
MPIA Request 202103 Response

From Heath Neiderer <rpneid23@aacounty.org>

Date Tue 12/31/24 9:05 AM

To Jim Bongiorno <jim_bongiorno@hotmail.com>

Cc Shane Nikolao <lwniko24@aacounty.org>; Katelyn Denison <lwdeni23@aacounty.org>; M. Brooke McKay <lwmcka21@aacounty.org>

 11 attachments (20 MB)

Guidelines Changes 2.3.2021.pdf; Guidelines Changes 3.9.2020.pdf; Guidelines Changes 1.16.2021.pdf; Guidelines Changes 3.9.2021.pdf; Guidelines Changes 4.14.2022.pdf; Guidelines Changes 8.27.2020.pdf; RecPark_Guidelines_Reference Manual Update - illegal substance 10.2.2024.pdf; Updated Guidelines and Reference 7-27-23.pdf; Updated Guidelines and Reference 10-3-23 (Drones).pdf; RecPark_Guidelines_Reference_Manual-Update Operations of Field Lights12.12.2024.pdf; Updated Guidelines and Reference 4-10-23.pdf;

Mr. Bongiorno, I hope this email finds you well. Please see below regarding MPIA Request #202103. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Happy New Year.

The Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks has received your December 1, 2024 request for records pursuant to the Maryland Public Information Act ("MPIA"), Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. ("GP") §§ 4-101 et seq. Your specific request is below.

County Code Article 14 Section 14-1-102 (a) permits the Recreation & Parks director to adopt rules and regulations on certain subjects including subjects that will permit the efficient implementation, administration, and operation of athletic programs and recreational uses; 14-1-102 (b) and (c) describe the review and publication requirements for these rules and regulations. 14-1-102 (e) describes the related record keeping requirements. Per the attachment, as of July 1, 2018, the Facility Rules and Guidelines issued by the director had this requirement;

Operation of Field Lights: Facility user groups should operate field lights in a responsible manner, using them only for scheduled games or practices when conditions make their use necessary. All field lights must be off by 11:00 p.m. or earlier if required by local regulation. The user group is responsible for observing lighting curfews. Field lights shall be used only when needed. Turning lights on earlier than necessary or leaving lights on after the last evening activity will result in a charge of \$50.00 per hour per field payable to: Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks. From what I can tell, this Operation of Field Lights requirement was removed from the rules and regulations on or about 10/01/2024. Please provide a copy of the records kept by the Recreation & Parks director to document compliance with Section 14-1-102 for changes to these rules and regulations from July 1, 2018 through the date that you respond to this request.

Your request is granted. Please note that the department's Parks Guidelines and Reference Manual records only go back to 2020. Given the amount of attachments, I wanted to inform you that the 'Operation of Field Lights' language was updated on April 10, 2023. In addition, this updated language was removed in error on October 2, 2024, and has been added to our website's current Parks Guidelines and Reference Manual, effective December 12, 2024.

Pursuant to GP § 4-362 you are entitled to seek judicial review of this decision. Alternatively, you may file a request for mediation with the Public Access Ombudsman and, if the Ombudsman is unable to resolve the matter, you may subsequently seek a resolution from the Public Information Act Compliance Board for those matters within the Compliance Board's jurisdiction. See GP §§ 4-1A-01 et seq. and 4-1B-01 et seq.

Sincerely,



***The Best Place
For All***

Heath Neiderer

Anne Arundel County Recreation & Parks

Chief of Marketing & Communications

Office: (410) 222-2860

Cell: (443) 775-0037

www.aacounty.org/recparks

