



Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Department

Athletic Fields Improvement Plan

Community Meeting # 1

McGrath Park @ Warren House

October 20th, 2021

athleticfields@newtonma.gov

AGENDA

1

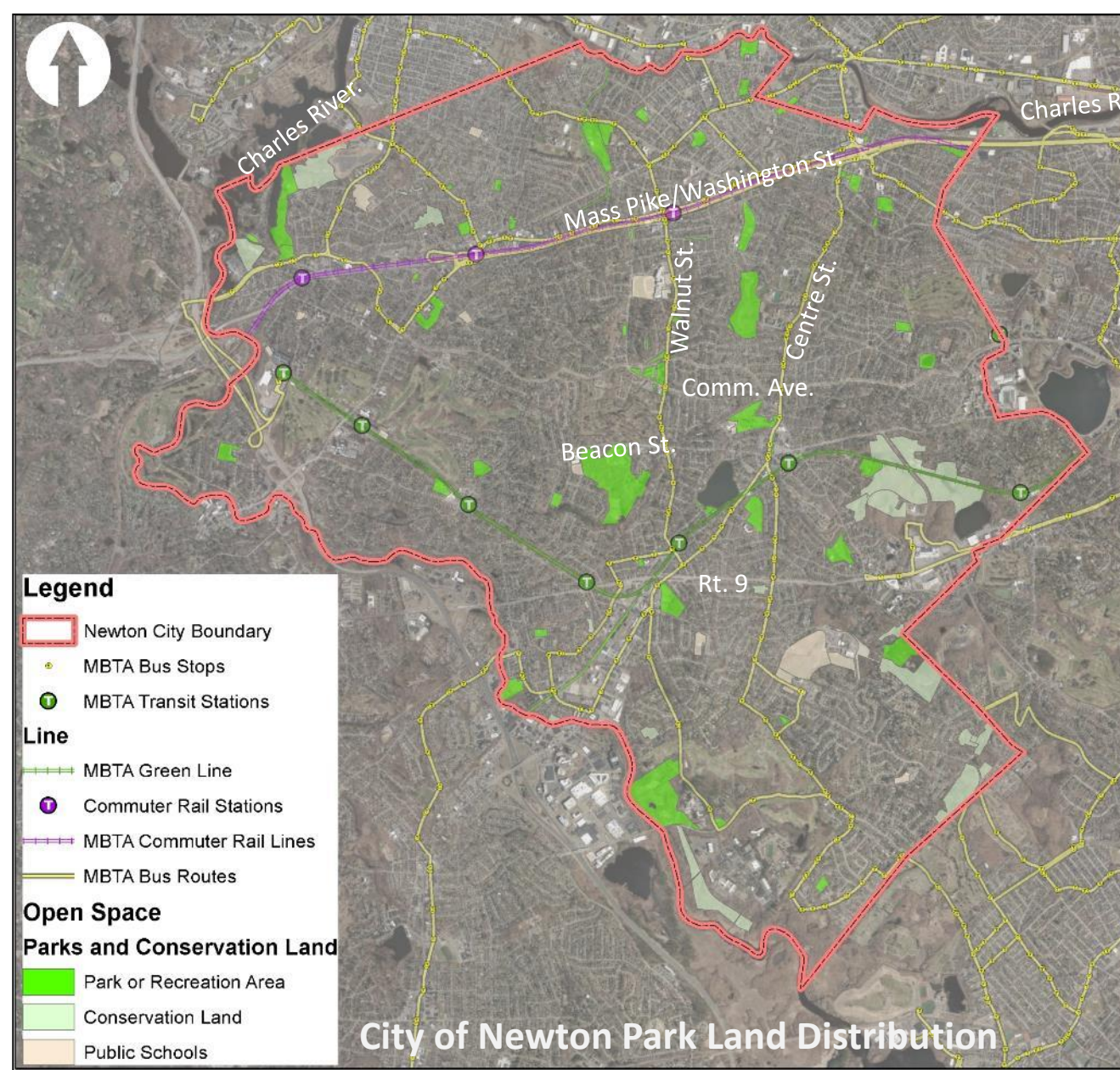
Athletic Fields Projects Overview

2

McGrath Park @ Warren House Presentation

3


McGrath Park @ Warren House Listening + Discussion



Parks, Recreation & Culture Overview:

- Manage and oversee nearly 600 Acres of park land with varying recreational interests including:
 - Aquatic facilities
 - Tracks + fields
 - Trails, pathways + safe routes to schools
 - Playgrounds + tot Lots
 - Field houses + community centers
 - Hard courts
 - Passive areas
 - Outdoor exercise equipment
 - Wooded areas
 - Outdoor challenge courses
 - Dog parks
 - Splash pads
 - Historic significance
 - Wetlands and waterways
- Spread across all Villages, Wards + School zones

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Athletic Fields Capital Improvement Plan

A wide-angle photograph of a green athletic field, likely a soccer field, with several white goals and nets. The field is surrounded by trees and a large white house is visible in the background. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The text "Why improve athletic fields?" is overlaid in the center of the image.

