



Programs & Services Committee Agenda

REVISED

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

7:00 PM

The Programs & Services Committee will hold this meeting as a Zoom Meeting on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 starting at 7:00 pm. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82026823736> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the Meeting ID 820 2682 3736.

Items Scheduled for Discussion:

- #393-21** **Resolution from the City Council to the Mayor re school bus fees and the FY23 budget**
COUNCILORS HUMPHREY, BOWMAN, CROSSLEY, DANBERG, GREENBERG, KALIS, KRINTZMAN, LAREDO, LEARY, LIPOF, LUCAS, MALAKIE, MARKIEWICZ, NOEL, NORTON, OLIVER, RYAN, AND WRIGHT, requesting a resolution from the City Council outlining the views of the Council to the Mayor on the upcoming budgeting process for school bus fees.
- #414-21** **Request for a discussion on improving election administration**
COUNCILORS KRINTZMAN, BOWMAN, CROSSLEY, DANBERG, OLIVER, WRIGHT, GREENBERG, GROSSMAN, HUMPHREY, KELLEY, DOWNS, LAREDO, LEARY, LIPOF, LUCAS, MALAKIE, MARKIEWICZ, NOEL, NORTON AND RYAN requesting a discussion with the Clerk's Office about problems that arose during the 2021 municipal election, including voting by mail. The discussion should result in recommendations or improvements the City of Newton can make in elections practices for the future.

(Continued)

The location of this meeting is accessible and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the City of Newton's ADA Coordinator, Jini Fairley, at least two business days in advance of the meeting: jfairley@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

#441-21 Requesting an update on progress on improvements and long-term plans to improve our Athletic Fields

COUNCILORS OLIVER, KALIS, RYAN, LAREDO, WRIGHT, MALAKIE, LUCAS, NORTON, MARKIEWICZ, AND LEARY requesting a discussion with Parks, Recreation and Culture to determine progress on our fields and development of a long-term plan to improve the quality and capacity of all of our fields. This update should identify the budget, resources, and timeline required to deliver the results that our residents are asking for and deserve.

Respectfully Submitted,

Josh Krintzman, Chair

Resolution for

A Resolution by the Newton City Council calling for the elimination of school bus fees

WHEREAS, Free public transportation to public schools promotes equity; AND

WHEREAS, Free public transportation in general would advance our municipal climate action goals; AND

WHEREAS, Reducing traffic congestion in Newton is a major desire of residents currently,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the sense of the Council is that the Mayor should make available additional funding to the Newton Public Schools in the next budget cycle for the purposes of school bus pass fees being eliminated, without adversely affecting other NPS budget items.

RECEIVED

Resolution for 2021 APR -1 PM 1:34

A Resolution by the Newton City Council calling for the investment in, and improvement of, the athletic fields of Newton

CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02459

WHEREAS, The Newton City Council wants the residents of Newton to have access to world-class recreational facilities; AND

WHEREAS, the Newton Athletic Fields Foundation gathered more than 1,000 signatures from residents seeking improvements to our fields; AND

WHEREAS, leaders and representatives from Newton Youth Soccer, Newton Girls Soccer, Newton Youth Lacrosse, Girls LAX Newton, Newton Mustangs Football, Newton Youth Ultimate, and Newton Area Flag Football have expressed concerns over the availability of Newton's fields; AND

WHEREAS, leaders and representatives from Newton Youth Soccer, Newton Girls Soccer, Newton Youth Lacrosse, Girls LAX Newton, Newton Mustangs Football, Newton Youth Ultimate, and Newton Area Flag Football have expressed concerns over conditions of Newton's Fields; AND

WHEREAS, there is broad agreement that Newton's financial outlook and projections are appropriate for bonding of large capital projects

WHEREAS, Newton was one of the first communities to adopt the Community Preservation Act to generate resources for the acquisition of, and support for, passive and active recreational areas within the city

WHEREAS, deferred maintenance has resulted in quality issues with nearly every athletic field in Newton, deferred maintenance complicates deficiencies and problems and inappropriate deferred maintenance ultimately results in greater expense;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newton City Council calls for short-term and long-term action related to our recreational fields; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Newton City Council is committed to replace the surface of the three existing synthetic turf fields and construction of additional turf fields, as needed; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Newton City Council supports a \$375,000 maintenance budget as the appropriate level for FY22 to avoid further deterioration of some of the city's most precious assets; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Newton City Council encourages the creation of a 2-3 year plan to repair key fields as quickly as possible; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Newton City Council encourages the creation of a 5-7 year plan to improve athletic field quality, capacity and availability, which is appropriate for current needs and usage of Newton's fields in a prioritized, systemic fashion; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Newton City Council supports the use of Community Preservation Act funds, as appropriate, to accomplish the goals of this resolution; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Newton City Council supports the use of bonding as a financial tool to lessen the immediate impact on Newton's budget of the immediate needs; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Newton City Council supports the increase in rental fees on Newton's recreational fields as an additional means of support for their maintenance; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Newton City Council supports a more thorough review of Newton's existing practice of renting grass fields to non-Newton based organizations; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Newton City Council supports the exploration of "Tier 2 fees" – with appropriate mitigation in place to avoid impacts on families – as an additional means of support for the maintenance of Newton's recreational fields.

OCTOBER 17, 2021
IAN LACY
LEAD PROJECT ADVISOR
TOM IRWIN ADVISORS

TOM IRWIN ADVISORS



NEWTON ATHLETICS FIELDS FOUNDATION FORUM

WE ARE HERE TONIGHT BECAUSE

WE BELIEVE

Outdoor recreational green spaces are essential to the life and wellbeing of any community.

Because athletic fields and parks are so highly valued and cherished, they define and enrich the quality of life in a community unlike any other investment.



TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- About the Presenter
- Review of work done by Tom Irwin on Newton's Athletic Fields
- Providing an understanding of the best practice components of a successful turf management program
- Review key focus areas for Newton going forward

TOM IRWIN PROGRAM FOR NEWTON

2019

2020

2021

Performance Quality Standards (PQS) Project "Weeks G"

Maintenance Program at multiple sites in Newton

IPM Program Pilot at multiple sites in Newton

Focus maintenance on one facility. Weeks Park.

