

# Providing Quality Athletic Opportunity in Newton

Parks, Recreation & Culture Department  
Public Buildings Department  
Newton Public Schools

# Agenda

- Overview of P+R Commission Field Committee work
- Review school dismissal change impact on field use
- Steps to improve field conditions and availability
- Listening to neighbors: very helpful input has come in
- Next Steps

# Fields Committee

A subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Commission

Discussing the needs of athletic field user groups

## Key findings

- Athletic field conditions: implement strategies to improve our grass fields
- Field availability:
  1. Add fields to increase availability
  2. Potential to convert grass fields to turf
  3. Explore ways to increase evening play availability due to school dismissal time change

# City Action to Address Challenges

## Field Conditions

- Grounds Maintenance: increase turf management work
  - Athletic Fields \$75K to \$250K = \$175K increase
  - Contracted \$575K to \$700K = \$125K increase
  - Implement sport group user fees for more turf work

## Fields Availability

- Athletic field improvement design project underway
  - Add fields to existing parks and open space areas
  - Reconfigure parks to fit more fields/ minimize fields overlap
  - Potential turf conversions of grass fields

## Expand hours of play with lights

- Replace failing light systems
- Reconfigure light systems to increase playing areas
- Assess opportunities for new light systems

# Newton South Dismissal Time Change

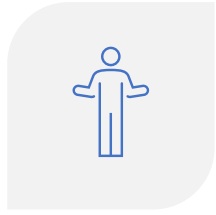
	<b>2019</b>	<b>2021</b>
Athlete dismissal time	1:55-2:45	2:30-3:45
Typical game start & end times	4:00-6:30	4:30-7:00
Middle school early release days/times also adjusted in '21-'22		

# Newton South School Teams

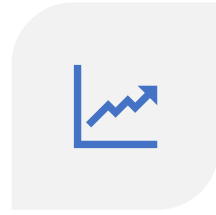
## Fall Athletic Teams & Field Needs

- 3 Girls Soccer teams (9<sup>th</sup>, JV, Varsity)
- 3 Boys' Soccer teams(9<sup>th</sup>, JV, Varsity)
- 2 Football teams (JV, Varsity)
- 3 field hockey teams (9<sup>th</sup>, JV, Varsity)

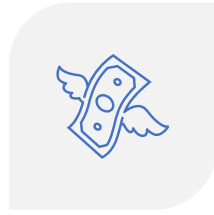
Up to 11 practices/games each  
weekday to schedule



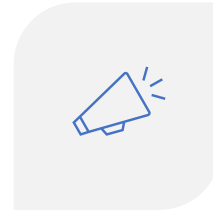
USED AT NNHS FIELDS  
WITH RECURRING ISSUES



NEED IS INCREASING AT  
NSHS



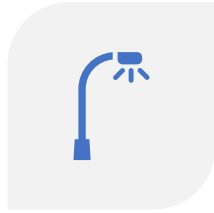
RENTAL COST



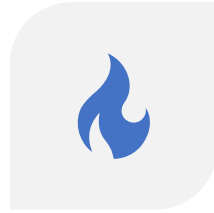
NOISE POLLUTION



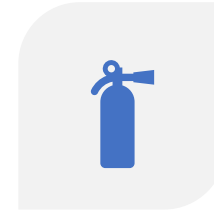
EXHAUST POLLUTION



LIGHT POLLUTION



FOSSIL FUEL  
CONSUMPTION



SAFETY



# Why Not Temporary Lights

# Why are the High Schools good potential candidates?

- # of sports has increased over time (e.g., lacrosse)
- # of teams: NSHS, NNHS have more teams because they have Varsity, JV, and Fresh. sports
- Less travel needs for students to get to fields
- Fields are synthetic turf, can handle additional use
- Onsite Amenities include lockers, rest rooms, shower/changing area
- Parking is available
- Athletic trainer onsite after school



A night-time aerial view of Newton South Stadium, showing the green football field with white yard lines, a red running track, and stadium lights. A large semi-transparent circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

# Newton South Stadium Agreement

- An agreement between the City, NSHS, and Neighbors

Topics covered include:

- Hours of use
- Noise/amplified music
- # of school games
- Trash
- Parking

# How Lights Can Help

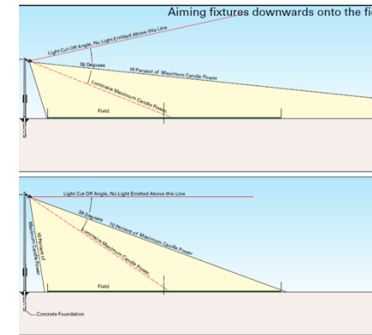
- Most field needs are after school during spring and fall (peak sport seasons)
- New park space is incredibly expensive (2-acre min. plus parking) and not available
- Maintenance: minor expense to operate vs. maintaining a field, environmental impacts are also minimal compared to turf management
- Lighting turf fields: can handle unlimited use, including during rain events.
- Lighting a field provides: **1,000+ additional hours** of playing time, ultimately it provides play opportunity that meets evening demand

Hours of added playing time each month (based sunset to 9:30pm)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
195h 30m	135h 30m	88h	61h 30m	46h 30m	34h	37h 30m	53h 30m	78h 30m	108h	149h 30m	163h 30m

# Identifying the Right Light Solution

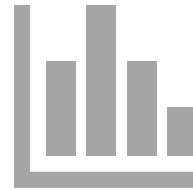
- Goals: Best light quality while minimizing abutter impacts
  - Light Quality
    - uniformity, intensity, spillage
  - Variables we control
    - Pole height
    - Shielding/down casting
    - Bulb candlepower and dimming
    - Separately zoned ball tracker lights (on/off)



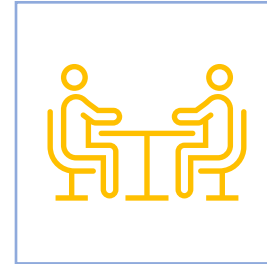
# Next Steps



Listen to neighbors



Compile and share  
light data



Discuss how light use  
could be tailored

Contact us:

[athleticfields@newtonma.gov](mailto:athleticfields@newtonma.gov)

[www.newtonma.gov/parks](http://www.newtonma.gov/parks)

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