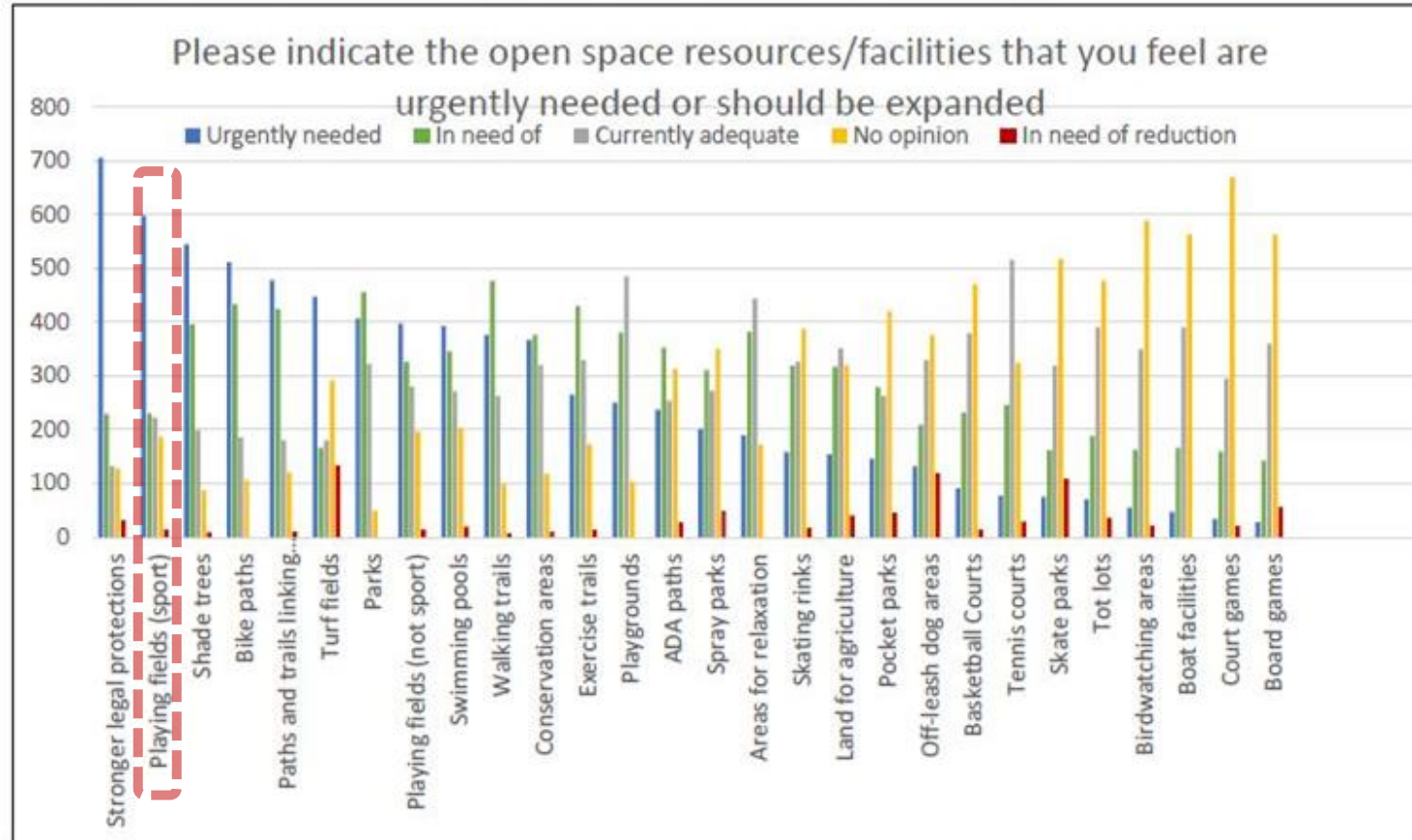
Why improve athletic fields?



