



Programs & Services Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Present: Councilors Krintzman (Chair), Noel, Albright, Greenberg, Humphrey, Wright, and Ryan

Absent: Councilor Baker

Also Present: Councilors Laredo, Malakie, Downs, Oliver, Markiewicz, Kalis, Norton, and Leary; Tamika Olszewski, Newton School Committee (Chair-Elect)

City Staff: Chris Sullivan, Assistant City Clerk for Vital Records; Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer; Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer, Carol Moore, City Clerk/Clerk of the Council; Carol Stapleton, Rec Program Manager; Liam Hurley, Assistant Superintendent; Nicole Banks, Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Culture; Nathan Giacalone, Committee Clerk

#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.

Action: Programs & Services Approved a resolution to the Mayor in support of eliminating school bus fees 5-0-1 (Councilor Albright abstaining; Councilor Krintzman not voting)

Notes: The Committee was joined for discussion on this item by Mr. Yeo, Ms. Lemieux, Mr. Hurley, and Tamika Olszewski, Chair-elect of the Newton School Committee.

Councilor Humphrey introduced the item as the lead docketer, saying that the budget discussions are too late to address the issue of school bus fees, so he said that this resolution was drafted to call for their elimination. He also felt that miscommunication in the budget cycle created unnecessary conflict as well. Councilor Humphrey noted that the resolution specifies that the lost bus revenue should not be made up by adversely impacting other areas of the NPS budget.

Mr. Hurley then spoke to the Committee, saying that there is a steering group which recently put out a transportation survey to NPS families which will be closed in late December. This was the survey mentioned at a prior meeting and Mr. Hurley acknowledged that it is being sent out later than anticipated. Reviewing the school bus fees, he said that the fee is \$350 for students (about in the middle of what comparable communities charge), with no fee charged to those in grades

K-6, and that they generate about \$600,000 per year. Those seeking financial assistance are not turned away either. For the upcoming contract, Mr. Hurley said that there are significant increases due to COVID as Eastern Bus is working through a shortage of drivers and supply. Mr. Hurley said that one concern of eliminating all school bus fees was that it remains to be answered how much ridership would increase by and how the NPS would accommodate that.

Regarding electric school busses, Mr. Hurley said that this is being examined but it will take more time. One reason is that it would require greater changes to the infrastructure.

Chair-elect Olszewski said that the conversation over making the fee structure more equitable has been ongoing for a long time. Adding onto Mr. Hurley's statement about increased ridership, she said that this would not be a problem, but rather just a variable which has yet to be solved. Currently, NPS cannot guarantee that it could meet this need. Addressing the school busses will be a multifaceted solution that will take time.

Discussion:

Councilors said that this is something that should not be compromised on and that it is a policy decision that bus fees are not an appropriate source of revenue. Additionally, they said that the budget reflects values and that if there are those who would otherwise take the bus to school if there were no fees, then the Council should find the money to meet this need. Before fees were implemented, the School Department was able to run the program, so if the City can provide a free education then it should also provide a free means of transportation. Other Councilors said that school busses should be moved out of the school system as transportation is a city-wide problem that requires a city-wide solution. They said that Boston is exploring fare-free busses and that the historic context of bus fees does not legitimize them today.

Other Councilors said that by practice, the Council has not told the School Committee how to spend its money and should not do so now. They said that in a similar issue, a world languages program was started in the younger grades but stopped when an override was defeated and there was not enough funding to continue it.

Responding to the point about moving busses out of the school system, Ms. Lemieux said that this would have to be taken out of the school budget and the City would have to come up with the difference since no matter what, the bus vendor must get paid. Mr. Yeo added that in Massachusetts the school system is required to run the bus system.

Why is there a 20% cost increase with the new contract?

This increase is standard across the board currently. It is mainly due to COVID-related issues and rising gas prices. There are other budget pressures from the contract as well.

Some Councilors expressed disappointment that the transportation survey was not ready for this meeting. Additionally, they said that if the administration does not think eliminating bus fees is a good idea it should say so clearly.

Councilors were presented with the draft resolution language (attached) and made no changes.

Councilor Noel made a motion to approve the resolution which carried 5-0-1 (Councilor Albright abstaining; Councilor Krintzman not voting)

#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.

Action: Programs & Services voted No Action Necessary 7-0

Notes: The Committee was joined for discussion on this item by Ms. Moore and Mr. Sullivan.

Ms. Moore began the discussion by delivering the attached presentation. She said that her goal was to provide greater clarity and understanding of the issues which were identified during the 2021 municipal election. This review would cover the UOCAVA (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) timeline, Election Day stewardship, Election Results presentation, and other priorities in the workplan.

UOCAVA ballots: Ms. Moore said UOCAVA is legislation which allows citizens to register and vote for Federal elections. Most states have passed their own laws allowing citizens using UOCAVA to vote in state and local elections as well. The issue identified was a short turnaround time for these ballots to be sent out and returned. While there was a high UOCAVA turnout for the March special election, typically the return rate is closer to 20%. The Clerk's Office is also unable to confirm that all ballots were received on time. Ms. Moore said that she wanted to use stronger messaging to get out the details and to overhaul the Elections webpage to provide more information. There would also be more attention brought to the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB). There is also the need to time the timeframe and turnaround time for elections into account.

Stewardship: Ms. Moore said that poll workers are instructed to remove prohibited materials found at polling locations, such as campaign-related flyers. While these workers receive training, the compensation is lower than surrounding communities. Going forward outreach for poll worker recruitment will be improved.

Presentation: Some incomplete results were shown after the election due to a clerical error of not selecting the right printing option. This error was addressed soon after it was discovered. There will be improvements to job instruction, but there are limits to formatting with the current spreadsheet style.

Ms. Moore thanked all the staff involved with the elections. Councilors thanked Ms. Moore for her presentation

Discussion:

Why is information entered manually and not automatically?

This is because of the hand ballots-ballots not read by the machine, which is a common occurrence. There is a separate box in the voting machine for these and they are hand counted afterwards. Though the exact number of hand ballots vary in each election, higher turnout means more of them.

Why were fewer ballots sent out than requested?

Many people have duplicate ballots from requesting absentee or early and the Clerk's Office must determine which to send. Residents also change their mind on this as well.

A resident reported a large pile of unaccepted ballots not received by November 2, is there an explanation for this?

There was no large pile of ballots in the Clerk's Office.

What is typical for ballots to be sent back?

Early voting sets off much of the mail-in voting. Hardly any were received after November 2.

In a regular election, candidates often have poll-watchers checking off who has voted. Can somebody get a record of who has voted by mail?

Yes, this information is public through a public records request. Voter extracts take about 24 hours to run.

Can you explain the reported issues with printing the results on election night?

The machines run on ribbon ink and are tested, and poll workers are instructed to report issues as soon as they see them. The Clerk's Office is currently working to purchase new voting machines.

There were mail-in voters who were not overseas, such as college students or those on vacation, who said that they did not receive their ballot on time to send it back, or not until after the election in some cases. Can we get a list of people who requested ballots outside of Newton but who did not return them?

Yes, but this request could take some time to fill as we would have to go through the extracts to find the addresses outside of Newton.

Washington is an all-mail-in state, have you been able to evaluate what we are doing compared to them?

Yes, in Washington ballot boxes were at other locations in the city and this would be great to do in Newton is state law allows for it.

Were their typos on the ballot proofs in October?

Yes, there were some minor spelling errors and the vendor was promptly contacted to have them reprinted. Proofs are checked before each election and this is not the first-time errors were discovered. Without this delay it is likely the ballots could have been sent out sooner.

How has the Clerk's Office addressed confusion over changed voting locations?

Signage is put up at the old locations with QR codes to direct to the correct locations. Mailings and robocalls are also used. We can explore options for those without smartphones.

Does the state publish a best-practices guide?

We get memos on a regular basis on things that change and there is a virtual drive for the more static components. New things are sent by email and distributed to staff. We did the best we could to follow these guidelines in light of staffing issues.

Why does the chart indicate that no ballots came in late?

Only UOCAVAs can be counted late after election day. Others that are received are clocked in and stored but not counted in the total.

Who checks the printouts created to validate the counts?

We would love to have this spreadsheet, but it comes straight from the machine and the hand-ballots still need to be added in.

Can you give more detail on the poll wardens?

They are supervisors: poll workers with greater responsibilities. They make sure that no prohibited materials are present as well as that campaigners abide by the 150-foot rule.