Measurement based analysis of one 11v11 field

Implement best practice turf management activities

Apply selective herbicides based on weeds present

High intensity management program (\$9K/acre)

Determine primary issues and develop corrective action plan

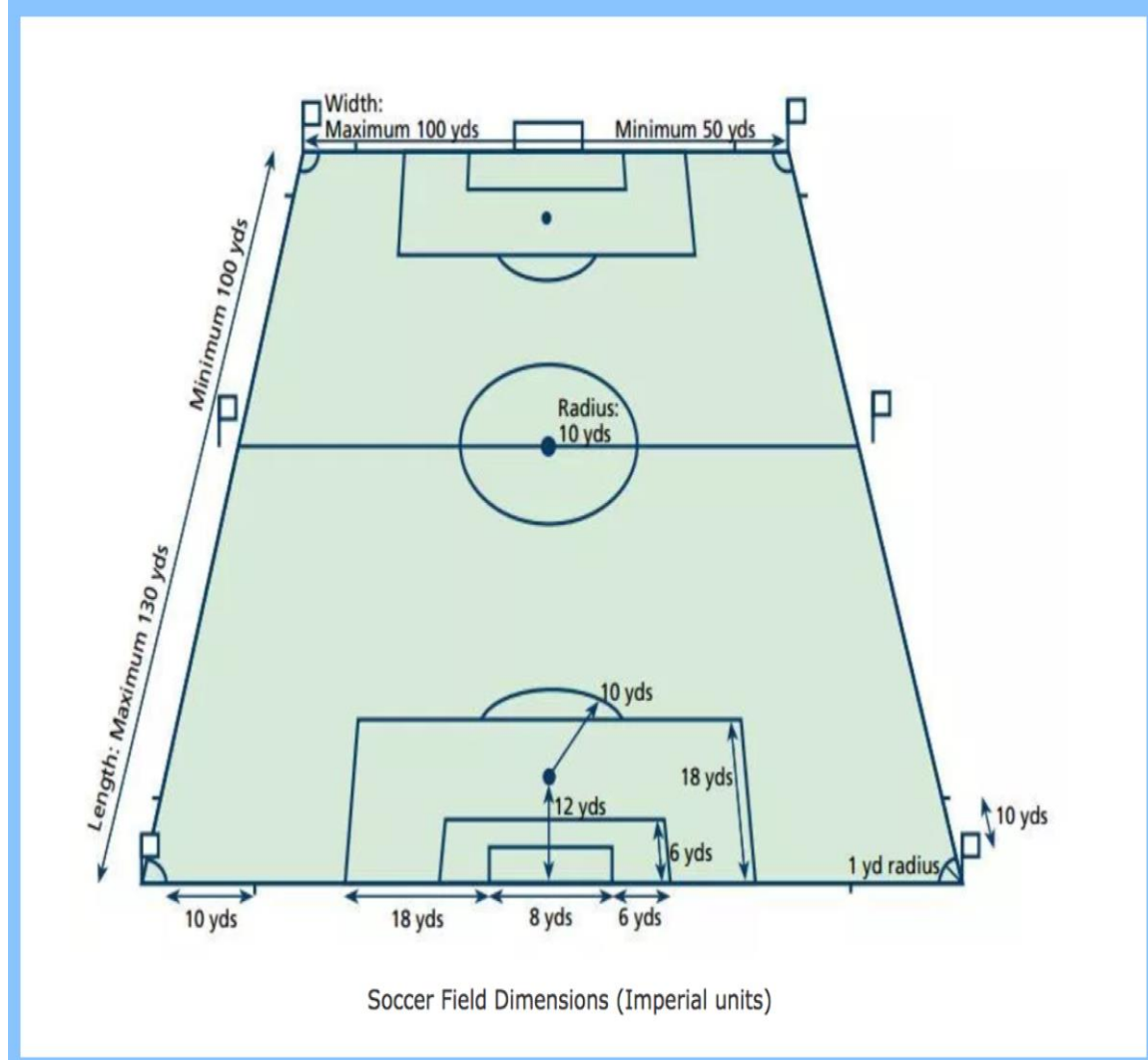
Understand best approach to improve field quality for Newton's fields

Understand effectiveness of herbicide use to improve field quality

Determine viability of increasing field quality for highly used fields.

WE CAN MANAGE WHAT WE CAN MEASURE!

- Determine Area Of Playing Surfaces
- Soil Testing (MA Nutrient Regs)
- Water Testing
- Soil Profile Characteristics (Thatch Level, Soil Type)
- Performance Testing



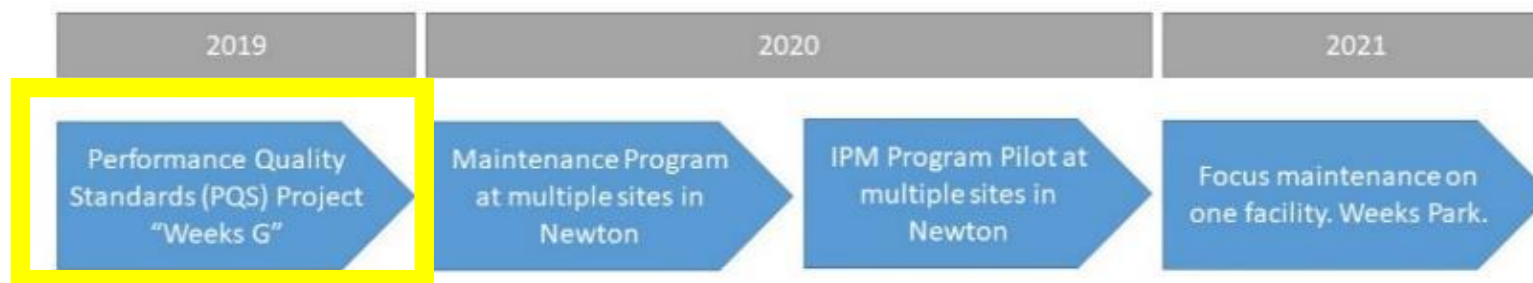
PERFORMANCE QUALITY STANDARDS (PQS)