Current facilities experience little to no rest time and are overused

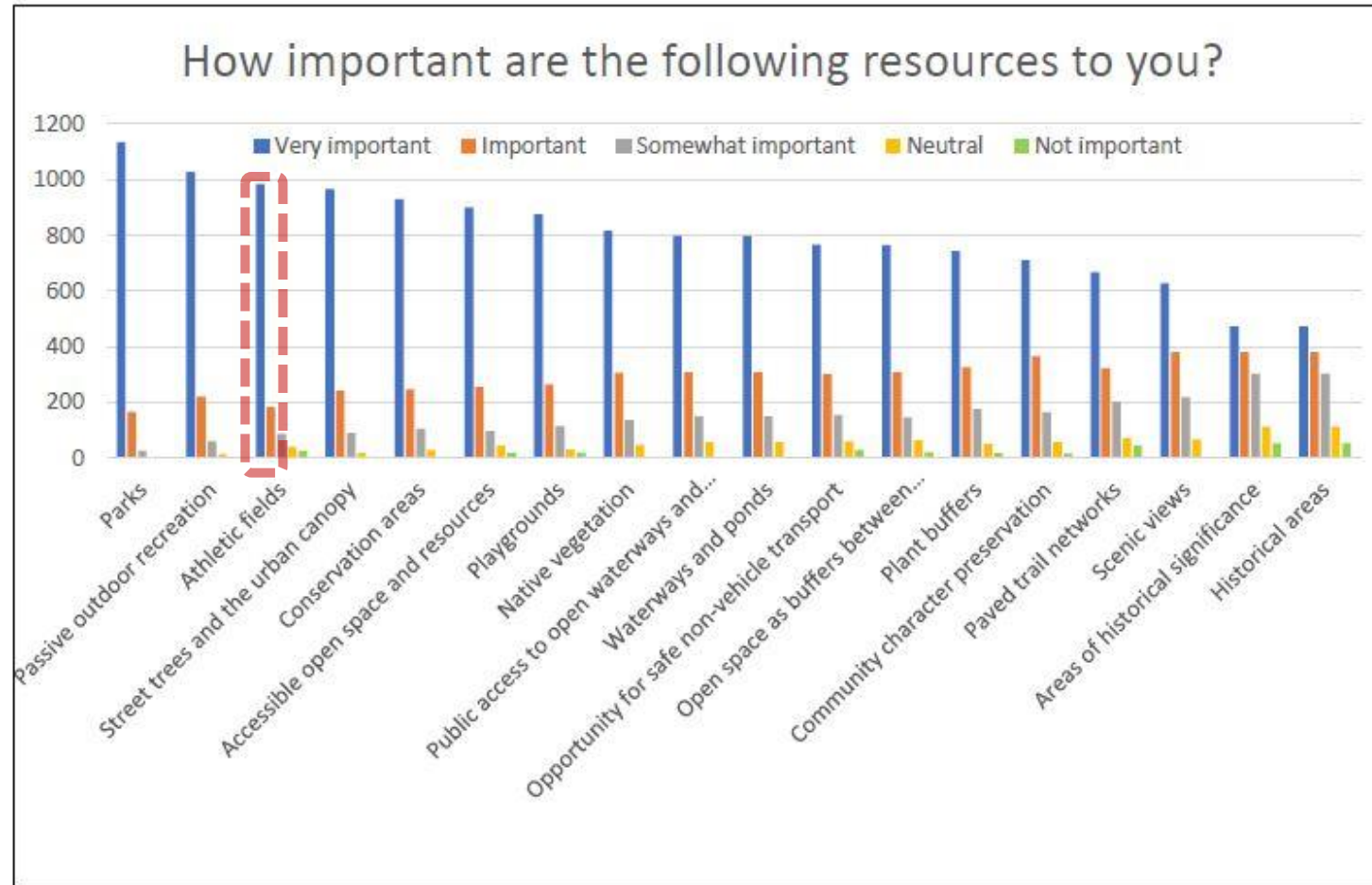
Community Survey (Open Space + Recreation Plan)

Figure 42. Community Survey: Open Space Resources in Greatest Demand




Community Survey (Open Space + Recreation Plan)

Figure 43. Community Survey: Open Space Resources in Greatest Demand



Field + Park Improvement Goals


- IMPROVE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF USABLE MULTIUSE/MULTIPURPOSE FIELDS
- IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY IN PARK AND FIELD AMENITIES
- ESTABLISH STANDARDIZED PARK CONSTRUCTION DETAILS TO BETTER MANAGE OPERATION & MAINTENANCE POST CONSTRUCTION
- INVEST EQUITABLY IN NEWTON'S ATHLETIC FIELDS + PARKS ACROSS THE CITY



How did we prioritize field improvements?

