League practices** are permitted free of charge.
- **Prepped areas** (fields or spaces that require additional preparation or exclusive reservation) will incur a reservation fee.
- This applies to all leagues that collect participation fees.

We are now seeking clarification regarding **non-league programs**. When our green spaces are used for programming, staff ensure the areas are mowed and prepared in advance. Reserving these green spaces would grant the organization sole use of the area, with necessary preparation completed to ensure optimal conditions.

Budget Goal

Support community growth by evaluating opportunities, incorporating stakeholder feedback, and addressing environmental needs in alignment with modern codes and policy priorities.

Financial Impact

This policy adjustment has the potential to modestly increase our revenue by applying consistent rental fees to outside organizations utilizing our facilities for paid programs.

Recommendation

We recommend maintaining consistent rental rates as outlined in the current **Fees and Charges Policy** for all organizations.

All uses by outside organizations that charge participant fees should be classified as follows:

- **Programs and League Games:** Classified as *Programs* and subject to a facility use fee.
- **Practices:** Classified as *Practices* and permitted free of charge.

Motion: Approve outside organizations which have participant fees would have all facility uses classified as: Programs and League games - "Programs," and Practices - "Practices." Programs would have a facility use fee and practices would not.