A close-up photograph of a checklist table for soccer field maintenance. The table is tilted and has a dark, textured background. The text is as follows:

SOCCER	
STRUCTURE	Tool
Gradient Field Length	Surveyor's Lazer Level
Gradient Field Width	Surveyor's Lazer Level
Outfield Turf Infiltration Rate	Double Ring Infiltrometer
% Bare Area	Grass Quadrant
% Moss	Grass Quadrant
% Algae and Lichen	Grass Quadrant
% Diseases	Grass Quadrant
% Earthworms Casts	Grass Quadrant
% Pests	Grass Quadrant
Soil Profile Observations	
Root depth	Tool
Thatch depth	Observation and measurements
Rootzone medium depth	Observation and measurements
Soil Test Data Logan Laboratories	
	Source
	Logan Laboratories
	Logan Laboratories

WEEKS PARK ATHLETIC FIELDS 2019



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT 2020 PILOT

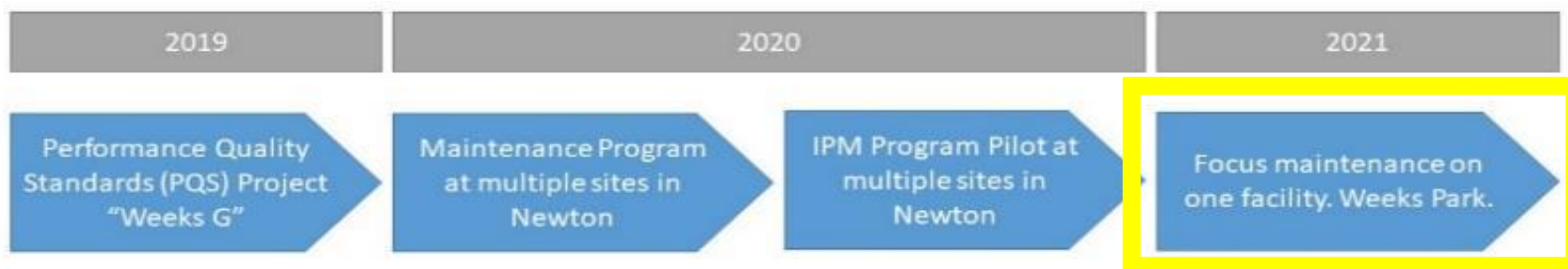


WEEKS PARK ATHLETIC FIELDS 2020

#441-21



WEEKS PARK ATHLETIC FIELDS 2021

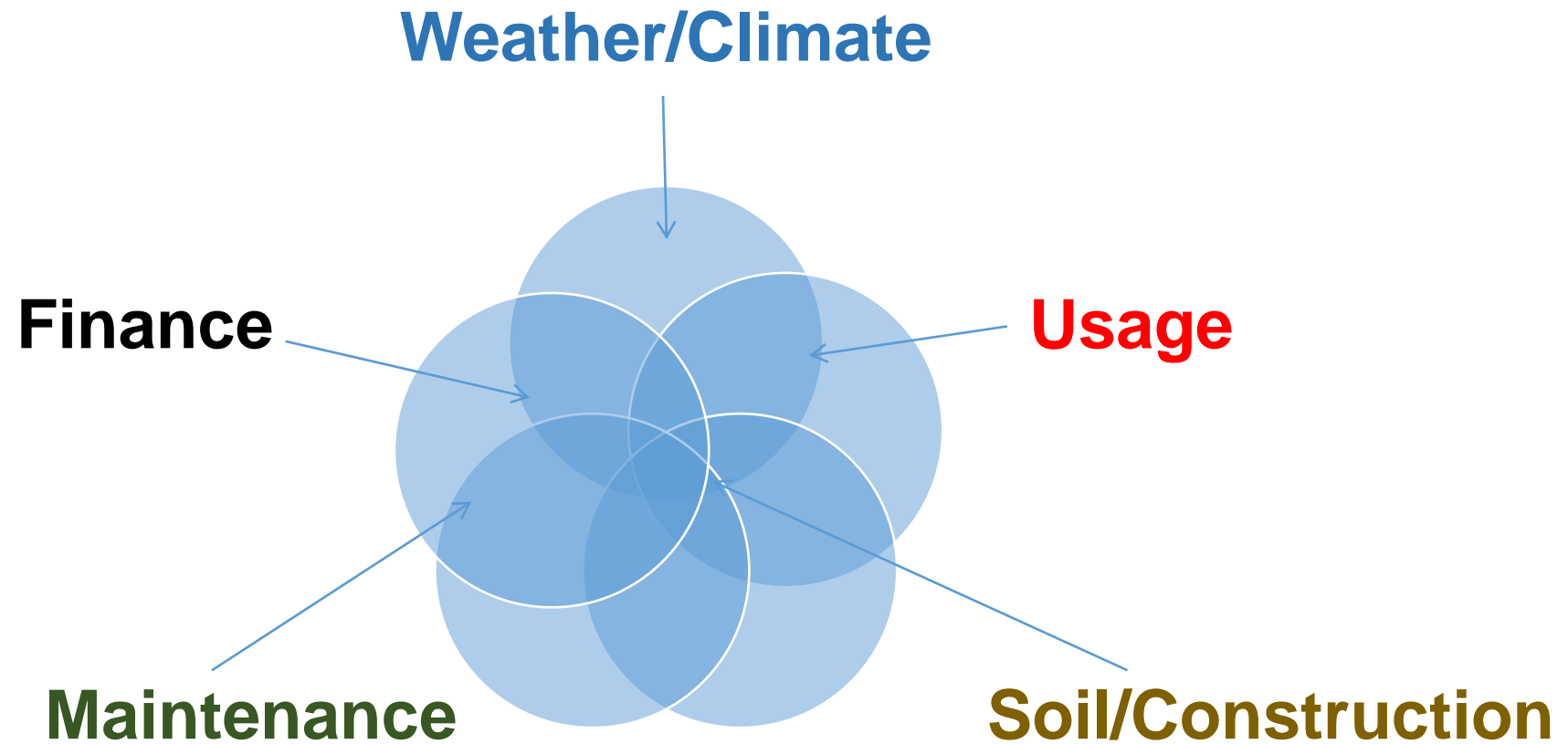


BEST PRACTICE - TURF MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



- **USAGE ANALYSIS**
- Field Assessments
- Produce a Plan
- Mowing
- Water Management
- Aeration
- De-Thatching/Verti-cutting
- Top Dressing
- Seeding
- Nutrition
- Plant Protection
- **FREQUENCY OF OPERATIONS**

