

# Memorial Stadium Field Availability

With the growth of meaningful community events like festivals, rallies, and organized sports such as ultimate frisbee, lacrosse, baseball and soccer, City staff has come to understand the demand for the facilities in the vicinity of Memorial Stadium has resulted in these facilities being over-programmed. The traffic associated with the combination of all of these organized events is one consequence that is having a negative effect on the surrounding neighborhoods. Out of respect for the people living adjacent to these community resources, City staff has made some changes to lessen the negative impacts these neighborhoods are experiencing on their overall quality of life.

This document is designed to address community member concerns about access to Memorial Stadium. There are 2 neighborhoods and 3 City-owned amenities in this compact area:

- East End Neighborhood
- Oakhurst Neighborhood
- Memorial Stadium (Parks and Recreation programming, special event programming, open use)
- McCormick Field (leased to the Tourists Baseball Team)
- Mountainside Park (open use)

## Memorial Stadium is Still Available!

- Memorial Stadium field is available for open use every day unless there is a special event scheduled. We are working on making it easier to find Memorial Stadium events on [this special event working calendar](#).
- This summer, there will be cars parked inside the Memorial Stadium gate on Tourist game days but **the field will remain open for use**. The Tourists are providing staff to make sure cars do not park on the field.
- On most days, there are 139 parking spaces in the vicinity of Memorial Stadium. Of those 139 spaces, 63 are available in the lot closest to the entrance to Memorial Stadium. On Tourists game days the number of spaces, typically 63, in that specific lot is reduced to 18 to provide some level of guaranteed parking for people attending baseball games. The full 63 spaces are available until park closure at 10 p.m. *the day before* a Tourist game. This decision was made because the City has a lease agreement with the Tourists.

Recent Changes in this area include more frequent special event programming at **Memorial Stadium**.

Parking is closed at **Mountainside Park**.

WHY?!?

- Mountainside Park has a playground and open space and can only be accessed through a narrow neighborhood street.
- More frequent special events (festivals, rallies, Asheville City Soccer) at Memorial Stadium significantly increased traffic through the East End neighborhood. These are all great events and important to our community. And...staff had to find a way to balance community events and neighborhood quality of life.
- **The large volume of traffic negatively impacted safety and quality of life for our neighbors who live in this neighborhood.**

- Additionally, people were parking in the shade of the open field creating a safety concern for children playing in the park.
- People were dumping garbage at Mountainside park.
- \*There is one exception, Tourist staff are permitted to park in the gravel lot on Fridays when there are fireworks at McCormick field during Tourist's game season. This solution is for this season only and was implemented to move Tourist staff vehicles out of the firework "fall out zone" designated by the Fire Marshal.

Parking is limited in the right-of-way, grassy area located in the **Oakhurst neighborhood** near the entrance to **Memorial Stadium**.

WHY?

- This is a right-of-way used by the Oakhurst neighborhood. With programming and events at Memorial Stadium, the area was used for additional parking of up to 40 vehicles. There is still some parking allowed in this area, just not the entire greenspace.

Tourist staff parking on game day was moved from Mountainside Park to **Memorial Stadium** parking.

WHY?

- The City of Asheville has a lease agreement with the Asheville Tourists. A lease agreement is different than renting Memorial Stadium for a special event. With a lease, there is a higher level of service and expectations identified for each party. This is why the City dedicated a section of parking for Tourist game days this season. Our decision to close parking at Mountainside Park impacted an organization with which we have a lease.

League play (lacrosse, ultimate frisbee, Parks and Recreation programming) has been relocated to **other facilities** on Tourist game days.

WHY?

- This decision was made to better manage the traffic and parking in the **East End and Oakhurst neighborhoods**. This area is too compact to accommodate multiple organized events at the same time in a manner that is safe for residents, users, and visitors. However, the field remains open for unstructured use.