Are wardens from the neighborhood of their assigned polling location?

Not as a rule, typically it is determined by availability.

A Ward 3 voter in Cambodia had said that she had not received a ballot by October 25th and after contacting the Clerk's Office was told that it would be sent via snail mail. The Massachusetts Secretary of State's Office said that the FWAB would be valid. Is this correct?

Yes, this is something that would be added in the update to the Elections Page. It can be downloaded. Since the FWAB is blank they would have to use a sample ballot available online to fill it in. Then it can be mailed in.

What are the intervals between initiating the proof and final printing?

For this election it was too long, almost a week and a half.

Can you describe the relationship with the vendor more?

The Clerk's Office has worked with the current vendor for the past few elections and it has worked well overall. There are more limited options for ballot printers than there used to be. Typically, there is about a week and a half between initiating the final proof and sending out the ballots.

How does the physical process of the spreadsheet totals work?

Mr. Sullivan said these totals are entered and then doublechecked, but the office was short-staffed at the time. While only one person should enter, ideally there are multiple people checking these totals over.

When was the final vote tabulated? 10 days after the election for international ballots seems

like a short time-frame if a candidate has to decide on requesting a recount at this early stage.
Mr. Sullivan restated that this is the timeline prescribed by law.

Is it possible to use mail-in voting for Area Council elections?

Their election must be handled in person since it is only by choice that they have integrated with City elections and not as official practice.

Can the Clerk's Office talk about complaints received about campaigns directing people to the wrong polling location?

The Clerk's Office heard nothing about this. Additionally, Margi Butler of the Elections Commission said that they had not heard of this either. Ms. Butler said that after each election, the Elections Commission reviews all complaints received.

A candidate does not always know on election night if they want to seek a recount or not, so it should be respected that many reasons may motivate this choice. It would be beneficial for the Clerk's Office to clarify state law on recounts.

The language for voting for at-large City Council says, "vote for two," but since the voter has a choice would it be better to say "vote for up to two?"

Councilors said that elections items should be docketed with Programs & Services sooner than has recently been the case to allow more time for the process.

Councilor Humphrey made a motion to vote No Action Necessary which carried 7-0.

#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.

Action: Programs & Services voted No Action Necessary 7-0

Notes: The Committee was joined for discussion on this item by Ms. Banks and Mr. Yeo.

Ms. Banks delivered the attached presentation on the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department's (PRC) progress on rehabilitating Newton's athletic fields. She reviewed the goals for this initiative and the prioritization of the projects. A guiding principle was to determine which projects would make the greatest benefit to the City as well as sequencing. Some of the ongoing major projects include pathways and the Gath Pool. Spatial criteria are considered as well to determine the best way to improve both quality and quantity of field space. Ms. Banks said that expanding evening play and use through new lighting would be a major component of this plan. Other main focus areas for improvement include turf management and expanding the project management team, which now has a new space architect.

Ms. Banks said that the capital improvement plan will include community listening sessions as well. Regarding the lighting upgrades, she said that two turf fields need lights and other general refurbishment, as well as other lighting retrofits. This is made even more necessary by the later school schedule which puts a crunch on evening light. Portable lights are currently in use at Newton North, but these have many problems, such as a continuing rental cost and excessive noise and light pollution. Permanent systems (using Musco lights to minimize light spillage) could provide thousands of hours of additional playtime. She said that the high school fields will be key to meeting athletic field goals as they have synthetic turf, ample parking, and athletic trainers on site. Ms. Banks also referenced the petition by Newton Athletic Fields foundation which helped lead to a resolution and to start the initiative on this project.

Ms. Banks said that other ongoing funding conversations cover irrigation and a proposed field ranger program. The fee schedule has also been examined over the past year. Certain fees have been increased to be comparable with market rate. She then reviewed a proposed fee structure with updated hourly and participant fees. The expanded budget will also cover additional programming. She concluded by saying that there will be operational changes within PRC to come at no additional cost.

Councilors thanked Ms. Banks for the presentation and her readiness to present at tonight's meeting.

Discussion:

Councilors said that it was good to see significant progress made on this initiative in the last year along with ongoing conversations with the youth leagues. It was added that the PRC plan still has some important work left to do, such as providing more specific costs and a timeline to the Council. If a 20-year timeline is the case as has been suggested, then the Council should know so it can be part of the solution. They requested to be informed more about potential policy shifts, such as with the fee structure, and what it will cost simply to maintain the fields in good condition. This is the goal around which the fees should be structured. It was said that the park rangers will be necessary to enforce the fees as well.

Other questions and answers followed:

While there are many projects in the queue, there are critical pieces missing from the PRC plan currently regarding the quality and capacity of the fields. The specific targets to meet these goals must be better defined. It also needs to be more specifically defined what PRC needs for this initiative. For example, if the budget is for \$700 thousand and \$900 thousand is needed, The Council needs to know so it can determine how to meet the Newton specific challenges and close this gap. The plan should be shown even if not fully complete yet.

Ms. Banks responded that PRC is at a point with a strategic plan for the next five years and is helped with resources such as the Open Space & Recreation Plan, the CIP, and the Fields Committee meetings. There is no shortage of projects and there is a push to move them forward.

Will this plan really take up to 20 years as has been suggested?

There are currently many initiatives, but PRC is concentrating on the next five years before

looking 10 years out. The Fields Committee will continue to meet and have these discussions.

What is the status of lights at Newton North and why do parents need to fundraise? When we have received millions in COVID funds parents shouldn't be asked to fundraise.

The School Department is taking the lead for now as a fundraising group is at work.

Some residents in the area of Newton North have complained about the solar panel project as well as the baseball field location. What is being done to listen to these concerns?

PRC is following the process to get a layout specific for the field and some work has commenced already. This is the same process for stadium field. Community input has started for the Brandeis field but not North lighting yet.

Is the participant fee in addition to what leagues provide?

PRC is hosting a meeting next week for discussion on this. Multiple sport groups support fields they consider premier use. The proposal will start with a low fee to allow groups to budget for this. Certain practices will be unwound as the fee structure moves up to a target of \$25 per person.

Something should be done about the bright rental lights at North sooner rather than later.

Yes, these are quite bright, and the City is working with the schools and other fundraisers to move this project along as quickly as possible. \$20 thousand has already been authorized for design work. Time is needed to work with the other sports groups on the other upkeep questions.

Is there a major project to complete in a year or less?

There should be representatives from one or two of the youth sports leagues on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

There are already various league representatives on the Commission.

Looking at the presentation, we seem way over the hours for best practices. Have we considered disallowing use by non-Newton groups?

Our more premier fields are certainly being overused but we need to find a balance point. The field scheduler hard at work on this. Our current field schedule allows for rentals from external groups. Some of these such as a boot camp program are low-intensity. Fee tiers are also about how fields are prioritized.

Is an actual schedule for this initiative available yet?

There is no set date for releasing a document like this. PRC is in the final stages of bringing in a consultant to do the design work on these fields. As we move forward with that we will have a better idea.

Were the ADA compliance schedules in place?

Yes, they are reviewed and updated each year. We look to other playground improvements as well.

Who organized the fundraising for the stadium lights?

A boosters group started this one while the PTO organized the fundraiser at North. The School Department has also been involved. We also need to balance with needs of athletic groups and outside groups.

Has PRC considered private money like at South and North for Brandeis?

We are not looking at this right now.

Newton leagues should always take precedent and outsiders should pay more.

This is already the current system.

Is there a cost estimate for what it would take to maintain these fields at a high level across the city?

With some target numbers we have looked at in the requested budget increase, the standard cost for an average municipal field is about \$3000 per acre.

If the City cannot get the targeted funding, we need to decide how to close the funding gap that cannot be done through fees or CPA. Down the road an override may even be necessary to cover these costs, along with possibly cutting other expenses.

We have set targets and want to look at city as a whole. One other large ongoing project is the effort to rehabilitate the diminished stock of street trees in Newton.

The Chair suggested that if Councilors wanted to continue receiving updates on the fields, an item could be docketed in the new term for this.

Councilor Albright made a motion to vote No Action Necessary which carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44pm.

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.

ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION

FACT SHARING PRESENTATION BY THE CITY CLERK

PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE DECEMBER 8, 2021

PURPOSE OF THE DISCUSSION

Identification of issues and errors made during the last local election

Transparent discussion on approaches for process improvements

IDENTIFIED ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

- UOCAVA (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) Voting Timeline
- Election Day Stewardship
- Election Results Presentation
- Other Priorities in Workplan
- Questions

UOCAVA BALLOTS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act was enacted by Congress in 1986. UOCAVA requires that the states allow certain groups of citizens to register and vote absentee in elections for Federal offices. In addition, most states and territories have their own laws allowing citizens covered by UOCAVA to register and vote absentee in state and local elections as well.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FEDERAL/STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

- Federal and State Elections - UOCAVA
 - Allow for ballots to be emailed to applicants
 - Must be sent out 45 days from election day
- Local Elections - UOCAVA
 - Does not allow for emailed ballots
 - Ballots typically sent out ~25 days before election

UOCAVA BALLOTS

ISSUE

- Not enough turn-around time for international ballots for local elections (~21 days)

UOCAVA BALLOTS- ABSENTEE BALLOT DATA

	Absentee Mailed Out (T, P, S/UOC)	Absentee Mailed Out (S/UOC) ONLY	Absentee Ballot (T, P, S/UOC) Returned	Absentee Ballot (S/UOC) ONLY	UOC Ballot Turnout	Total Voter Turnout
March 16, 2021	23	23	14	14	60%	24%
Ward 1	3	3	1	1		
Ward 2	4	4	3	3		
Ward 3	1	1	0	0		
Ward 4	8	8	5	5		
Ward 5	1	1	4	4		
Ward 6	4	4	2	2		
Ward 7	2	2	0	0		
Ward 8	0	0	0	0		
September 14, 2021	377	24	292	5	20%	17%
Ward 1	31	4	23	3		
Ward 2	62	3	44	0		
Ward 3	45	3	34	0		
Ward 4	53	7	43	1		
Ward 5	57	1	50	0		
Ward 6	48	3	38	0		
Ward 7	44	3	30	1		
Ward 8	37	0	30	0		
November 2, 2021	120	36	93	7	20%	32%
Ward 1	8	4	5	0		
Ward 2	16	6	12	0		
Ward 3	9	7	7	4		
Ward 4	20	10	17	3		
Ward 5	21	1	17	0		
Ward 6	21	4	16	0		
Ward 7	12	4	9	0		
Ward 8	13	0	10	0		

UOCAVA BALLOTS - IMPROVEMENTS

PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

- Stronger Messaging – Utilize media outlets & City website
 - FWAB (Federal Write In Absentee Ballot)
- Proposed preliminary election dates
- Tightening our Timeline in administration:
 - 9/14/2021 – Preliminary Elections
 - 9/20/2021 – Elections Commissioners draw ballot positions
 - 9/23/2021 – Instructions, proofs sent to printing vendor
 - 10/8/2021 – final proof approved for printing
 - 10/14/2021 – Ballots received
 - 10/15/2021 – Scanning and Mailing begin

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Guarantee Absentee ballots sent out 25 days before a local election day
- More informed voters

ELECTION DAY STEWARDSHIP

ISSUES

- Training
 - Prohibited flyer left at booth
- Low poll worker recruiting

ELECTION DAY STEWARDSHIP – CURRENT PROCESSES

Poll worker attendance

Election Year	Total requests made (emails)	Confirmed responses	Number worked	Last minute hiring
November 2021	382	195	182	20
November 2020	259	246	224	50
November 2019	268	205	258	60
November 2018	322	246	304	58

Poll worker incentives

Poll worker training

- In person – mandatory, paid
 - Wardens, Clerks
 - Inspector (Poll worker)
- Written Instructions

Municipality	Position	Full Day (6am – 9pm) payment	Training payment
Newton	Inspector	\$160.00	\$15.00
Needham	Inspector	\$170.00	
Brookline	Inspector	\$175.00	\$25.00
Watertown	Inspector	\$175.00	
Waltham	Inspector	\$185.00	\$8.00

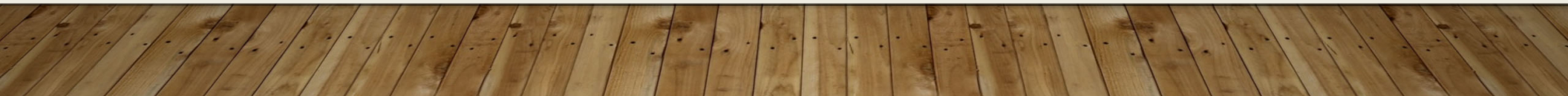
ELECTION DAY STEWARDSHIP - IMPROVEMENTS

PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

- Training and information
 - Redesign Elections webpage
 - More information on elections work
 - On – demand video refresher
 - Review written instructions for new updates
- Poll worker recruitment, compensation, and incentives
 - Expand outreach when advertising
 - Increase compensation – on par with neighboring communities
 - Renew meeting with Wardens

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- More information for Poll workers
- Flexible methods of training
- Greater retention of poll workers



ELECTION RESULTS PRESENTATION

ISSUES

- Excel spreadsheet printing error
- Transcriptional errors
 - Hand ballots (~2 % of the total)
 - Broken excel formulas

ELECTION RESULTS PRESENTATION - IMPROVEMENTS

PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS

- Workflow check list - Accountability
- Manual Update
- Freezing excel sheet to prevent human error
- Spreadsheet format- grids, color blocking

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Reduce human error
- Transfer of knowledge within department
- More information for our webpage
- Clearer presentation of results

ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION WORKPLAN - CITY CLERK OFFICE

- Prioritizing staffing and training
- Meet with Elections Commissioners
- New poll worker database
- Election webpage refresh
- IT collaboration
- New voting machines & software



Questions?

Thank you.

AGENDA

- 1 MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR YOUTH AND SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS
- 2 LIGHTING SYSTEMS
- 3 DISCUSSION OF BUDGET, MAINTENANCE, FIELD FEES

