



**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C**  
PO Box 21009, NW, Washington, DC 20009  
anc1c.org  
*Representing Adams Morgan*

*Amir Irani (1C01)*

May 17, 2021

*Celeste Carano (1C02)*

Monique McSween, Deputy Director of Community Outreach and Customer Services

*Peter Wood (1C03)*

District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation

*Meghan Faulkner (1C04)*

1275 First St NE

*Zack Gold (1C05)*

Washington, DC 20003

*Benjamin Butz (1C06)*

RE: Resolution Regarding Use of the Athletic Field in Walter Pierce Park

*Japer Bowles (1C07)*

*Fiona Clem (1C08)*

Dear Ms. McSween:

At a duly-noticed public meeting held on 5/5/2021, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C voted 8-0-0 in favor of the attached resolution regarding use of the athletic field in Walter Pierce Park located at 2630 Adams Mill Rd NW. Following the resolution is a petition, circulated among Adams Morgan residents, calling for the athletic field at Walter Pierce to be opened for 10-15 hours a week.

Warm regards,

Amir Irani  
Chairperson, ANC 1C

cc: Hon. Celeste Carano, 1C02 Commissioner; 1c02@anc.dc.gov  
Hon. Benjamin Butz, 1C06 Commissioner; 1c06@anc.dc.gov  
Hon. Meghan Faulkner, 1C04 Commissioner; 1c04@anc.dc.gov  
Hon. Peter Wood, 1C03 Commissioner; 1c03@anc.dc.gov



## **ANC 1C RESOLUTION REGARDING USE OF THE ATHLETIC FIELD IN WALTER PIERCE PARK**

Whereas Walter Pierce Park is a publicly owned park, located in ANC 1C at 2630 Adams Mill Rd NW, operated by the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of General Services<sup>1</sup>, and the National Park Service<sup>2</sup>; and

Whereas urban parks have seen increased use due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency<sup>3</sup>; and

Whereas Washington, DC, has modestly low acreage of parks relative to its population<sup>4</sup>; and

Whereas park access is of great importance for the physical, mental, and social health of the general public<sup>5</sup>; and

Whereas use of the athletic field in Walter Pierce Park (hereafter “field”), as of April 2021, is restricted to 30 hours per week available by reservation only for select permitted sports<sup>6</sup>; and

Whereas Adams Morgan residents have limited proximity to other public recreational fields; and

Whereas increasing the availability of the field could alleviate pressure on neighboring parks used by residents unable to reserve the field; and

Whereas increased availability of the field could reduce strain and maintenance needs on neighboring parks in and around Adams Morgan; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://dgs.dc.gov/page/walter-pierce-park>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nps.gov/places/000/walter-pierce-park.htm>

<sup>3</sup> McCormick, K. (2020). Room to Roam: The Pandemic Has Underscored the Need for More Urban Parks. So What Comes Next? *Land Lines Magazine*, 20-31.

<https://www.lincolnst.edu/publications/articles/2020-10-room-roam-pandemic-urban-parks-what-comes-next>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.tpl.org/city/washington-district-columbia>

<sup>5</sup> Geng, D. C., Innes, J., Wu, W., & Wang, G. (2020). Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on urban park visitation: a global analysis. *Journal of forestry research*, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11676-020-01249-w>

<sup>6</sup> <https://dpr.dc.gov/page/dpr-athletic-fields>



Whereas a petition titled "[Petition to open Water Pierce Park field](#)" (Appendix A), circulated for Adams Morgan residents to express their desire that the field be opened for 10-15 hours a week obtained 119 signatures; and

Whereas unregulated use of the field could contribute to undesired overuse of the soil and grass on the premises; and

Whereas the Walter Pierce park also offers a dog park for use to the public; and therefore, be it

*Resolved*, ANC 1C recommends the DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) open the athletic field to permit-free use by the general public;

*Resolved*, ANC 1C encourages DPR to have permit-free use of the athletic field by the general public for a minimum of 10-15 hours total per week during weekday afternoons and evenings and weekends;

*Resolved*, ANC 1C supports the on-going exclusion of dogs and other pets on the athletic field at Walter Pierce Park.



## **Appendix A: Petition to Open Walter Pierce Park Field**

Link to online form: <https://forms.gle/PMcgJ2s5WfnRdGkQ7>

### Petition introduction:

This petition is being circulated by ANC Commissioners Celeste Carano (1C02) and Meghan Faulkner (1C04), and will be shared with the Department of Parks and Recreation, likely in conjunction with an ANC resolution.

If you'd like to sign on, please add your name below.

### Petition text:

We, the undersigned, request that the DC Department of Parks and Recreation open the field at Walter Pierce Park to public access 10-15 hours a week in the evenings and on weekends.

Walter Pierce Park, which has always been a community gathering place, has seen significantly more use than usual over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. With many kids in the surrounding neighborhood in virtual school and with few residents having significant backyards or outdoors space, the park has become a vital gathering place for the entire community.

Opening the field to the public for a few hours at a time, a few times per week, would provide much-needed access to green space to allow kids to safely play, while allowing for continued social distancing as needed. Due to the heightened use of all parks in the Adams Morgan neighborhood, there is even less access to open space for play now than in the past. Opening the field for limited periods would help meet this need.

In the interest of balancing park access with the city's desire to preserve the field's surface for use by permit-holders, we propose opening the field for a few hours on weekday afternoons, as well as a few hours on one weekend day. We hope this change would enable our neighborhood park to be more accessible to the entire community.

### Signatures



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