

RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
CORRESPONDENCE

July 9, 2026

Item 6-A: Recommend the relocation of ALL "Majors" division from Littlejohn Park to Lower Washington Park for Fall 2026 and Tillman Park for Spring 2027 following the approved "Athletic Facility Allocation Policy".

[EXTERNAL] Letter to the Park and Recs Commission Concerning MOU for ALL

From Eric Embry <ericjembry@gmail.com>

Date Wed 5/13/2026 11:59 AM

To Justin Long <jlong@alamedaca.gov>

Cc Michele Pryor <mpryor@alamedaca.gov>; Greg Boller <gboller@alamedaca.gov>; Tony Daysog <TDaysog@alamedaca.gov>; Tracy Jensen <tjensen@alamedaca.gov>; Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft <MEzzyAshcraft@alamedaca.gov>; Manager Manager <MANAGER@alamedaca.gov>

 4 attachments (2 MB)

Letter to the Park and Recs Commission Concerning MOU for ALL.pdf; ATT00001.htm; ARPD 2026 Field Allocation Packet (1).pdf; ATT00002.htm;

Director Long,

Please find attached a letter from Littlejohn Park neighborhood residents addressing the use of the park by Alameda Little League.

Please forward to the commissioners with respect to the recent council directive to have ARPD revisit the ALL MOU item 5d from the April 21st City Council meeting.

If you have a chance could you please let me know when the commission will be reviewing the item as it is not on tomorrow's agenda?

Sincerely,

Eric Embry

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your time and consideration as you evaluate field options for the Alameda Little League (ALL) Majors division. We know that you appreciate the importance of supporting youth sports as much as we do while also maintaining equitable access, to the greatest extent possible, to all our limited public spaces.

We, the undersigned, are reaching out to you with the following shared goals outlined in this letter:

- 1) To ensure the city adheres to the Athletic Field Policy and not an Exclusive-Use Agreement
- 2) To support the continued use of Littlejohn Park (LJP) by ALL while preserving maximum, broad community access to this much used and valued public space

Field Permitting Process vs Exclusive Use Agreement

We would like to ask why ALL is being asked to enter an MOU for the LJP location rather than following the usual Athletic Facility Use and Allocation Policy (attached for your convenience) process? In speaking with ALL and other local sports organizations, this is not typical for securing ARPD space and requires them to enter an "exclusive use agreement" instead.

Exclusive-use agreements are typically intended for spaces that are not regularly accessible or usable by the general public.

LJP, designated as a multi-use athletic field by the city, does not fall into this category and should remain a shared community resource. LJP is a neighborhood park that serves families, residents, and the broader community year-round every day of the week. Granting exclusive use to a single organization would limit public access and will diminish a key community asset that contributes to the neighborhood's livability.

Additionally, entering into an MOU with the city would require ALL to manage their time at LJP differently than they do for all other fields that they secure permits for.

And while this may be a result of the additional aspects needing transparency such as payment of infrastructure updates and maintenance agreements, we are wondering if those aspects would be better addressed in

a separate MOU rather than in an all-encompassing MOU allowing an exclusive use right?

Continued Use of LJP by ALL

We want to emphasize our full support for ALL's continued use of LJP. However, the placement of the Majors division at this location has created unintended challenges, primarily due to the use of the outfield fencing, which restricts access to what is otherwise a shared public space.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have had excellent conversations with various ALL members who all seem to agree that due to the amount of space required for the Majors Division, LJP is not an optimal location for this age group and the park is better suited for younger divisions.

As an example, the proposed agreement with ALL currently excludes access to the LJP picnic areas, as ARPD has suspended permitting due to their proximity to the space allotted to the league. While the picnic areas are now designated as "first come, first served," in practice they are not available, as they are consistently occupied by spectators attending games. Their continued availability is especially important given their proximity to one of Alameda's most well-known ADA-accessible, inclusive playgrounds, which draws a diverse range of community members.

Additionally, in response to community concerns, Council directed ALL to remove the outfield fencing after the last game of the weekend to allow for greater use during the week, for which we are deeply appreciative. The impact of this has been immediate, with a noticeable increase in general community use returning to the park. We have seen local day care providers regularly bringing their children back to the field again, the Coast Guard personnel are playing their regular volleyball games, and children are kicking around their soccer balls, including a dad and his two young daughters on several afternoons taking shots on a pug goal.

However, since the outfield fence still remains in place all weekend, public access continues to be significantly limited during that time when we would usually see the most use happening.

We hope you will agree that the scale of play for younger ALL divisions, which would not require outfield fencing to ever be up, is more appropriate to this space. While it has been suggested that the younger divisions might need a shorter, 150 foot fence for safety, from conversations with ALL members, it does not sound like this is broadly agreed to, nor do we believe this would be necessary based on the precedence of experience over the previous years. This would allow for a return to the level of community access historically enjoyed at the park and is the preferred outcome.