FACTORS AFFECTING FIELD QUALITY



BEST PRACTICE: BUDGET

• Professional Baseball/Football:	<i>20-30K+ per acre.</i>
• Elite College Sports:	<i>12-20K per acre</i>
• Varsity Prep School and College Sports	<i>8-12K per acre</i>
• High End Varsity Sports	<i>6-10K per acre</i>
• Standard Varsity Sports/Municipal Sports	<i>5-8K per acre</i>
• Low Maintenance/Municipal	<i>3-5k and under per acre</i>

*Figures based on materials and outsourced services only,
Irrigation, mowing, lining, litter cleanup not included*

BEST PRACTICE: HOURS OF USE PER WEEK

• Professional Baseball/Football:	<i>750 - 800 Per year (28 hours per week)</i>
• Elite College Sports:	<i>650 - 700 Per year (25 Hours Per week)</i>
• Varsity Prep School and College Sports	<i>550 - 600 Per year (21 Hours Per week)</i>
• Varsity Sports	<i>450 - 500 Per year (17 Hours Per week)</i>
• Standard Varsity Sports/Municipal Sports	<i>350 - 400 Per year (14 Hours Per Week)</i>
• Low Maintenance/Municipal	<i>250 - 300 Per year (10 Hours Per Week)</i>

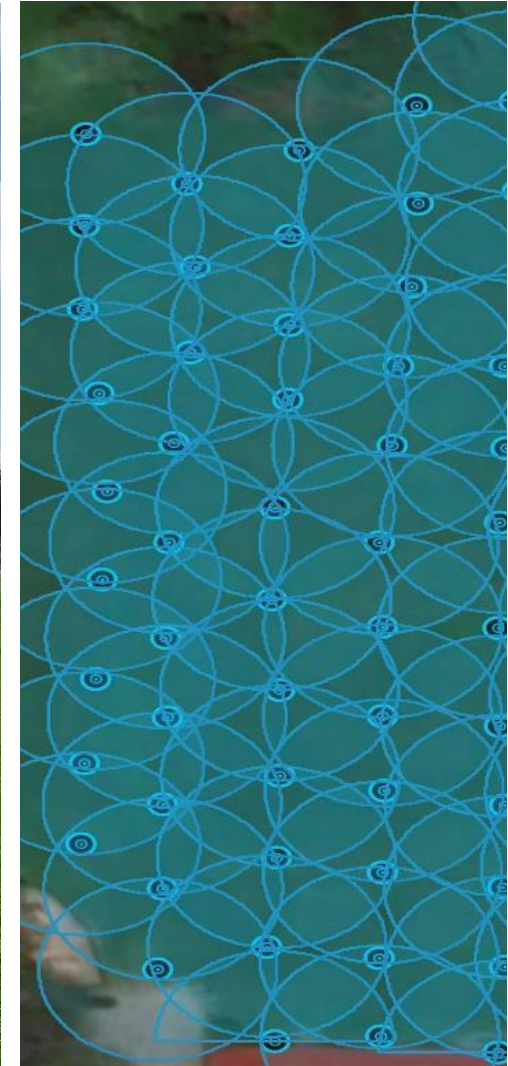
Hours are based on maintenance frequency

NEWTON HIGHLANDS – USAGE?



BEST PRACTICE: IRRIGATION

- Know what you have?
- Evaluate the system
- **MAINTAIN IT**



REHABILITATION - FRAISE MOWING



REHABILITATION – SAND INJECTION



NEXT STEPS FOR NEWTON

- Measure current quality for key fields.
- Develop a field management program:
 - Usage Analysis
 - Efficient and effective scheduling
 - Budgets (Maintenance/Rehabilitation)
 - User fees need to be sufficient to support maintenance.
 - Identify capacity requirements



NEXT STEPS FOR NEWTON

- Develop **field specific maintenance** plans to improve and maintain quality
 - Rehabilitation requirements
 - Appropriate maintenance levels

Newton Girls Soccer						2020 Agronomic Planner			
2020 Weeks C and D									
1.00 Acres	43,560.00 sq.ft.	Spray Tank Capacity: 60 gal		Spray Coverage: 50,094.00 sq.ft.		Dilution Rate: 1.20 Gal/M		Number of Sprays: 0.87	
9/16/20	Cultural Practice Aerification			Disc Seed Two Directions (Coring/Busting Omitted due to irrigation pump issues)					
Product	Package		Total Case/Bag	Per Load	n/M	p/M	k/M	Purpose	
Core Buster			Acre					S.T.S Core Buster Drag Mat	
Core Aeration			Acre					S.T.S Core Aeration	
Green Space Grounds Mix	1 Lb	8.04	350.00 Lb					TWCA Seed Mix for High Performance on lightly irrigated, but highly trafficked areas	
Disc Seeding			2.00 Acre					S.T.S Disc Seeding	
10/16/20	Granular Application			Water in after application					
Product	Package	lb/M	Total Case/Bag	Per Load	n/M	p/M	k/M	Purpose	
Replenish 16-0-5 SG	50 Lb	6.25	5.45 Bag		1.00	0.00	0.31	Carbon/Mineral based fertilizer blended with synthetic Nitrogen. Feeds soil and turf grass.	
Granular Application (Bulk)			1.00 Acre					Greenhaven Turf Care Granular Application (Vicon)	
11/3/20	Renovation Compaction Relief/Reseed			Disc seed two directions					
Product	Package		Total Case/Bag	Per Load	n/M	p/M	k/M	Purpose	
Disc Seeding			2.00 Acre					S.T.S Disc Seeding	
Touchdown 100	1 Lb	3.44	150.00 Lb					Three way blend of performance kentucky bluegrass varieties	
11/11/20	Cultural Practice Deep Tining/Solid			VertiDrain Field (6" Depth) and Test Soils					
Product	Package		Total Case/Bag	Per Load	n/M	p/M	k/M	Purpose	
Logan Labs Core Soil Test			1.00 Each						
Logan Labs Core Soil Test			1.00 Each						
Deep Tine Aeration			1.00 Acre					S.T.S. Deep Tine Aeration With Verti-Drain	