APPROACH TO FIELD IMPROVEMENTS



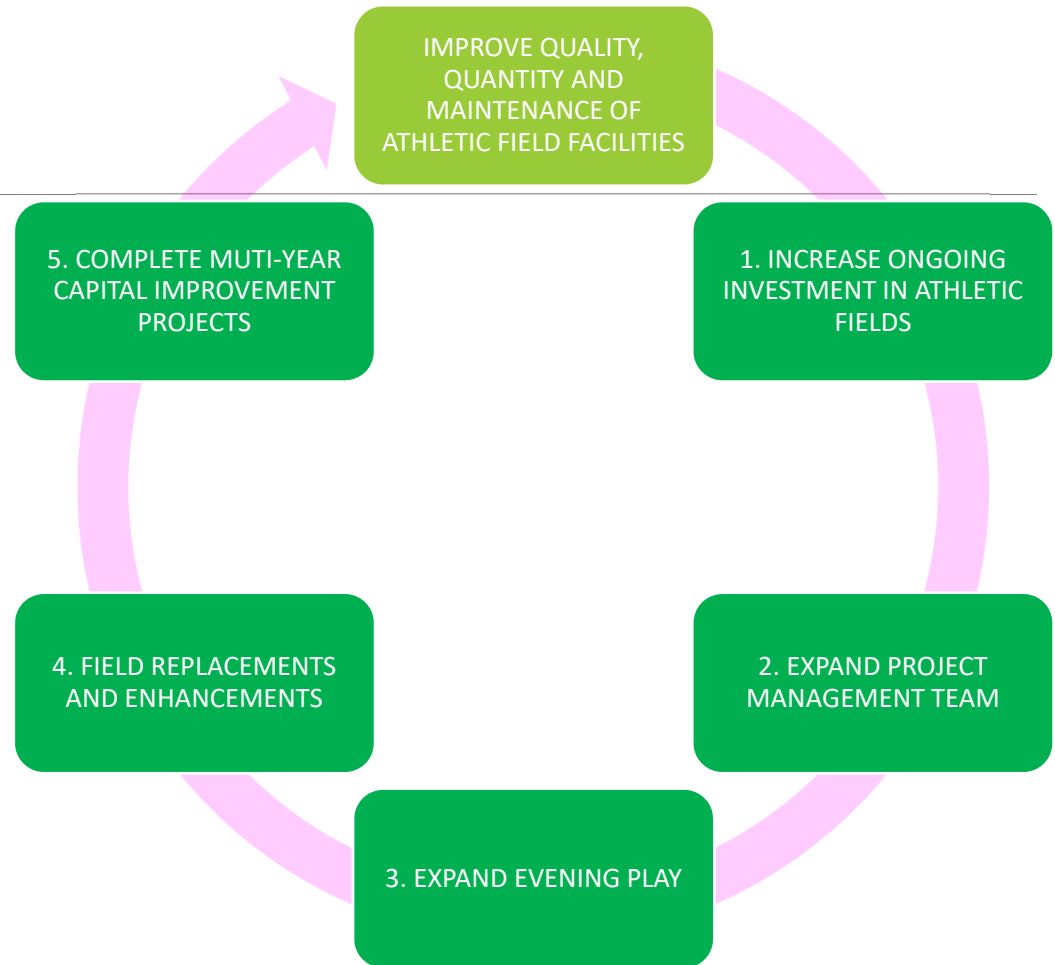
FIELD + PARK IMPROVEMENT GOALS

- IMPROVE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF USABLE MULTIUSE FIELD SPACE
 - *INCREASE EVENING PLAY OPPORTUNITIES*
 - *REPLACE END-OF-LIFE SPORTS LIGHTING*
 - *IMPROVE QUALITY OF ATHLETIC FIELD SURFACES*
 - *INCREASE AVAILABLE REGULATION-SIZE ATHLETIC FIELDS ON PARK AND SCHOOL LANDS*
- IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY IN PARK AND FIELD AMENITIES
- ESTABLISH BETTER PARK CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT FOR IMPROVED OPERATION & MAINTENANCE POST-CONSTRUCTION
- INVEST EQUITABLY IN NEWTON'S ATHLETIC FIELDS + PARKS ACROSS THE CITY
- SMART AND SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY FOR BETTER RESOURCE MANGEMENT
 - *SMART IRRIGATION*
 - *SMART LIGHTING*
 - *SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS*
 - *CONSISTANT SITE AMENITY SPECS (BACK STOPS, NETTING INFIELDS, BENCHES ETC.)*

PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

- POTENTIAL FOR GREATEST CITY-WIDE BENEFIT
- PROJECT SEQUENCING: PRIORITIZE MEANS TO EXPAND PLAY POTENTIAL (NEW FIELDS, LIGHT PROJECTS)
- EXPANDING EVENING PLAY (LIGHT IMPROVEMENTS/ ADDITIONS)
- USE AND CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT DATA
- SPATIAL CRITERIA FOR REGULATION MULTIUSE FIELDS (REDUCE FIELD OVERLAP)
- INTEGRATED WITH OTHER PROJECTS IN A PARK AREA (E.G., PATH AT MCGRATH, GATH POOL PROJECT, FEE ANALYSIS AND INCREASE, STAKEHOLDER FUNDRAISERS ETC.)

How will we
accomplish our
plan?




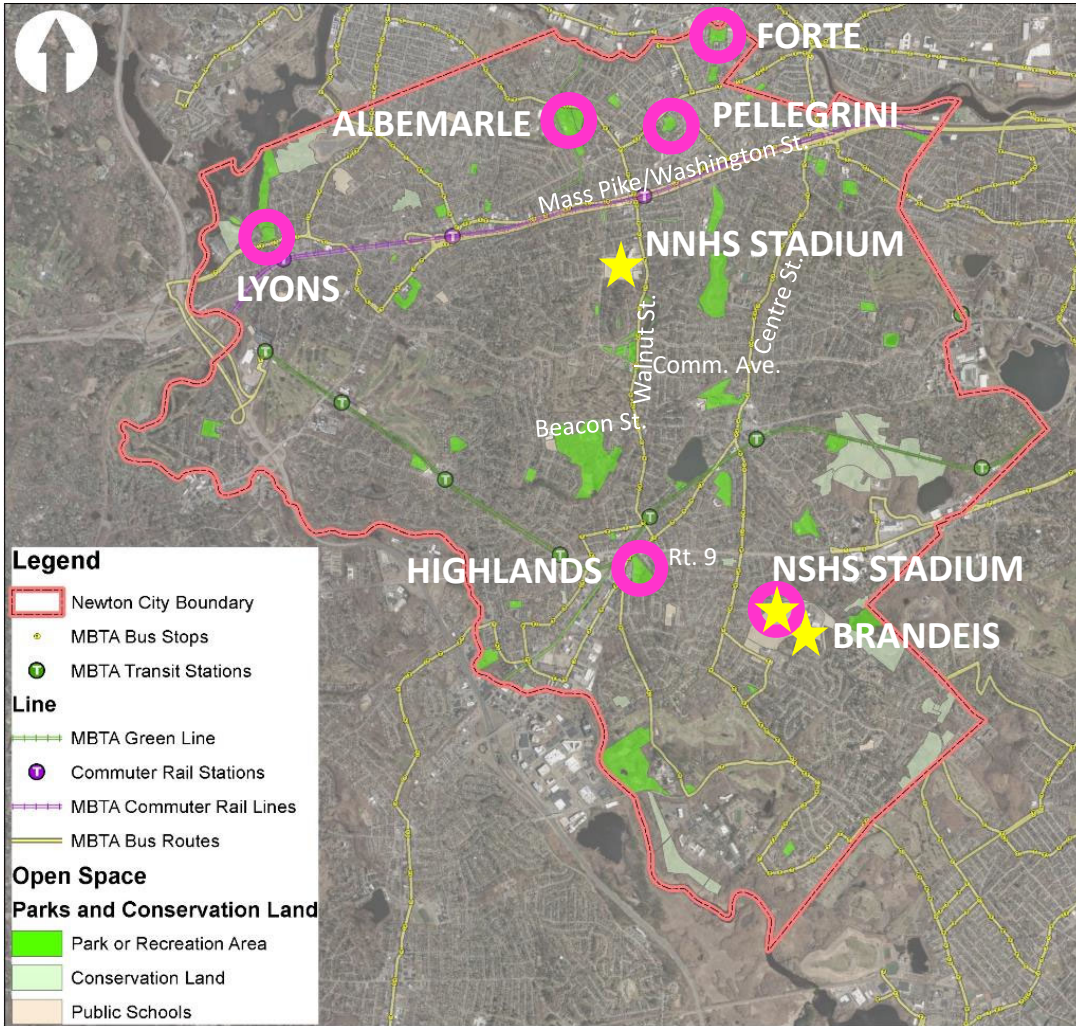
1. INCREASE ONGOING INVESTMENT

- **DO MORE TURF MANAGEMENT WORK ON PREMIERE FIELDS**
- **INCREASE # OF SITES GETTING TURF TREATMENTS**

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)				

2. EXPAND PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

- **CREATE A NEW DIVISION DEDICATED TO PARKS + OPEN SPACE PROJECTS**
 - *HIRED ADDITIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT*
 - **INVOLVE IN-HOUSE MAINTENANCE AND TURF SPECIALIST IN PROJECT REVIEW PROCESS**
 - **INCREASE OVERALL STAFF TIME CONTRIBUTION TO PROVIDE GREATER PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT**
 - **HIRE DESIGN/ENGINEERING FIRM TO ASSIST WITH PROJECTS**
- 



3. EXPAND EVENING PLAY



- Albemarle Park
 - 4 lighted Fields
- Forte Park
 - 2 Lighted Fields
 - 1 Lighted Basketball Court
- Pellegrini Park
 - 2 Lighted Fields
- Lyons Park Field
 - 1 Lighted Field
- Newton Highlands Playground Fields
 - 2 Lighted Fields
- Newton South HS Stadium Track and Field
 - 1 Lighted Track + Field

