

Concession Operations Information

Information provided by Don Siggelkow, General Manager of Administration, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

- Historically, the Park Board has contracted and self operated facilities – the decision on whether to contract or self operate is based on the expertise of Park staff in the operation. For example, some public agencies contract for golf course management. The Park Board does not contract for this service as we have staff that are extremely knowledgeable and experienced at operating golf courses and we would not see any benefit from contracting to a private firm.
- The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board does not have employees that have backgrounds or training in the food service business. It is not our area of expertise. In the past we have tried our best to provide decent product and services but have had limited success.
- The vendors that are currently operating the concessions are in fact representatives of the Park Board. Concessions stands are open to the public and should be considered public facilities.
- We continue to provide excellent products and service to the public. The public probably doesn't care who is behind the counter, as long as they get good service and a good product.
- It has been proven that it is more cost effective to operate the facilities by contracting the operation with outside vendors. By contracting with outside vendors we greatly reduce our administrative costs associated with management, personnel, payroll, supplies, repair, and maintenance.
- We have very good contracts in place that require contractors to make investments in facility renovations. The vendors that we select to operate our concession operations have proven to be very reliable, and we believe they do a better job of running these operations than we feel we can. In essence these vendors are working for us, and are on a contract rather than on the payroll.
- The vendors we have carefully selected have a vested interest in making their operations successful, and we feel that they do a good job in representing the Park Board.