NEXT STEPS FOR NEWTON

- Calculate a bottom-up budget based on desired quality



• Disc Seeding and Seed	<i>\$1750 per acre</i>
• Topdressing Sand and Application	<i>\$2600 per acre</i>
• Core Buster	<i>\$50 per acre</i>
• All Plant Nutrition and Application	<i>\$2910 per acre</i>
• Boom Spraying and Materials	<i>\$595 per acre</i>
• Materials and Services Totals	\$7905 per acre

ANY QUESTIONS?



Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Department

Athletic Fields Improvement Plan

Community Meeting # 1

Albemarle Park

October 20th, 2021

athleticfields@newtonma.gov

1

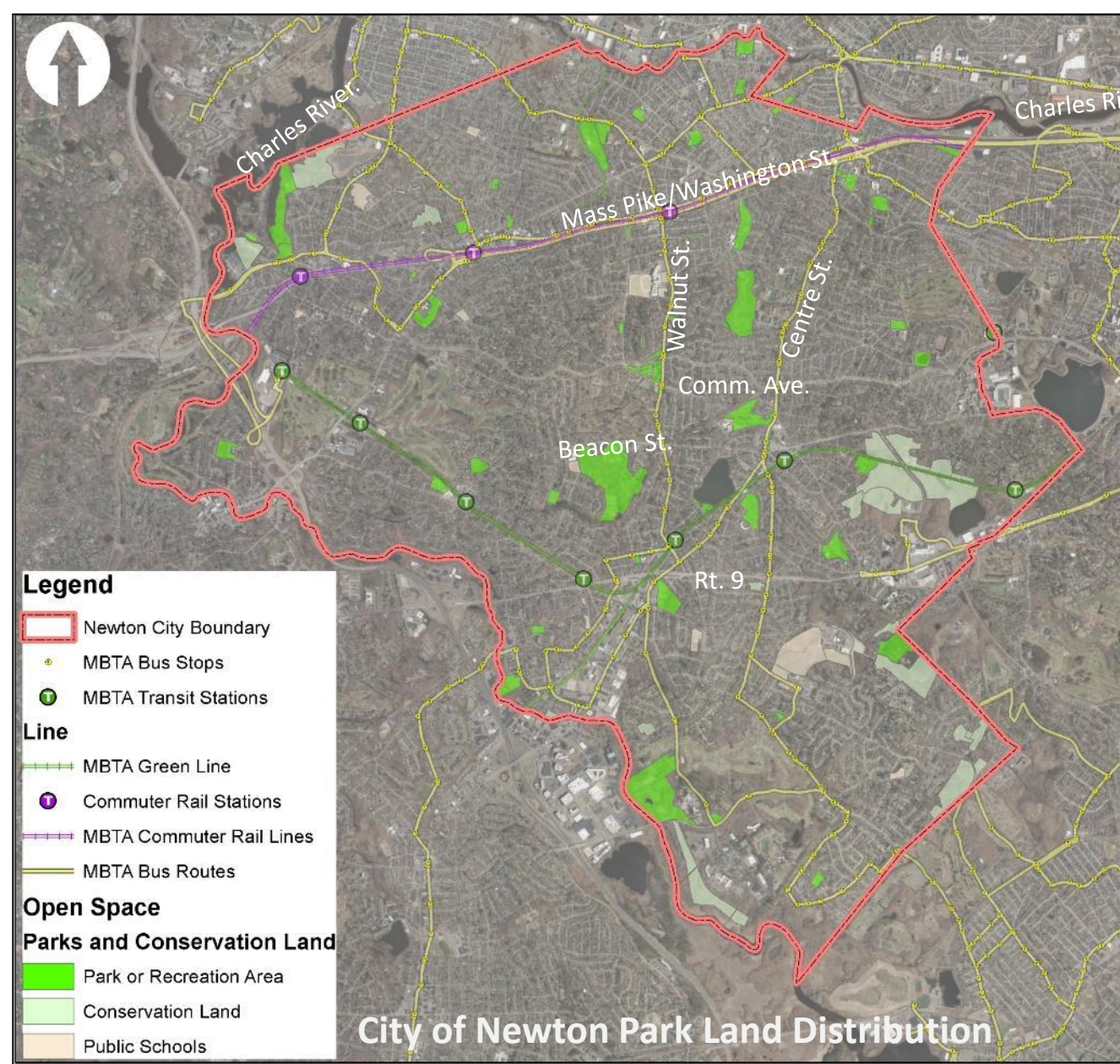
Athletic Fields Projects Overview

2

Albemarle Park Presentation

3

Albemarle Park Listening + Discussion



Parks, Recreation & Culture Overview:

#441-21

- 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

Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture Department

Athletic Fields Capital Improvement Plan

Why improve athletic fields?