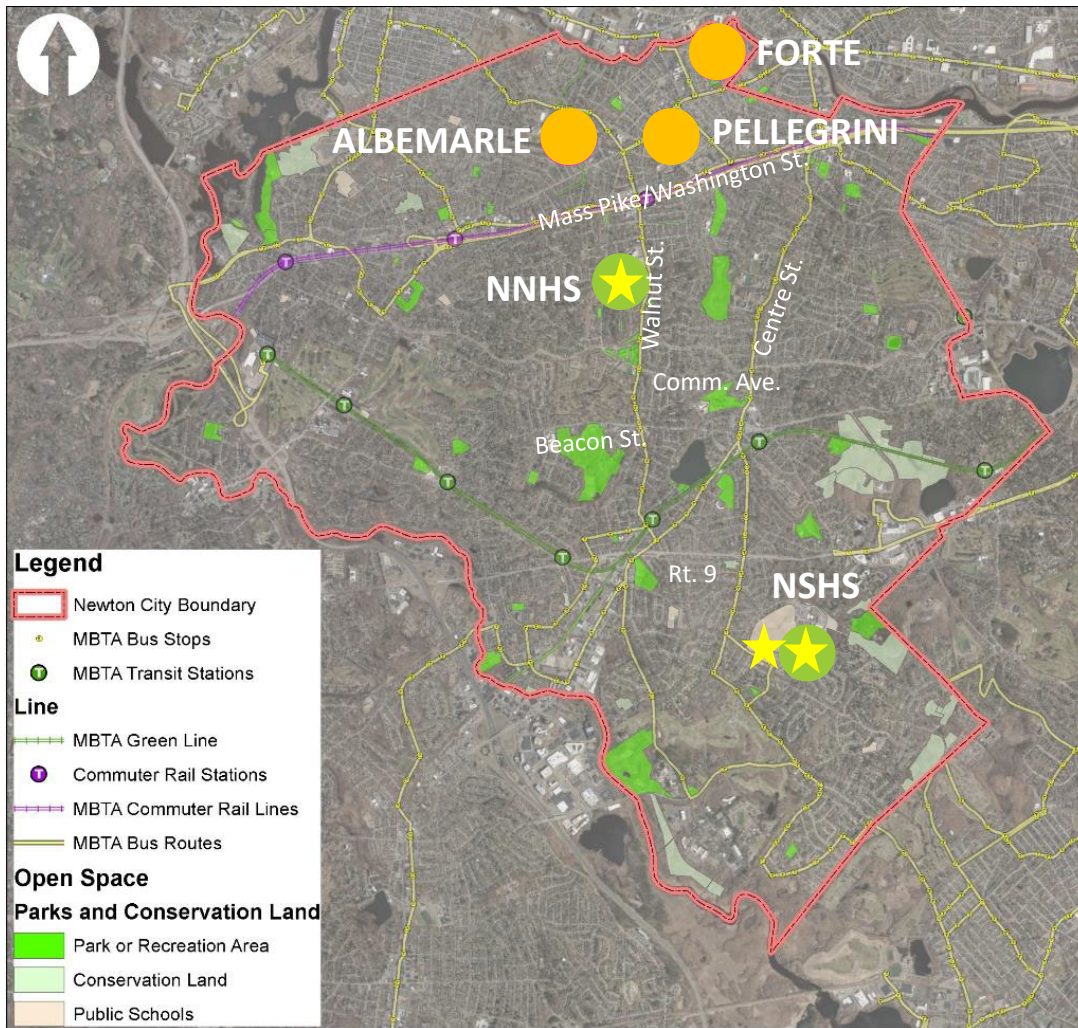
TOTAL: 12 Fields

Existing Synthetic Turf Fields:



- Newton South HS Stadium Field
- Newton South HS Brandeis Rd Field
- Newton North HS Stadium Field

TOTAL: 3 Fields



Existing Synthetic Turf Fields:

- Newton South HS Stadium Field
- Newton South HS Brandeis Rd Field
- Newton North HS Stadium Field

TOTAL: 3 Fields

Near-term Evening play expansion opportunities:

- Newton South HS Brandeis Rd Field
- Newton North HS Tiger Stadium Field

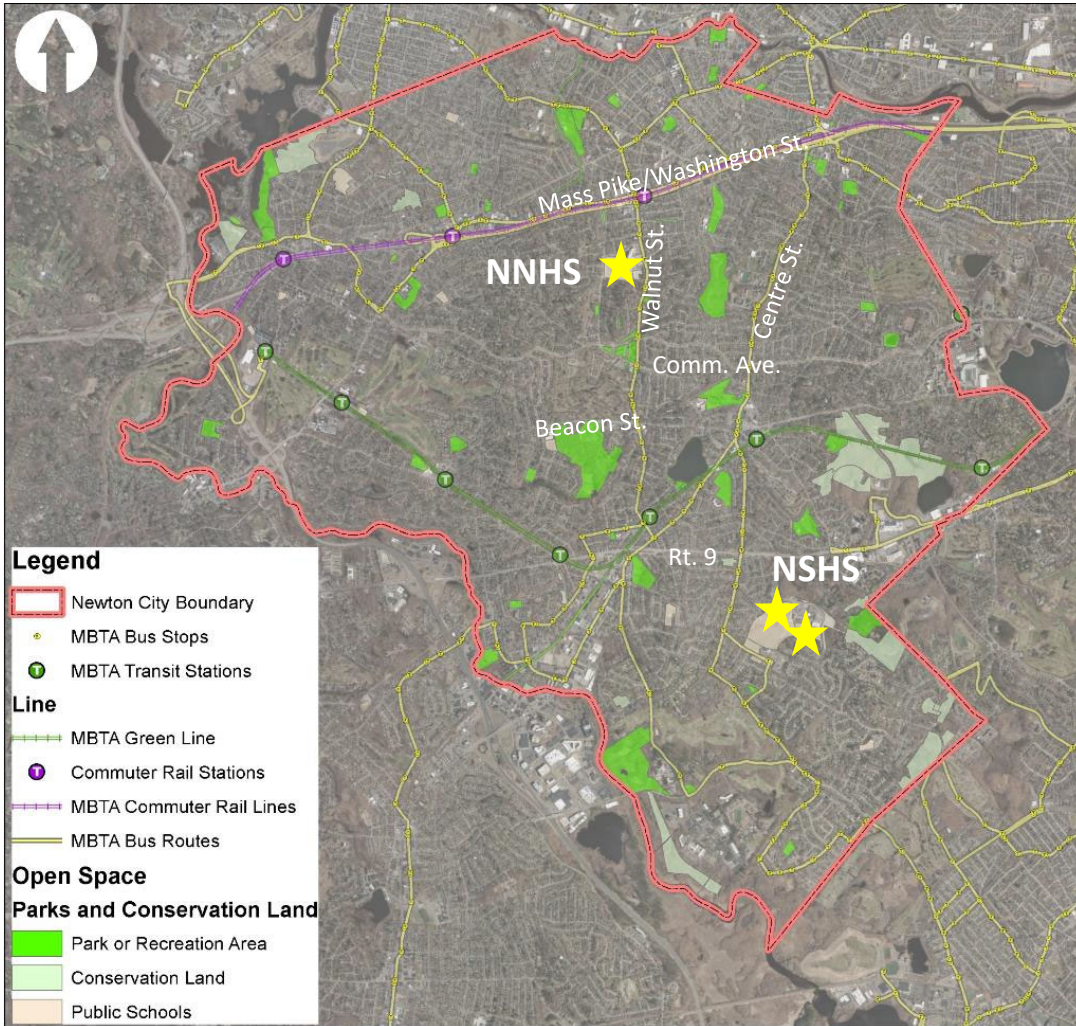
TOTAL: 2 Fields

End-of Life Sports lighting replacements and availability increase:

- Albemarle Park
- Forte Park
- Pellegrini Park

TOTAL: 3 Parks, 7 fields





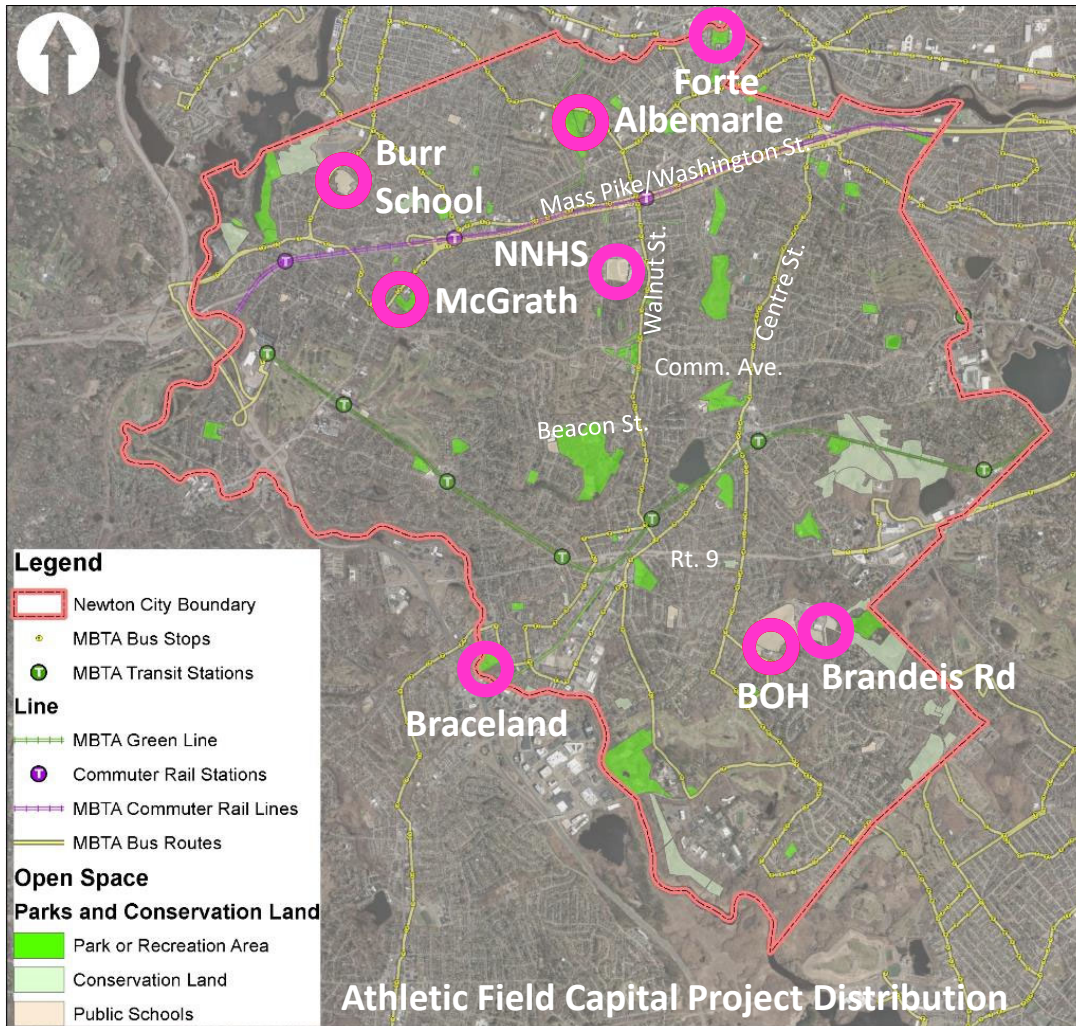
4. TURF REPLACEMENT

- Newton South HS Stadium Field
- Newton South HS Brandeis Rd Field
- Newton North HS Stadium Field

TOTAL: 3 Sites

5. MULTI-YEAR CAPITAL PROJECT DISTRIBUTION:

- ALBEMARLE PARK
- FORTE PARK
- BURR SCHOOL
- BROWN/OAK HILL FIELDS
- MCGRATH PARK
- BOBBY BRACELAND
- NEWTON SOUTH BRANDEIS RD. FIELD LIGHTING
- NEWTON NORTH TIGER STADIUM LIGHTING
- NSHS SYNTHETIC TURF REPLACEMENT
- NNHS SYNTHETIC TURF REPLACEMENT



Lighting Systems

How Lights Can Help

- Most field needs are after school during spring and fall (peak sport seasons)
- School dismissal is later in the evening
- 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. No reschedules/makeups.
- 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)

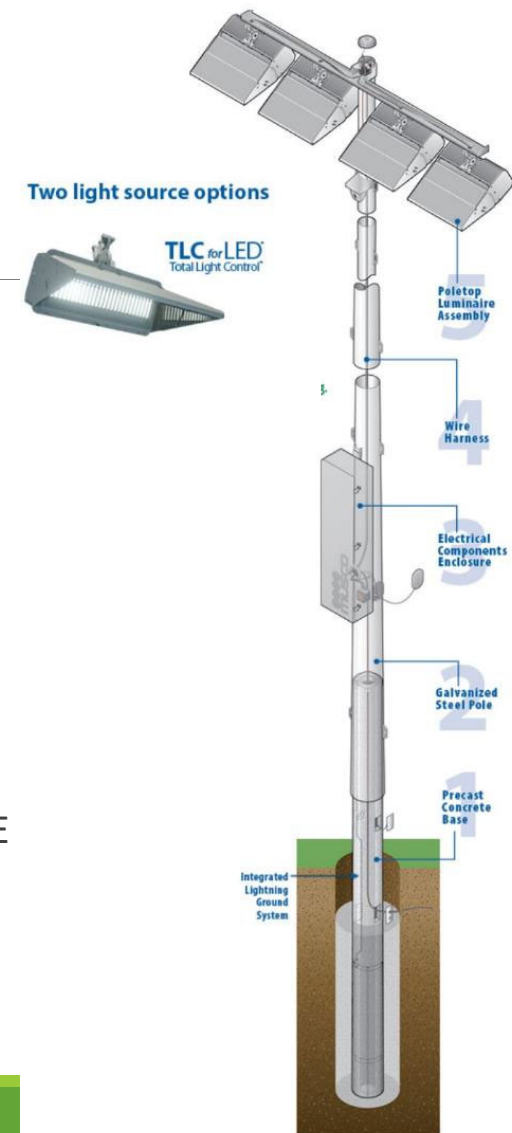
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
195h 30m	135h 30m	88h	61h 30m	46h 30m	34h	37h 30m	53h 30m	78h 30m	108h	149h 30m	163h 30m

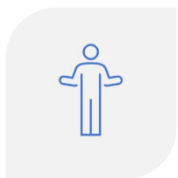
IDENTIFYING THE RIGHT LIGHT SOLUTION

GOALS:

BEST LIGHT QUALITY WHILE MINIMIZING IMPACT TO ABUTTERS

- LIGHT QUALITY
 - UNIFORMITY, INTENSITY, LOW TO NO -SPILLAGE
- VARIABLES WE CONTROL
 - POLE HEIGHT
 - SHIELDING/DOWN CASTING
 - BULB CANDLEPOWER AND DIMMING
 - ABILITY TO MEET AND EXCEED THE CITY'S LIGHT SPILLAGE ORDINANCE

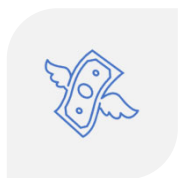




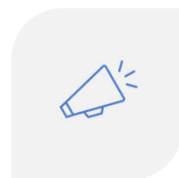
USED AT NNHS FIELDS
WITH RECURRING ISSUES



NEED IS INCREASING AT
NSHS



RENTAL COST



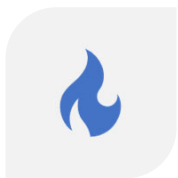
NOISE POLLUTION



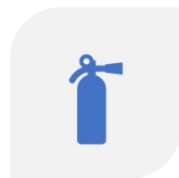
EXHAUST POLLUTION



LIGHT POLLUTION



FOSSIL FUEL
CONSUMPTION



SAFETY



WHY ARE THE HIGH SCHOOLS IMPORTANT IN MEETING THE CITY'S GOALS FOR ATHLETIC FIELDS?

OF SPORTS HAS INCREASED OVER TIME (E.G., LACROSSE)