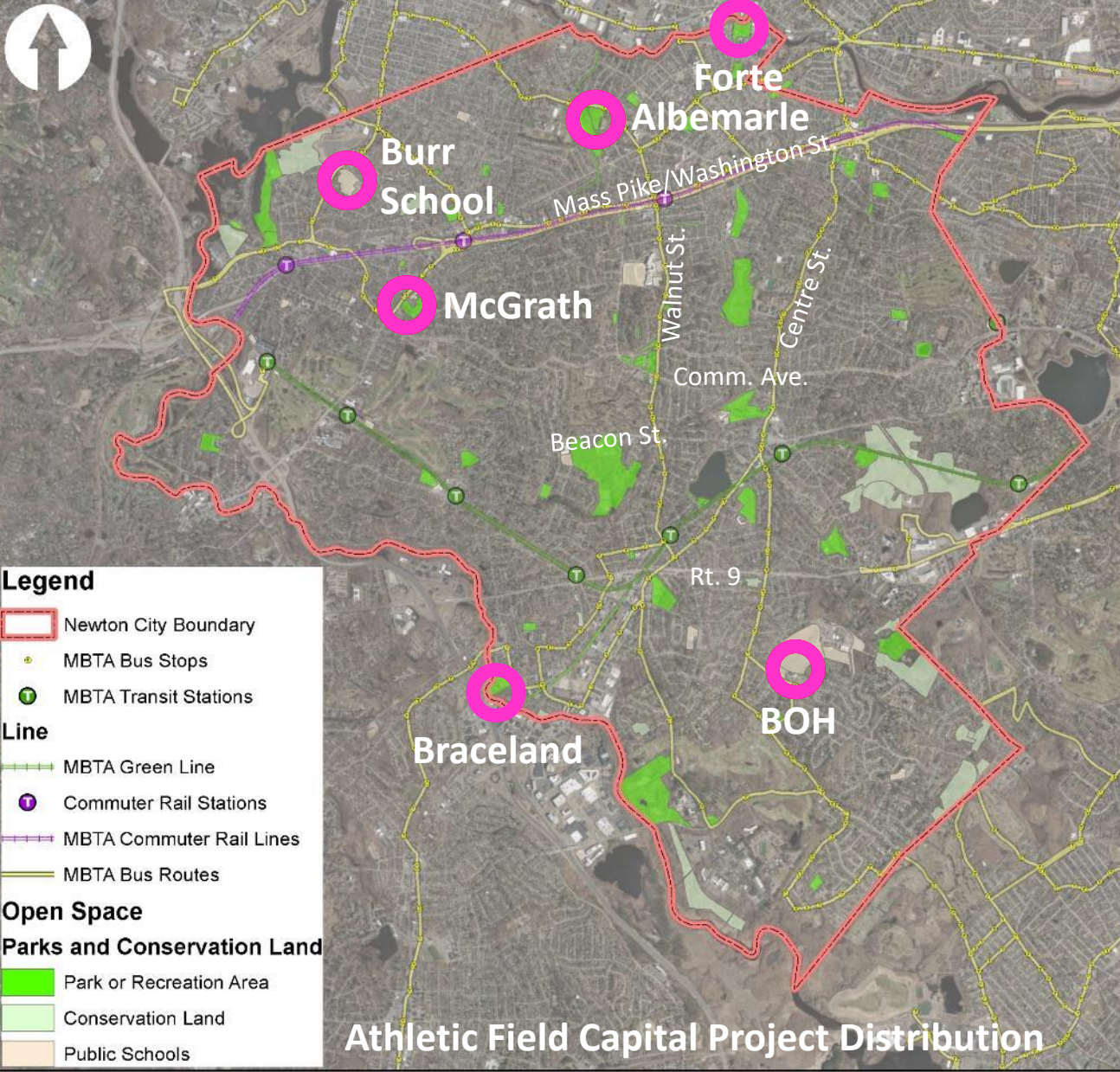
Prioritization Criteria

- OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN
- CITY OF NEWTON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)
- POTENTIAL FOR GREATEST CITY-WIDE BENEFIT
- PROJECT SEQUENCING: PRIORITIZE NEW FIELDS BEING BROUGHT ONLINE FIRST
- POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION OF MULTIUSE FIELDS
- EXPANDING EVENING PLAY (LIGHT IMPROVEMENTS/ ADDITIONS)
- PLAYER SAFETY
- INTEGRATED WITH OTHER PROJECTS IN A PARK AREA (E.G., PATH AT MCGRATH, GATH POOL PROJECT)

A wide-angle photograph of a soccer field. In the foreground on the left, a white soccer goal with a net is visible. The field is green and appears to be well-maintained. In the middle ground, there are several other soccer goals and stadium lights. The background is filled with dense green trees and a white house with a grey roof. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The text "How do we arrive at a viable project design?" is overlaid in the center of the image.