To be clear, we fully support ALL's need for facilities, but it should be through the proper channels and not through an exclusive use agreement. At the same time, we encourage a solution that aligns field selection with age/size-appropriate use.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Debra Arbuckle, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Flannery Bateman, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Zac Bowling, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Cindy Chang, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Clark Cole, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Dr. Brendan Collins-Bride, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Israel Ruiz Cumba, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Eric Embry, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Amy Fowler, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Laura Gamble, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Ron Garlets, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Dane Gehringer, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Lauren Gehringer, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Adele Gillis, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Chris Golden, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Hilary Golden, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Katie Gorham, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Kevin Gorham, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Sean Gorham, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Alison Greene, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Joanna Holt, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Dina Hondrogen, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Jay Ingram, former Chair of the Recreation and Parks Commission and AGSA

board member, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Jill Ingram, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Christina Kapadia, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Kavi Kapadia, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Heather Little, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Mark Little, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Tatiana Mercedes, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Robert Nelson, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Cindy Oilar, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Tracy O'Shea, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Joe Pattison, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Rebecca Pattison, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Dave Phillips, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Sharon Phillips, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
John Proctor, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Stacy Proctor, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Wanda Raun, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Kenny Siry, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Georgina Torres, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Laura Treinen, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident
Frank Yin, Littlejohn Park neighborhood resident

[EXTERNAL] Re: Update - Littlejohn and Little League Majors

From Heather Little <heatherlittle94501@gmail.com>

Date Thu 6/4/2026 7:09 PM

To Matt Nowlen <MNowlen@alamedaca.gov>

Good evening Matt, thanks so much for this update. I'm sorry everyone had to go through so much, but I'm happy the boys had a place to play this spring, even though it ended up being temporary.

One other question about the other "temporary" fencing that remains up (the rebar and chain link with the yellow plastic) and hoping they can also be removed? We all appreciate the netting that was put up, but that fencing is pretty unsightly and is hopefully deemed no longer necessary either.

Anyway, super happy with the outcome and thankful to all of you for finding a better solution for everyone!

Thanks, Heather

On Jun 4, 2026, at 6:25 PM, Matt Nowlen <MNowlen@alamedaca.gov> wrote:

Dear Littlejohn Neighbors,

We'd like to provide a brief update regarding the future location of Alameda Little League's Majors Division.

At the direction of City Council, ARPD evaluated alternative locations for the Majors Division in lieu of continued use of Littlejohn Park. As a result of this review, ARPD is no longer pursuing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that would provide Alameda Little League with exclusive use of Littlejohn Park.

ARPD is recommending that Majors Division practices and games for Fall 2026 relocate to Lower Washington Park, and Spring 2027 to Tillman Park.

We are exploring the potential development of an additional baseball diamond at Alameda Point as a longer-term solution to help meet community demand for athletic field space. Any future field would be available for shared community use and would expand recreational opportunities for Alameda residents.

This recommendation will be presented at the Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting on June 11, 2026. Community members who wish to provide additional input are encouraged to attend and participate in the public comment process.

Please see the attached agenda for reference and feel free to share with others.

Thank you for your continued engagement throughout this process.

Matt Nowlen
Assistant Recreation and Parks Director
2226 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501
(510)-227-9608
mnowlen@alamedaca.gov

<2026-6-11 RPC Agenda.pdf>

[EXTERNAL] Re: Update - Littlejohn and Little League Majors

From A G <awgreene1@gmail.com>

Date Fri 6/5/2026 3:09 PM

To Matt Nowlen <MNowlen@alamedaca.gov>

Cc Justin Long <jlong@alamedaca.gov>; Manager Manager <MANAGER@alamedaca.gov>; CITYCOUNCIL-List <CITYCOUNCIL-List@alamedaca.gov>; zebra4000@aol.com <zebra4000@aol.com>

Hi Matt,

Thank you so much for letting me (and other neighbors) know about the actions & outcomes of searching for an appropriate home for ALL Majors. I'm so happy to hear that a more long-term, viable solution is in the works and commend staff for taking swift action once issues were identified. Not only do the kids deserve a ball field with enough space and amenities to have a great, sportsman-like experience, returning Littlejohn Park to casual, community general use status has had immediate results.

Last weekend a large, joyous family gathering (graduation celebration) seemed to have a wonderful time in the back BBQ, where they were also able to set up games in the field and watch younger kids at the playground. Other park goers enjoyed lounging on blankets, picnicking, reading and/or watching their kids chase each other around the wide open space. This week, several school and daycare groups had loads of kids there for hours, playing games and having a great time. After school hours, a group of girls learning soccer moves shared the field with little leaguers practicing their catches. Lunchtime and afternoon walkers (with and without their dogs) are also back. Please be assured that responsible dog owners continue to remind the occasional owner to leash their dogs and offer a spare bag to pick-up after. ;)

The best thing I witnessed was a group of three boys (ages 8-11-ish?) walking past my house, carrying sports balls. One excitedly asked the others, "which are we doing first, basketball or soccer?"

The above is exactly what the neighborhood so desperately wanted to preserve. Please know how much I appreciate your similar commitment to maintaining Littlejohn as a broader community asset.

Alison Greene

On Thu, Jun 4, 2026 at 6:20 PM Matt Nowlen <MNowlen@alamedaca.gov> wrote:

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