

OCTOBER 4, 2019

HEARTWELL PARK FIELDS AVAILABILITY

There have been ongoing questions and complaints related to the relocation to Bancroft for this fall. If you have not seen past communications about this, please read on.

The City of Long Beach undertook a project to fully reconstruct the Heartwell Park irrigation system between Bellflower and Woodruff. The project was specifically designed to target watering such that sports fields receive directed irrigation to improve their viability from the heavy use they receive. The old system watered the fields only for general use, not specific sports.

LBYSO received notice from LB Parks that the fields were not to be used by our league. This would allow construction to occur in a safe manner and allow time for fields to rehabilitate.

We understand that it's frustrating to see others using these fields at times. LB Parks has limited resources to "police" field use. But even though others are out there, we still need to remain off those fields until they are released. Our permits could be further restricted or revoked if LB Parks determines we are violating the restrictions.

There is still minor work going on and some newly planted turf needs time to take hold. We expect the fields to be opened for our use in mid October but may be slightly delayed. Ultimately, our league will be the primary beneficiary of the project. It's one season of pain for what should be many seasons at a much improved facility.

Robert Bruce
LBYSO President