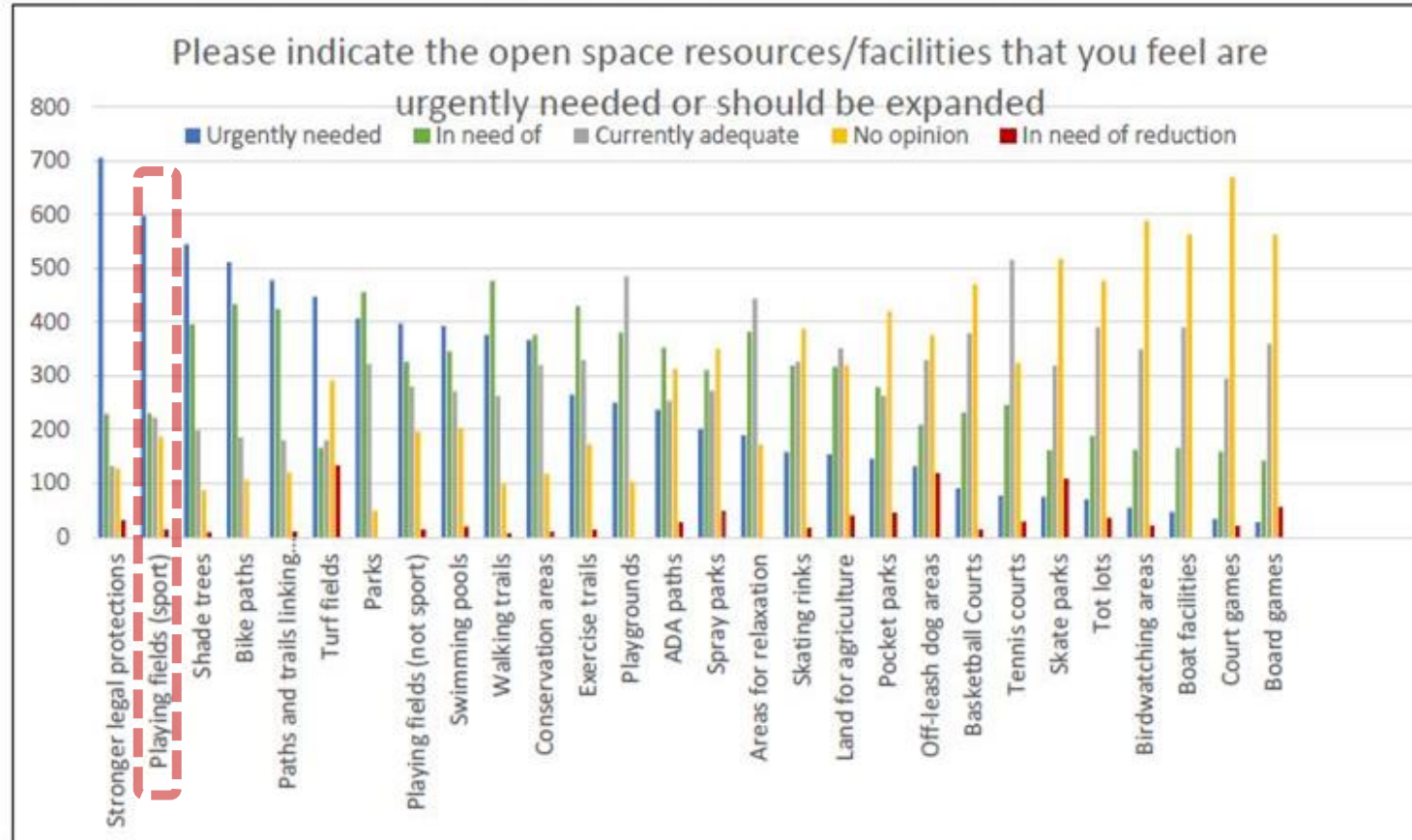




Current facilities experience little to no rest time and are overused

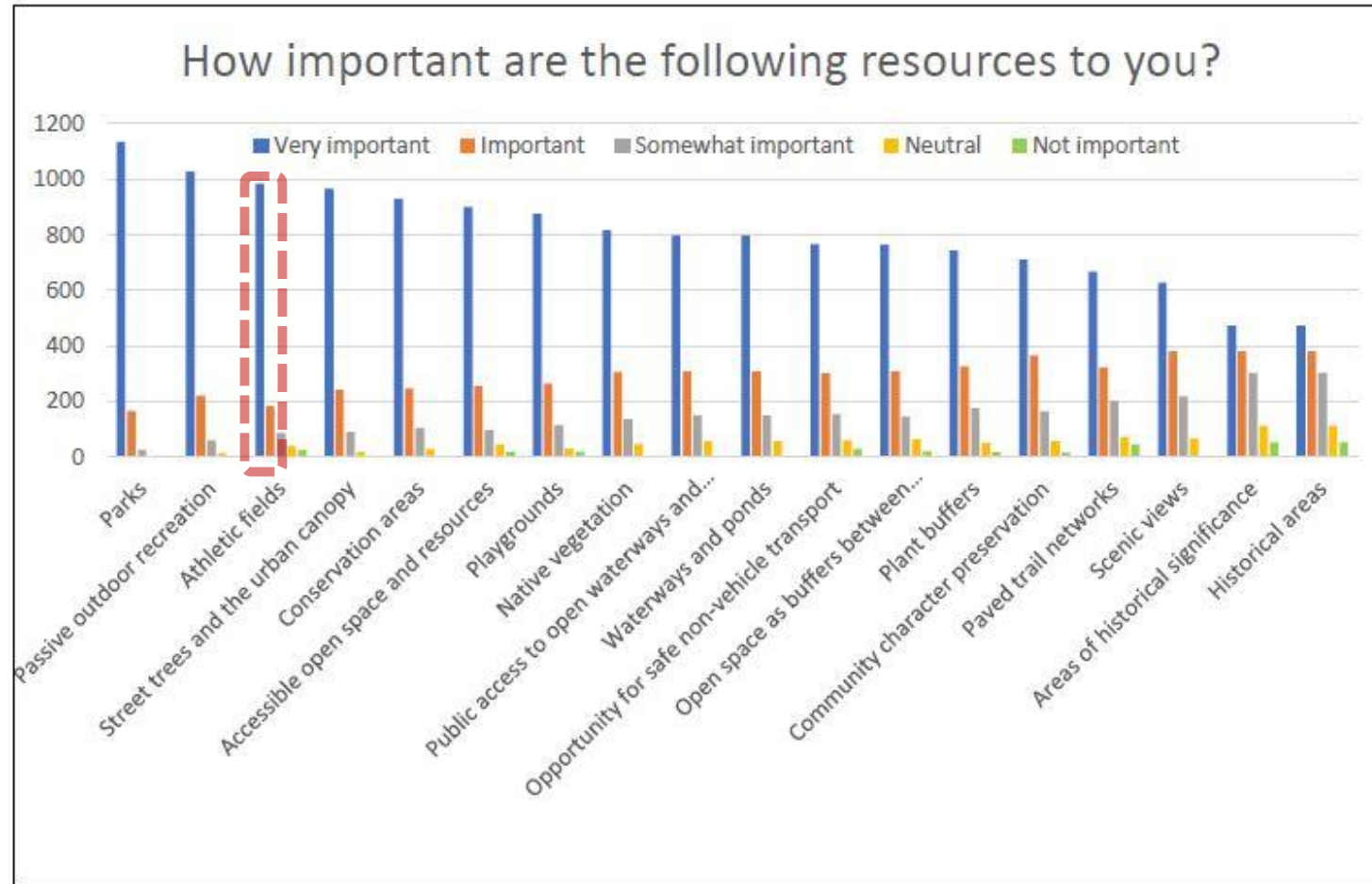
Community Survey (Open Space + Recreation Plan)