OF TEAMS: NSHS, NNHS HAVE MANY TEAMS I.E., VARSITY, JV, AND FRESH. SPORTS

NO STUDENT ATHLETE OFF-SITE TRAVEL FOR PRACTICES

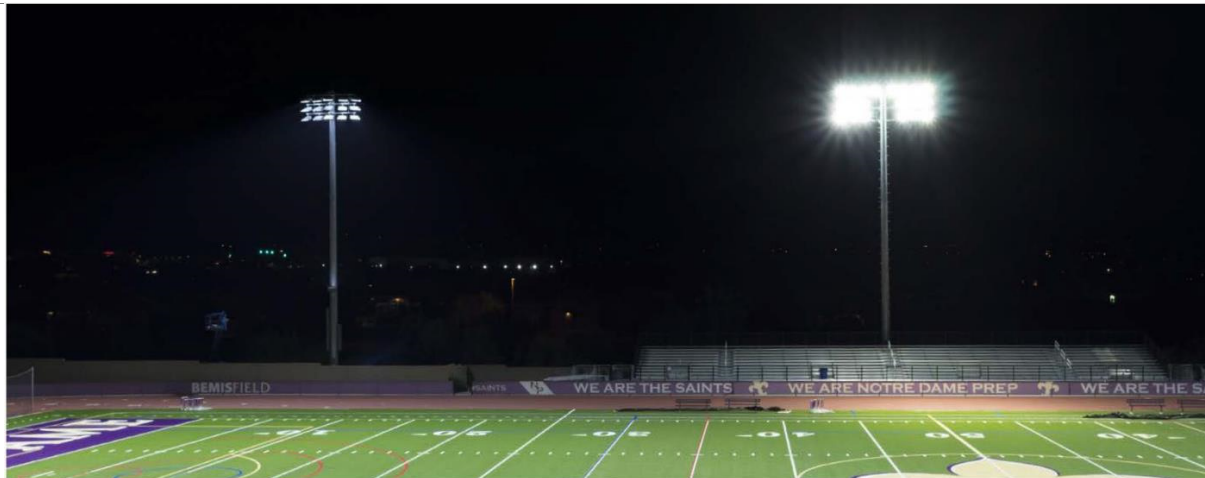
FIELDS ARE SYNTHETIC TURF, CAN HANDLE ADDITIONAL USE

ONSITE AMENITIES INCLUDE LOCKERS, REST ROOMS, SHOWER/CHANGING AREA

PARKING IS AVAILABLE

ATHLETIC TRAINER ONSITE AFTER SCHOOL

IDENTIFYING THE RIGHT LIGHT SOLUTION



Musco: what can be

What often is

TOTAL LIGHT CONTROL — TLC FOR LED™

OTHER LED MANUFACTURER

LIGHT LEVEL

75
horizontal footcandles
(750 lux)

75
horizontal footcandles
(750 lux)

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

103.5 kW

127 kW

LIGHT SPILLAGE LEVEL SUMMARY

WHAT TO KNOW:

- RED NUMBERS:
 - ZERO GRID – COMPLETE DARKNESS



Newton Athletic Fields Foundation

PETITION:

Newton needs a multi-year athletic fields improvement program to:

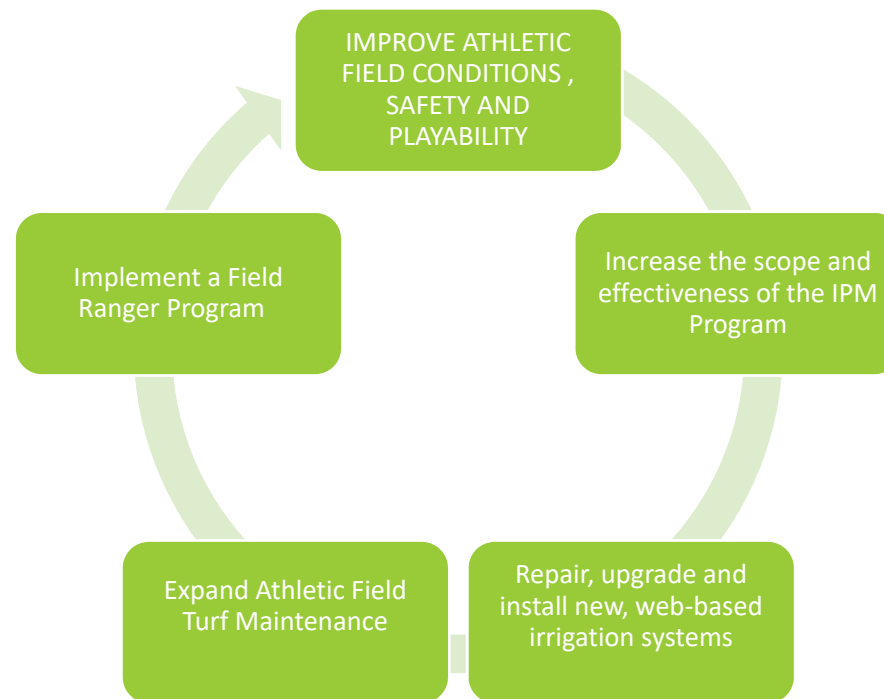
- ✓ Rehabilitate fields in disrepair
- ✓ Construct artificial turf fields
- ✓ Increase maintenance to support usage levels
- ✓ Configure and allocate fields based on demand (not history)
- ✓ Install additional field lighting

We seek a formal commitment from the Mayor's office, City Council and Parks, Recreation & Culture (PR&C) department to:

- ✓ Allocate capital and operating funds
- ✓ Commit to a multi-year plan (dates, deliverables, budget, resources)
- ✓ Charge market-rate rental fees and direct them to field maintenance
- ✓ Commit Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds annually
- ✓ Dedicate the required resources to both deliver improvements and maintain existing fields

Budget, Maintenance, Fees

Leveraging new funds




Revised Fees

Tier	Groups	Turf	Grass	Lights
1	Newton Parks & Recreation, Newton Public Schools	\$0	\$0	\$0
2	Newton-based Youth Sports Leagues – No charge except for Turf Fields. Light fees additional.	\$50	\$0	\$50
3	Adult Groups and Youth Leagues with more than 65% residents, Newton Private Schools, Newton Charitable organizations, Newton Public School PTO's. Light fees additional.	\$100	\$30	\$50
4	Newton Businesses, non-Newton schools, Adult Groups and Youth Leagues with less than 65% Newton Residents, Newton non-profits; Newton Charitable organizations. Light fees additional.	\$150	\$40	\$50
5	Private for-profit Camps and Clinics not affiliated with Newton. One-time Events/Tournaments, or other organizations running a business regardless of number of Newton residents associated with the program. Light fees additional.	\$150	\$50	\$50

New Tier 3, 4 & 5 fees in effect as of July 1, 2021

Tier 2 Comps

- A survey was done of 14 nearby communities.
 - 9 of the 14 communities surveyed charge a per participant fee for youth leagues; three communities charge youth leagues per hour.
 - Lex, Brookline: \$15; Norwood: \$20; Wellesley: \$30; Sudbury: \$40
- 

Proposed Tier 2 Per Participant Fees

YOUTH LEAGUES PARTICIPANT NUMBERS									
	SUMMER 2020	FALL 2020	WINTER 2020*	SPRING 2021**	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS				
Newton Tier 2 Leagues						\$10.00	\$15.00	\$20.00	
Newton Youth Soccer	300	1,002	75	1076	2,453	\$24,530.00	\$36,795.00	\$49,060.00	
Newton Girls Soccer	228	989	100	1189	2,506	\$25,060.00	\$37,590.00	\$50,120.00	
BUDA Youth Frisbee*	22	91	0	118	231	\$2,310.00	\$3,465.00	\$4,620.00	
Newton Area Flag Football*	0	325	0	395	720	\$7,200.00	\$10,800.00	\$14,400.00	
Girls Lax Newton*(no 2020 or spring '21program)	0	0	0	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Newton Boys Lacrosse(no 2020 program)	0	20	0	195	215	\$2,150.00	\$3,225.00	\$4,300.00	
Newton Girls Lacrosse (no 2020 program)	0	0	0	196	196	\$1,960.00	\$2,940.00	\$3,920.00	
Newton Girls Softball	78	193	0	215	486	\$4,860.00	\$7,290.00	\$9,720.00	
Newton Little League	113	225	0	325	663	\$6,630.00	\$9,945.00	\$13,260.00	
NLL Senior Division	0	80	0	78	158	\$1,580.00	\$2,370.00	\$3,160.00	
South East Little League	95	369	0	377	841	\$8,410.00	\$12,615.00	\$16,820.00	
Babe Ruth Baseball	82	0	0	90	172	\$1,720.00	\$2,580.00	\$3,440.00	
American Legion Juniors(no 2020 program)	0	0	0	18	18	\$ 180.00	\$ 270.00	\$ 360.00	
American Legion Seniors(no 2020or 2021 program)	0	0	0	0	0	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Boston UVC Volleyball*	311	259	0	240	780	\$7,800.00	\$11,700.00	\$15,600.00	
Senior Youth Baseball (no 2020 spring program)	0	0	0	40	40	\$400.00	\$600.00	\$800.00	
Newton Mustangs (no 2020 program)	0	0	0	45	45	\$ 450.00	\$ 675.00	\$ 900.00	
TOTALS:	1229	3553	175	4597	9,554	\$95,540.00	\$129,900.00	\$173,180.00	

** based on registration #'s to date

NOTE: BUDA, NAFFL, Girls Lax Newton & Boston UVC Volleyball are not yet designated at Tier 2 Programs. They are currently charges as Tier 3 programs •

CITY OF NEWTON ATHLETIC FIELDS MAINTENANCE BUDGET IMPROVEMENTS


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)				