How do we arrive at a viable project design?





Phase 1 Capital Project Distribution:

- Albemarle Park/ Russ Halloran Sports and Recreation Complex
- Forte Park
- Burr School
- Brown/Oak Hill Fields
- McGrath Park
- Bobby Braceland

TOTAL: 6 Sites

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Athletic Fields Capital Improvement Plan

Additional Athletic Field Projects in the works:

- NNHS Tiger Stadium: High efficiency, low spillage Sports Lighting project (FY 23)
- NSHS Winkler Stadium & Brandeis Rd. Field: Artificial turf carpet replacement (FY 23)
- NSHS Brandeis Road Field: High efficiency, low spillage Sports Lighting project (FY 23)
- NNHS: Tiger Stadium: Artificial turf carpet replacement (FY 25)
- Forte Park: Developer-funded sports relighting (TBD)
- Increased Maintenance: additional seeding, fertilizing, and aeration, etc.

CITY OF NEWTON ATHLETIC FIELDS MAINTENANCE BUDGET IMPROVEMENTS

- **Increase athletic field maintenance capabilities**
- **Increase scope of contractual maintenance work**
- **Significantly increase turf management capabilities**

Public Grounds Maintenance Budget					
Maint. Budget Expense Item	General Description	Fiscal Year 2021	Fiscal Year 2022	Budget Increase in Dollars	Budget Increase Percentage
Turf Mowing	Mowing	\$ 575,000	\$ 700,000	\$ 125,000	22%
	Leaf removal				
	Mulching				
	Pruning				
Turf Management	Aerification	\$ 75,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 175,000	233%
	Fertilization				
	Slice seeding				
	Top dressing				
	Integrated Pest Management (IPM)				