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)

How do we arrive at a viable project design?



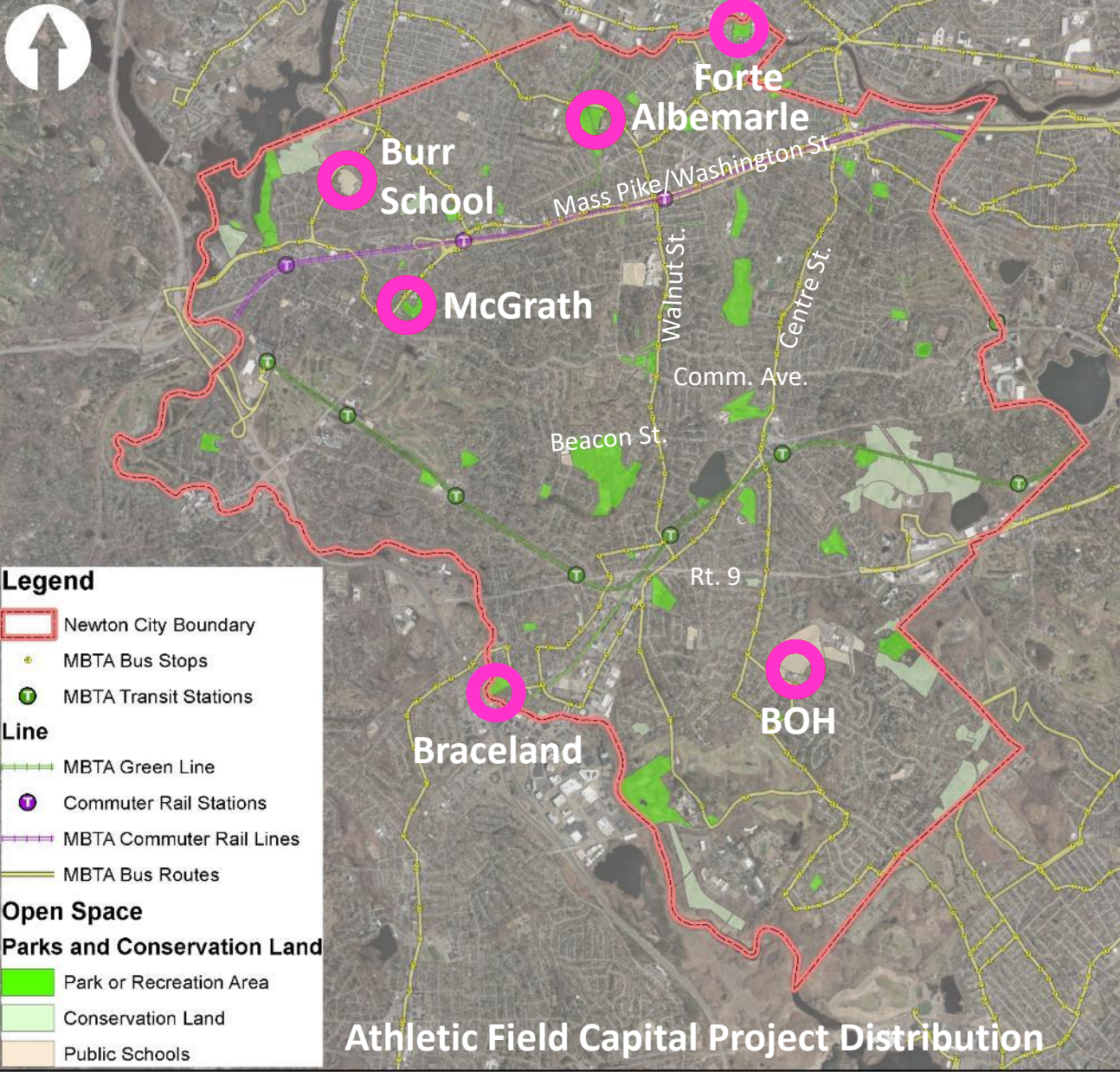


Phase 1 Capital Project Distribution:

#441-21

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

TOTAL: 6 Sites



Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
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

#441-21

- 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)				



