



Park County School District Re-2 Opening Track to Community Use

The Park County School District Re-2 resurfaced and striped their track this summer to prepare for hosting track meets next spring. This was done through unused funds from the original Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST) grant that built new schools for the District in 2010-2013. The District is ready to open up the track to the community now with restrictions in place to protect the investment.

When the track and field was first completed, community members began using and misusing the facility. Rules posted to protect the synthetic turf on the football field were grossly violated. Sunflower seeds, candy and gum got into the tiny rubber balls embedded in the synthetic turf and couldn't be removed. District officials and neighbors reported people riding their motorcycles and bicycles on the track and field. People brought their dogs in to let them run and defecate on the track and field. Improper shoes were worn that could seriously damage the surface of the track. When posted rules were ignored, the District attempted to limit access. People threw the barricades aside and proceeded on to ignore the rules and cause damage.

An athletic committee has been meeting to create a solution that will allow community members to utilize the track and still protect the District's investment. It is the committee's hope that helping the community understand why rules are needed to protect the expensive surface of the track and field will foster respect for the facilities. The pilot plan is to have

anyone interested in using the track and field to stop by the District Administration Office to fill out a track use form and sign a liability waiver. Persons completing the paperwork will be asked to reimburse the District for a "Track Pass" bracelet (\$1.00). They will need to be wearing or have the "Track Pass" in their possession while on the track. This will be monitored. As long as patrons respect and take care of the track and field, the District will continue to allow community use.

A special "Grand Opening" celebration will take place during halftime at the Homecoming game on October 10, 2015, after which the gates will be unlocked at dawn and locked at dusk, weather permitting. (Snow will not be cleared from the track and field because a snowplow cannot be used without damaging the surfaces.)

We invite community members to call the administration office at 719-836-4404 for days and hours of operation to complete their paperwork for a "Track Pass".