

Staff Report

**Mosquito Abatement Request
Hunziker Youth Sport Complex**

August 23, 2011

BACKGROUND:

During the February 2011 budget hearings, City Council acknowledged a request from the Hunziker Youth Sport Complex (HYSC) Board of Director's for assistance in fogging for mosquitoes at the Complex. However, no action was taken nor was the request referred to staff. On June 17, 2011 the HYSC Board again requested assistance with mosquito abatement at the Complex. To date this request has not been referred to staff. However, a number of Council members have received similar requests and inquired as to its status. Because of these Council inquiries, it is assumed that the lack of a referral was an oversight. Therefore, this matter has placed on the agenda to determine the Council's position on the request.

With the recent elimination of the Sanitarian position, the responsibility for the administration of the mosquito control program has shifted to the Parks Superintendent. The existing community mosquito abatement program costs \$15,000 annually. This includes the cost to fog specific park areas and larvicide standing water within the community as follows:

WEEKLY FOGGING OF CITY PARK PROPERTY (Mid June to Mid October):

Homewood Golf Course, Bandshell Park, Country Gables Park, Dog Park
Moore Memorial Park, Emma McCarthy Lee Park, Inis Grove Park
Brookside Park, Daley Park

WEEKLY LARVICIDE APPLICATIONS (Mid June to Mid October):

Approximately 50 locations, where standing water is located on public property, receive larvicide applications. Examples of these locations include; ISU's Research Park, Veenker Golf Course, and Hilton Coliseum, the old WPC plant site (HYSC), stormwater detention ponds / drainage ditches in right-of-ways throughout the community.

OPTIONS:

1. The City Council could direct the Parks and Recreation staff to fog the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex weekly with the City absorbing all of the costs to accomplish this new service level.

Staff estimates that it would cost \$50 per week to fog the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex at a total estimated cost of \$1,000 per year.

2. The City Council could direct the Parks and Recreation staff to fog the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex weekly with the HYSC absorbing all of the costs to accomplish this new service level.
3. The City Council could deny the request for the City to assume the responsibility to fog the Hunziker Youth Sports Complex.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

As noted above, the City's current mosquito abatement program (fogging and larviciding) focuses on public property.

Since the HYSC is located on City- owned land (the former WPC plant site) and the City already applies larvicides to the site, then the City Council would be justified in instructing staff to fog the site in accordance with weekly application schedule from mid-June to mid-October at the City's expense (Option #1).

However, since the HYSC has entered into a no-cost lease of the site from the City in return for assuming all of the maintenance costs, it could be also argued that the City could assume responsibility for fogging the site, but charge the HYSC for the service (Option #2). The Board of Directors has indicated a willingness to pay for this service.