

July 9, 2021

Newton Community Preservation Committee,

I write to you on behalf of the Newton Athletic Fields Foundation (NAFF) to endorse the CPA project that has been presented to the committee by the Park, Recreation and Culture department to invest \$400K as the first step of a comprehensive plan to improve Newton's athletic fields.

**Why this project is critical**

Leaders in Newton's Athletic community have been voicing concerns for years about the dangerously sub-par conditions, lack of capacity and dire need for action with Newton's athletic fields. We have worked collaboratively in an attempt to address these issues through discussions with Mayor Fuller, members of her administration and members of the City Council, attending both committee and public meetings, hiring consulting firms to provide expertise and providing inputs to the OSRP. The project presented by PRC is a critical first step in a multi-year program that is desperately needed to "Fix Newton's Fields".

Athletic fields are by far one of Newton's most utilized resources, yet for decades the city has underfunded investment to modernize them and align capacity with the sports played by athletes in Newton.

**Who is the Newton Athletic Field Foundation (NAFF)**

NAFF ([www.fixNewtonsFields.com](http://www.fixNewtonsFields.com)) is an organization that was founded to give a much needed voice to athletics in Newton, an area that has been generally underserved by the city. It is sponsored by the following youth athletic organizations in Newton: Newton Girls Soccer, Newton Youth Soccer, Newton Girls Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse Newton, Newton Mustangs Football, Newton Area Flag Football and Boston Ultimate Disc Alliance (Newton Chapter).

Over 4,000 Newton residents participate in our programs. Including parents, this represents over 10,000 members of our community that benefit from athletics. This past year, NAFF gathered over 1,000 signatures on a petition (attached) supporting increased investment in athletic fields.

On behalf of the athletic community, we thank you for your consideration of this important project.

Sincerely,

Justin Traxler  
President Newton Girls Soccer  
Founder Newton Athletic Fields Foundation

Clifford Slater  
President, Newton Youth Soccer

Larry Casillo  
President, Newton Youth Lacrosse

Sam Figler  
Member, Newton Park and Recreation Commission  
Director, Newton Youth Lacrosse

Nancy Sweatt  
President, Newton Girls Lacrosse

Fran Yerardi  
Founder, Girls LAX Newton

Eric Busa  
Director, Newton Mustangs Football

Burt Granovsky  
Head Coach, Newton Youth Ultimate

Jacob Groshek  
Founder, Commissioner Newton Area Flag Football

Attached:  
NAFF Petition  
Resident Feedback from Petition Drive