

North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District
Amplified Sound Policy for ~~Athletic Fields at~~ North Clackamas Park

[Note: As per the mediated meetings our goal is good neighbor practices. The policy needs to apply to the whole park because noise levels impact the surrounding neighborhoods regardless of the noise source.]

It is the policy of North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District (District) not to permit ongoing and regular use of amplified sound ~~during athletic events~~ at North Clackamas Park.

Consequently, the park will not have a permanent public address system. On occasion, however, the use of a portable amplified sound system may be permitted when a special use permit is issued by the District.

“Amplified sound” is defined as sound from public address systems, bullhorns and other similar sound-producing devices, which are electronically amplified.

In considering a special use permit application for the use of amplified sound ~~on the athletic fields~~ at North Clackamas Park, the District shall work with the applicant to minimize any impacts on the surrounding area and other park users by considering the following:

- The time and duration of the event
- The nature and frequency of the event
- The location, orientation and use of the sound equipment
- The number of participants in the event
- Potential conflicts with other events planned at the park, Rose Garden and/or Milwaukie Center

When issuing a permit, the District will specifically identify the timeframe for use of amplified sound in the special use permit. Additionally, the District has developed the following guidelines to further assure that amplified sound used ~~on the athletic fields~~ at North Clackamas Park is maintained at a level that will minimize disruption and will avoid conflict with the surrounding community and other park users.

1. The use of amplified sound will be limited to special events including, but not limited to:
 - Opening day ceremonies
 - Championship tournament games
 - League playoff games
 - **Company picnics**
 - **Rose Garden events**
 - **Community-wide celebrations**

~~Note: Use of amplified sound for the National Anthem shall not be subject to this policy.~~

[Note: Exempting the National Anthem means unrestricted amplification can be used for the National Anthem at all hours and on all days even during hours when the Orthodox Church is holding services. We are looking for a solution that meets the needs of both

those who have been worshipping at the Church over the years and those who will begin playing at the fields in April.]

2. The use of amplified sound, if approved, shall be limited to the following hours/days:

June 1 to Labor Day		Day after Labor Day to May 31	
Monday-Friday	9am – 10pm	Monday-Friday	9am – 8pm
Saturday	9am – 10pm	Saturday	9am – 10pm
Sunday	10am – 8pm	Sunday	10am – 8pm
Holiday*	9am – 10pm	Holiday*	9am – 10pm

(*Applies to holidays which fall Monday through Friday. All other holidays are subject to weekend hours, as appropriate.)

[Note: The church services schedule for the Orthodox Church is 8am to noon on Sunday, most weeknights from 6-7pm, and Saturday nights from 7-8:30pm. 65db at the south boundary [c. 300-feet from the sound source] is estimated to drop 5db for each additional 300-feet of distance and is projected to be 55db at the church building.]

3. The applicant will be required to maintain the amplified sound at the minimal volume needed to reach the intended audience and not beyond the approved scope of use. Amplified sound shall not exceed ~~70~~ **65** decibels measured from the perimeter of the park.

Questions:

- **Where will speakers be located?**
- **Who is the intended audience? Spectators in the bleachers?**

Background note: The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin analyzed sound levels from a sports complex in Texas (Noise-Con 90, 1990). The baseball field is about 300 feet from the residential property line. Ambient levels of the empty park were recorded at 45-50db. Crowd noise at the property line generally registered between 50db and 60db with a few transient peaks as high as 70db. These levels are considered acceptable in an urban environment where there are higher ambient levels. These levels are annoying in a suburban environment with lower ambient levels. The ambient background decibel level in NCP when empty has been recorded at less than 50db. 70db is four times the ambient level. Sound levels of the Fall for Art Festival were 90db at the boundary, eight times the ambient level.

An application fee of \$15.00 shall be collected from park users for an amplified sound special use permit, unless waived by the Parks District Director. Applications will be reviewed and permits issued by the Parks District Director or his/her designee.

Failure to abide by the guidelines set forth in this policy may result in the rejection of future applications for the use of amplified sound.

North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District reserves the right to amend the above policy.