Albemarle Park

#441-21

Jaika Technologies

Jomac Associates

Connaughton Properties

John M Barry Boys & Girls Club

Pretty Polly Productions

Linwood Park

F. A. Day Middle School

Yogurt Beach takeout

Newton Taxi

Albemarle Playground

Murphy Field

Avery Woods

Albemarle Field

Harry Gath Memorial Pool

Paul Burke Baseball Field

Fessenden St

Crafts St

North St

Albemarle Rd

Cheese Cake Brook

Albemarle Rd

Albemarle Rd

Cheese Cake Brook

Crafts St

Fessenden Ln

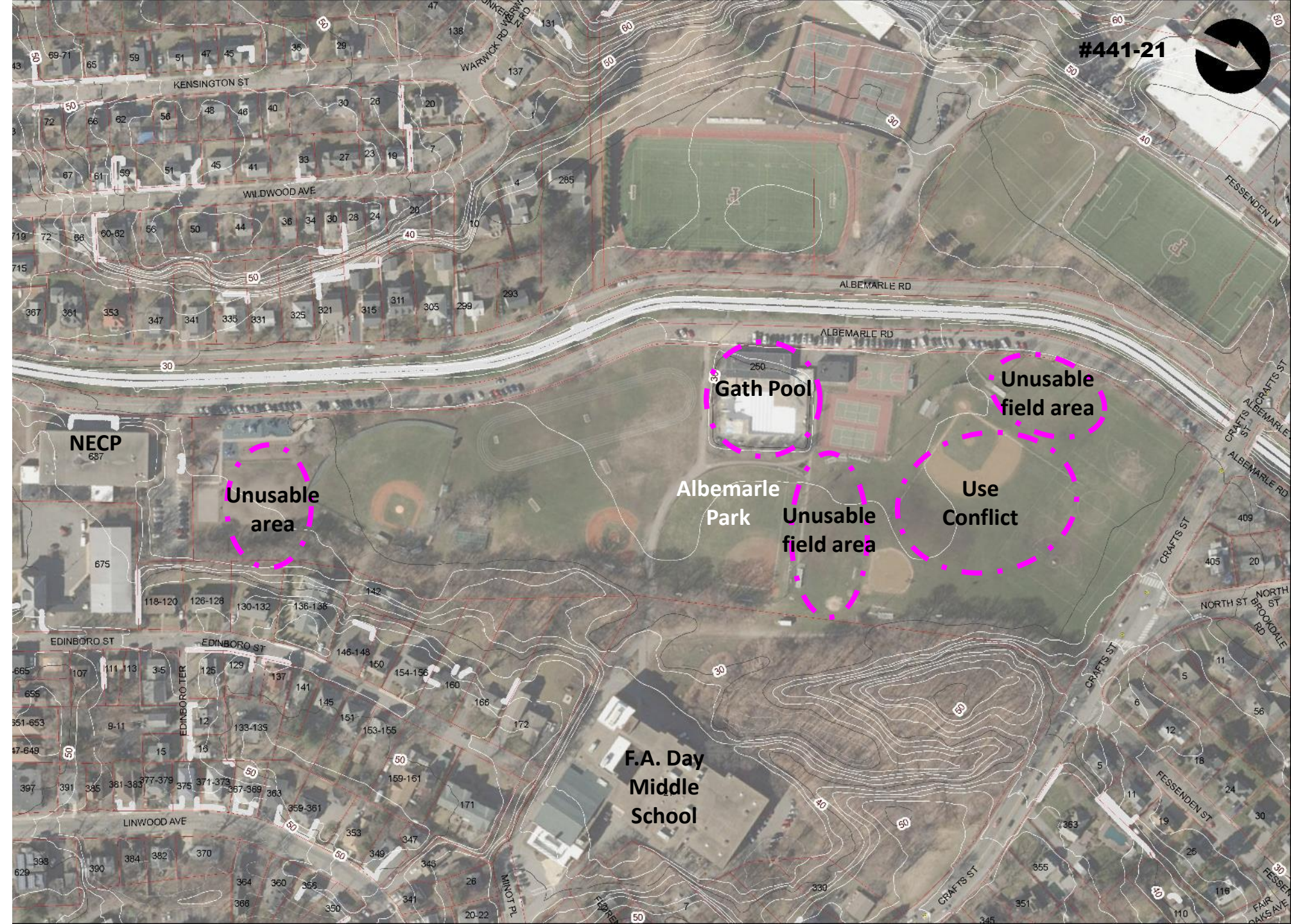
Russ Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex at Albemarle

24.9 ACRES

Ward: 2
**Village: Newtonville/
West Newton**

Existing Amenities

- playgrounds
- gazebo
- Gath pool
- community garden
- 2 little league fields
- 1 baseball field
- 1 t-ball field
- 2 softball fields
- 2 multipurpose fields
- middle school track
- 2 intermediate soccer fields
- basketball
- tennis
- field house
- irrigated
- lighted
- walking paths, Avery woods
- 4th of July Fireworks
- Snack shack/ticket booth
- 180 parking Spaces (10 ADA)



Albemarle Park Fields Key Athletic and Facility Stake Holder Data

#441-21

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
Albemarle Park 'Russell J. Halloran Sports and Recreation Complex'	F.A. Day Middle School students, playground users, passive users, tennis players, basketball players, general park users, pool users, safe route to school	Newton Little League; Newton LL Seniors; Senior Youth Baseball; Newton Girls Softball; Newton Youth Soccer; Newton Girls Soccer; BUDA Youth Frisbee; F.A. Day Middle School Athletics; Prime Baseball League; Babe Ruth Baseball Tryouts; Adult Cricket; Extra Innings Baseball Clinic	2905 hours	Newton Little League; Babe Ruth Baseball; Adult Cricket; Newton Girls Softball; Newton Community Ed - baseball; Boys and Girls Club; Extra Innings Baseball Clinic; Mustang Youth Football; American Legion Baseball; Prime Baseball; BUDA Youth Frisbee; Juventas Youth Soccer	1588 hours	Newton Little League; Newton LL Seniors; Adult Cricket; Newton Girls Softball; Mustang Youth Football; F.A. Day Middle School Athletics; Newton Youth Soccer; Newton Girls Soccer; Extra Innings Baseball Clinic; Lasell Baseball; NNHS Baseball captain's practice; BUDA Youth Frisbee; BUDA Adult Frisbee	2115.50 hours

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

Russ Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex at Albemarle

Improvement Ideas/Goals

- Developed multi-phased, multi-year improvement plans
- Some reconfigured amenities to increase multi purpose athletic field space
- Improved accessibility
- Replaced existing sports lighting at end-of-life
- Assessed park program and use needs, including:
 - Gath Pool footprint
 - school uses
 - cultural events
- Improved safe routes to schools
- Improved shade and tree canopy coverage where possible
- Improved athletic field amenities i.e dugouts, batting cages, scoreboards (with some private funding)
- Assessed feasibility of artificial turf

Approximate Construction Budget for PHASE 1: 3.2M



Albemarle
Park

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
- Coordinate with Pool Project Leadership Team
- Preliminary field design/ layout developed based on community input
- Share field project concepts with the 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