McGrath Park @ Warren House

Richard J. McGrath Park

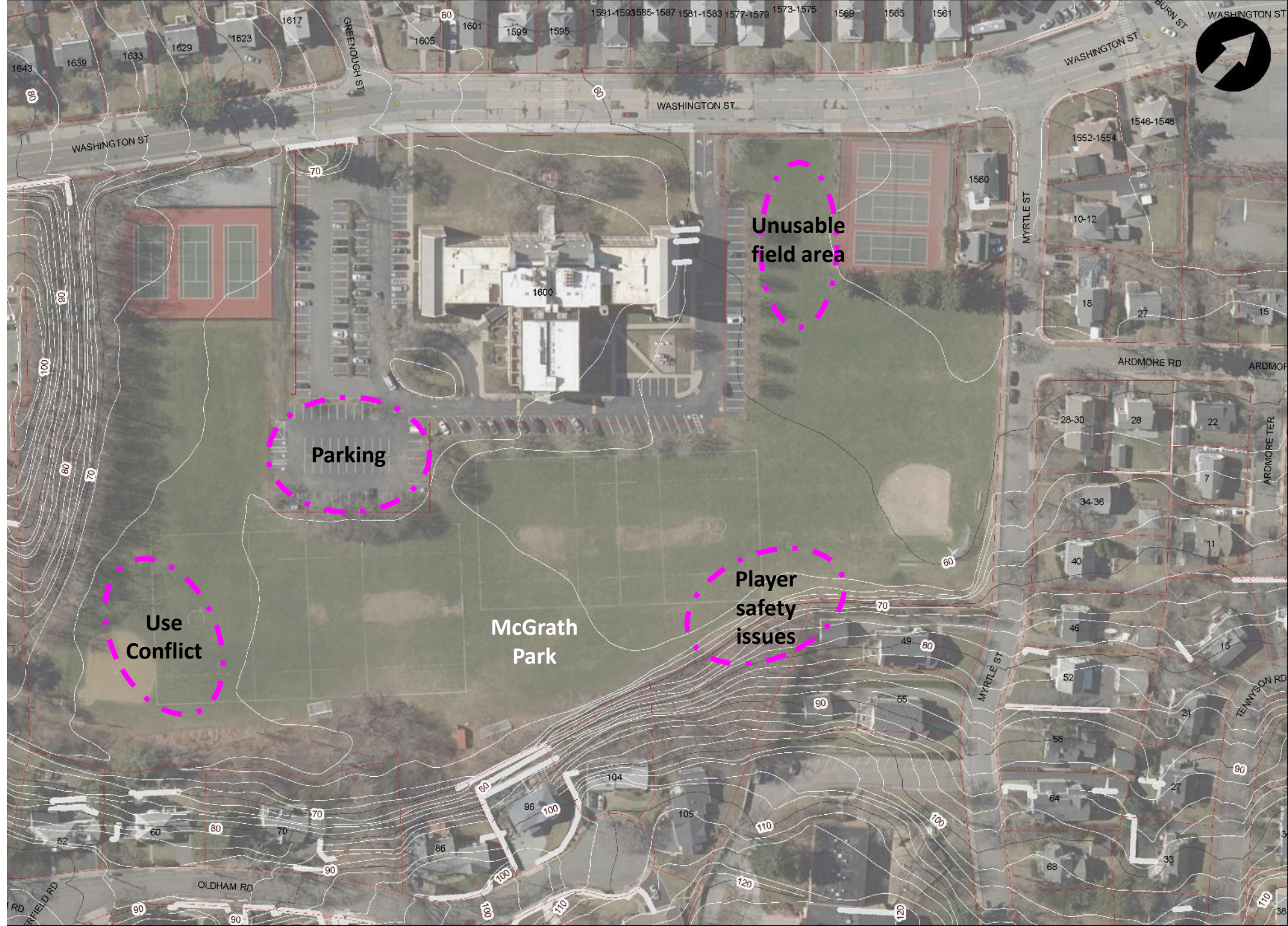
10.1 ACRES

Ward: 3

Village: West Newton

Existing Amenities

- 2 softball diamonds
- 59 Parking spaces (3 ADA)
- 6 tennis courts
- off leash dog area
- irrigated
- 1 - Boys Lacrosse (with safety conflicts due to topography)
- 1 – Intermediate rectangular fields per site allows



McGrath Park Fields Key Athletic and Facility Stake Holder Data

Facility Name	Non-permitted stake holders	Key Permitted Stake Holders					
		Spring Users (April-June)	Total Spring Permitted Hours	Summer Users (July-August)	Total Summer Permitted Hours	Fall Users (Sept. - November)	Total Fall Permitted Hours
Richard J. McGrath Park	walkers, runners, dog owners	NNHS Boys LAX; Newton Boys lacrosse league; Newton Youth Soccer; Newton Girls Soccer; NCDS tennis; Maimonides tennis; Over 55 Pickleball; Over 55 Tennis; N.E. Surf Soccer; Newton Tennis; Learning Center After School PE; Belge-Friends soccer group	1092 hours	Boston Ski and Sports Club; Newton Tennis; Over 55 Pickleball; Over 55 Tennis	128 hours	Over 55 Pickleball; Over 55 Tennis; NNHS Boys Soccer; Newton Youth Soccer; Newton Girls Soccer; Learning Center After School PE; Belge-Friends soccer group	1003 hours

Athletic Stake Holder Groups highlighted in Bold hold the most field permit hours per recent data

Richard J. McGrath Park

Improvement Ideas/Goals

- New accessible perimeter path and seating
- Removed or reconfigured courts to increase multi purpose athletic field space (Myrtle St. Side only)
- Removed underutilized backstop and infield
- Expanded irrigation system to areas where ballfield has been removed
- Improved irrigation efficiency and remote access
- Properly located and designed lacrosse practice wall (Wall construction cost to be privately funded)
- Improved athletic equipment storage
- Improved field perimeter fence (and netting)
- Scoreboards
- Designated area for seasonal restrooms
- Caliper inch replacement for any trees removed
- Increased tree canopy where possible

Approximate Construction Budget: \$1,000,000

Completed Steps

- Attained Community Preservation Act funding for design/engineering work
- Prepared Request for Qualifications and advertised bid for designer

Next Steps

- Designer Selection Committee chooses design firm
- Preliminary field design/ layout developed based on community input
- Share field project concepts with public

A wide-angle photograph of a soccer field at Newton Highlands Playground in Newton, Massachusetts. The field is green and well-maintained, with several soccer goals visible. In the background, there are trees and a large white house. The sky is overcast and grey. The text "Questions and Discussion" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Questions and Discussion

For additional questions and input please contact: athleticfields@newtonma.gov