Field Assessments

Maintenance Division Leadership

Superintendent Derek Mannion

Asst. Superintendent Rob McClary

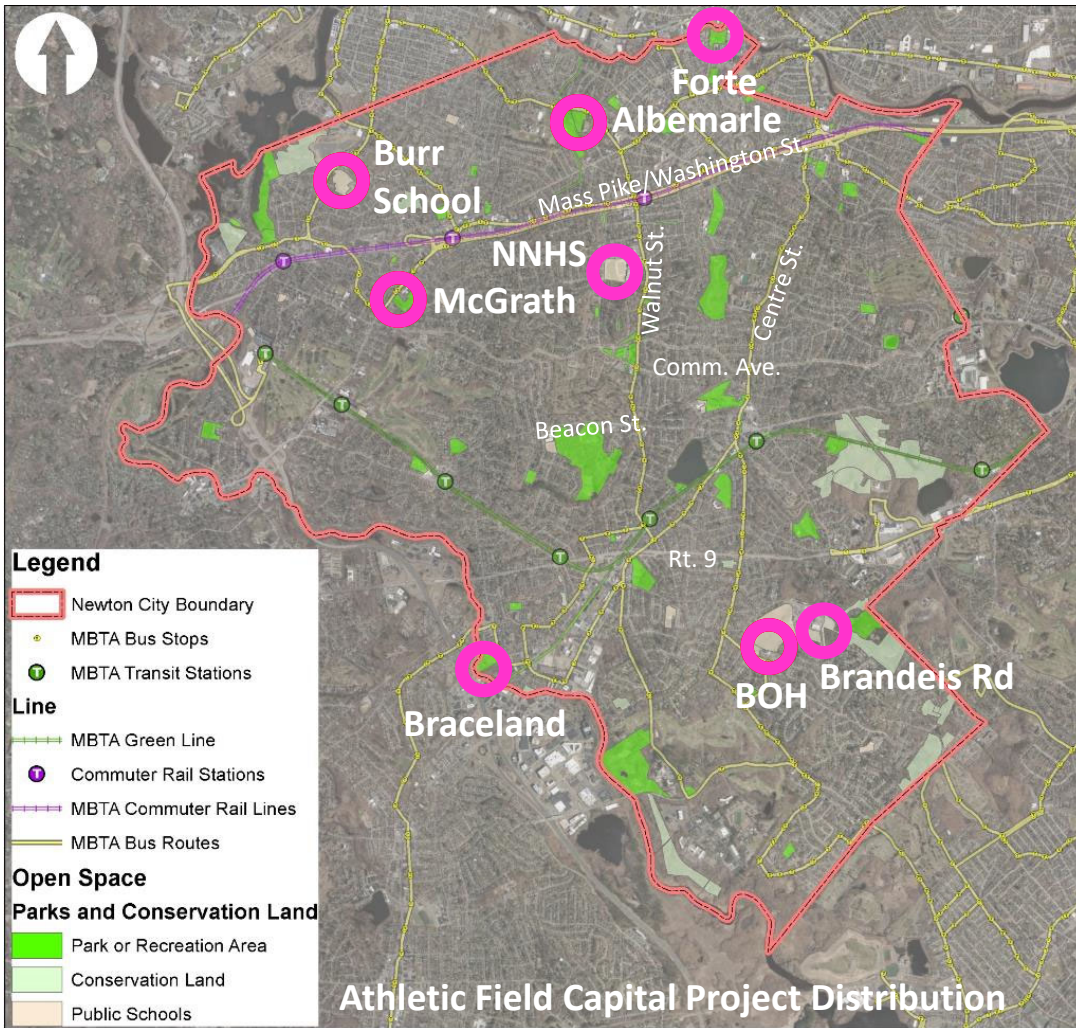
- Ongoing field checks to review wear and tear
 - Identify field areas needing additional turf work
 - Reposition goals where/when possible to reduce excessive wear
 - Monitoring fields for standing water and saturation to make temporary closure decision
 - Monitoring field booking activity and putting capacity limits in place
- 

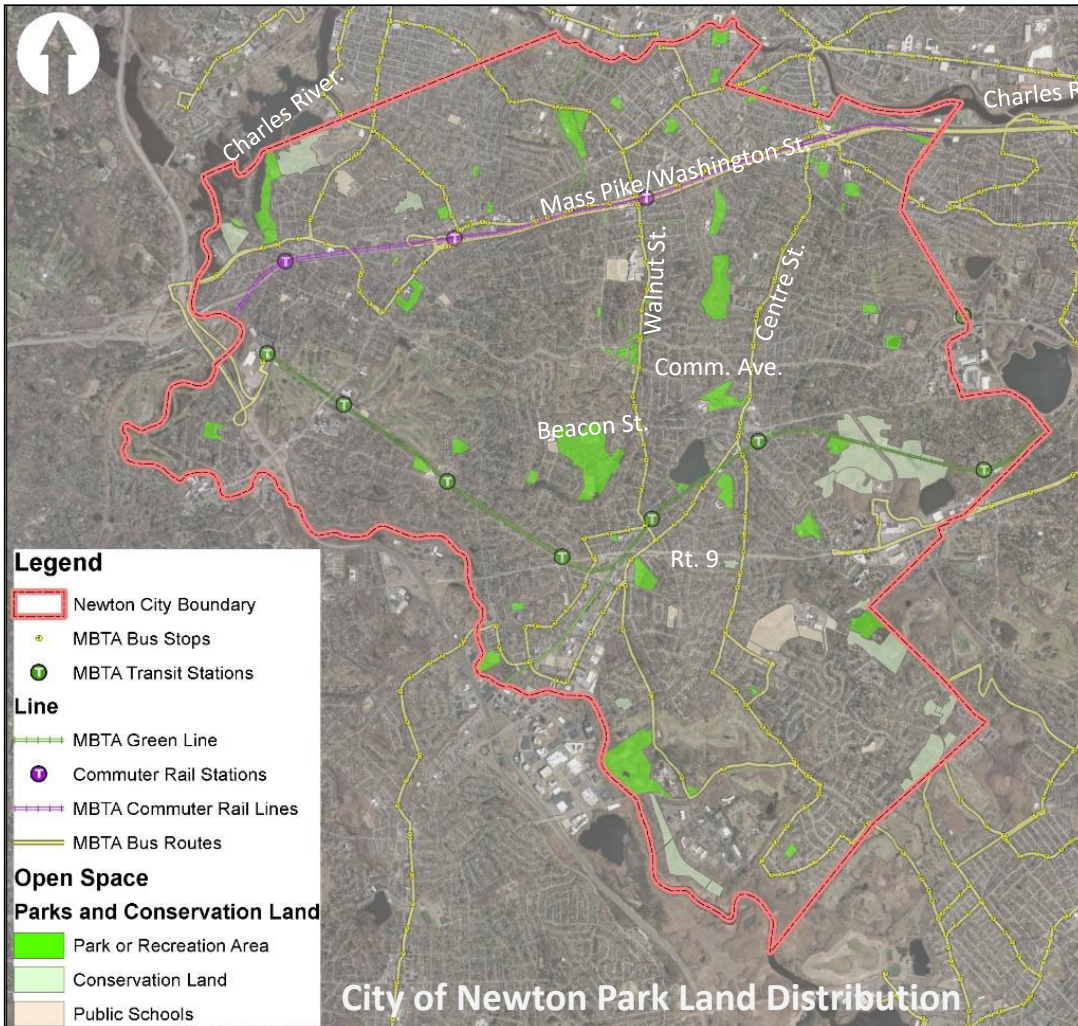
END



5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

- Albemarle Park
- Forte Park
- Burr School
- Brown/Oak Hill Fields
- McGrath Park
- Bobby Braceland
- Newton South Brandeis Rd. Field Lighting
- Newton North Tiger Stadium Lighting
- NSHS Synthetic Turf Replacement
- NNHS Synthetic Turf Replacement





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

Increased Turf Work

	fy20	fy21	fy22
aeration	\$ 5,500	\$ 7,200	\$ 21,850
fertilizer	\$ 10,635	\$ 10,551	\$ 45,582
slice seeding	\$ 25,025	\$ 26,213	\$ 100,869
topdressing	\$ 22,525	\$ 8,075	\$ 43,988
lime	\$ 3,705	\$ 5,700	\$ 6,750
deep tine aerification	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,000
IPM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,176
vertical soil decompaction	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,250
total amount spent per fy	\$ 67,390	\$ 57,738	\$ 244,465

Irrigation/mowing not included

