

Partnerships with existing athletics agencies and registration trends.

- In the early to mid-2000's, Parks and Recreation was the primary option for youth athletics, but with the emergence of independent athletic associations and other surrounding leagues that are considered more competitive, city athletic leagues have seen a consistent drop in team registrations.
- Saint Paul Urban Tennis has traditionally provided tennis services for both youth and adults to the entire city, in partnership with our department. Parks assists with providing tennis court facilities for community instruction, along with financial support to their program.
- Additionally, Urban Tennis provides program support to our out of school time programs like Rec Check during the non-summer months.
- The West Side Boosters are an example of effective partnership where parks act as the provider of space and amenities, while their agency handles program implementation.
- Many existing athletic agencies have never been approached about potentially expanding their reach to different communities, but they have recognized that there is strong duplication of service and understand there is value in developing a more unified approach to youth athletics.
- Collaboration between parks departments and athletic associations is model that has been adopted by other cities, with the park agency providing facilities and administrative support.
- During Covid, Parks approached the Sanneh Foundation about expanding their reach to support our youth soccer programs across the city, which they have gladly taken on with much success.
- At ages 10 and above, we see our registration numbers drop considerably, as participants begin participation in school sponsored athletics and independent athletic leagues like [Minnesota Youth Athletic Services \(MYAS\)](#) or the [Minnesota Amateur Athletic Association](#) (AAU).

Number of League Teams by Year for ages 10 and above

<i>Sport</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>
Baseball	50	55	50	45	41	40	34
Basketball	151	146	122	107	100	103	82
Softball	23	10	10	11	9	11	9
Soccer	106	94	93	82	64	53	47
Tackle Football	33	30	32	30	24	26	12
Volleyball	56	56	51	66	62	61	63

Building Hours (8p Closures)

- SPPS changed school start times in 2019 that resulted in recreation centers adding an hour to open sites at 2pm, rather than 3pm.
- With most elementary schools starting as early as the 7am hour, offering programming into the late evening presents challenges for families.
- Recreation Center staff often receive pushback from parents and families for athletics and programs that are scheduled at 7pm or later, due to various bedtimes and the need for students be up early AM during the school year.
- Recreation Centers currently close at 8pm during the summer season, doing so throughout the school year would help bring standardization to building hours across the city.
- Contingent on the volume of teams at a specific recreation center, the winter season is when the 8p-9p timeframe has been used for athletic practices, but that is inconsistent across the 26 centers.
- Drop-in use for activities like open gym and use of the fitness room are typically low volume during the period of 8p-9p.
- In 2019, from 8p-9p, our 13 fitness spaces were used by 183 participants for a total of 413 visits.
- Recreation Center employees have traditionally used this time to wrap up any facility related tasks and prepare for the next day.