



Newton Parks, Recreation + Culture Department

# Athletic Fields Improvement Plan

Conservation Commission

Preliminary Project Discussion

January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

# AGENDA

1

SUMMARY OF CITY-WIDE ATHLETIC FIELD MASTER PLAN

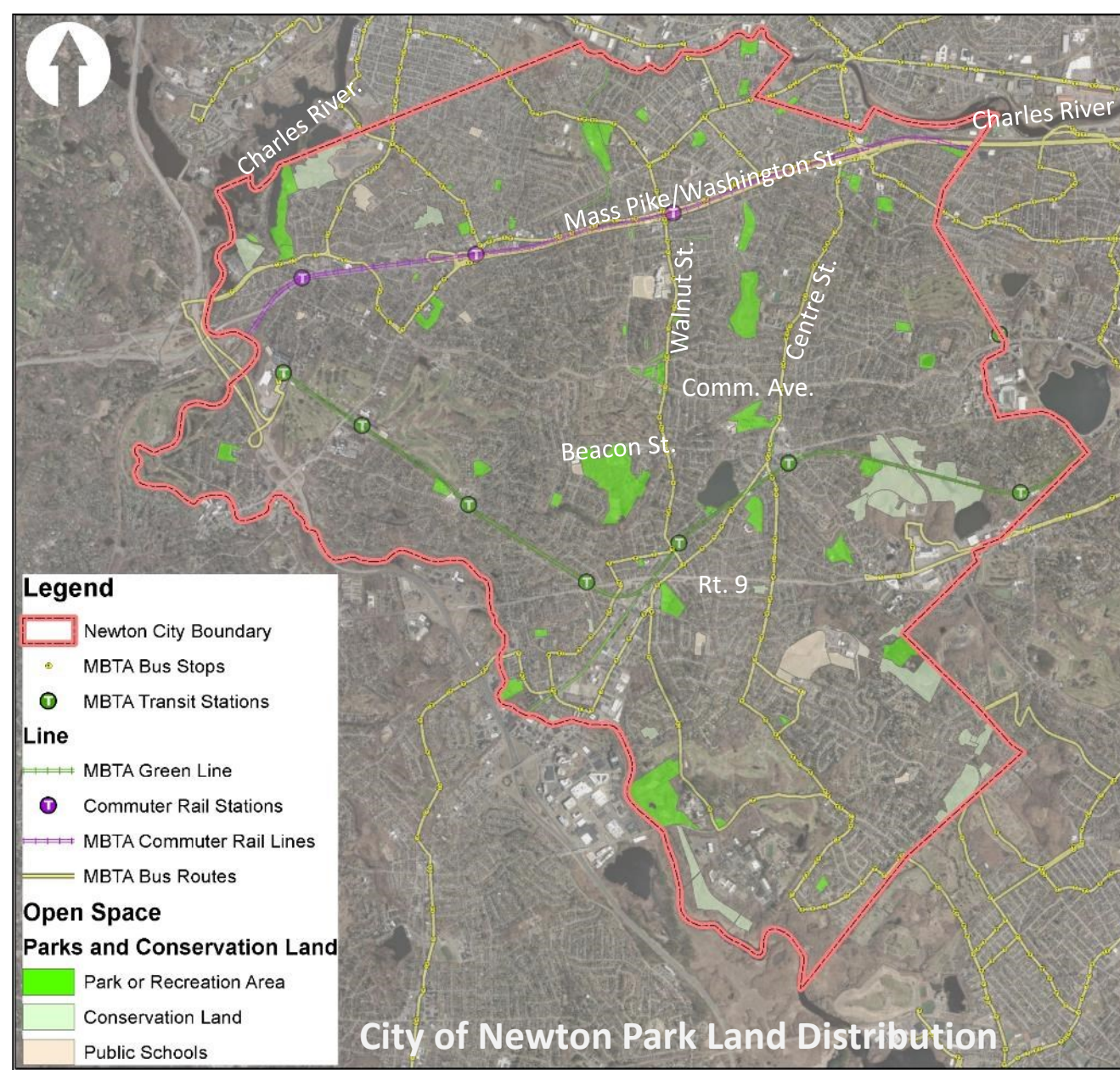
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2

SUMMARY OF PROJECT SITES WITHIN RESOURCE AREAS

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## PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE OVERVIEW:

- Manage and oversee nearly 600 Acres of park land and open space 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**



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 well-maintained. In the middle ground, several other goals are scattered across the field. A sprinkler system is active, with several water jets spraying water across the grass. In the background, there are several tall stadium light towers. The field is surrounded by dense green trees, and a white house with a grey roof is visible in the distance. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The text "HOW WAS PLAN DEVELOPED?" is overlaid in the center of the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

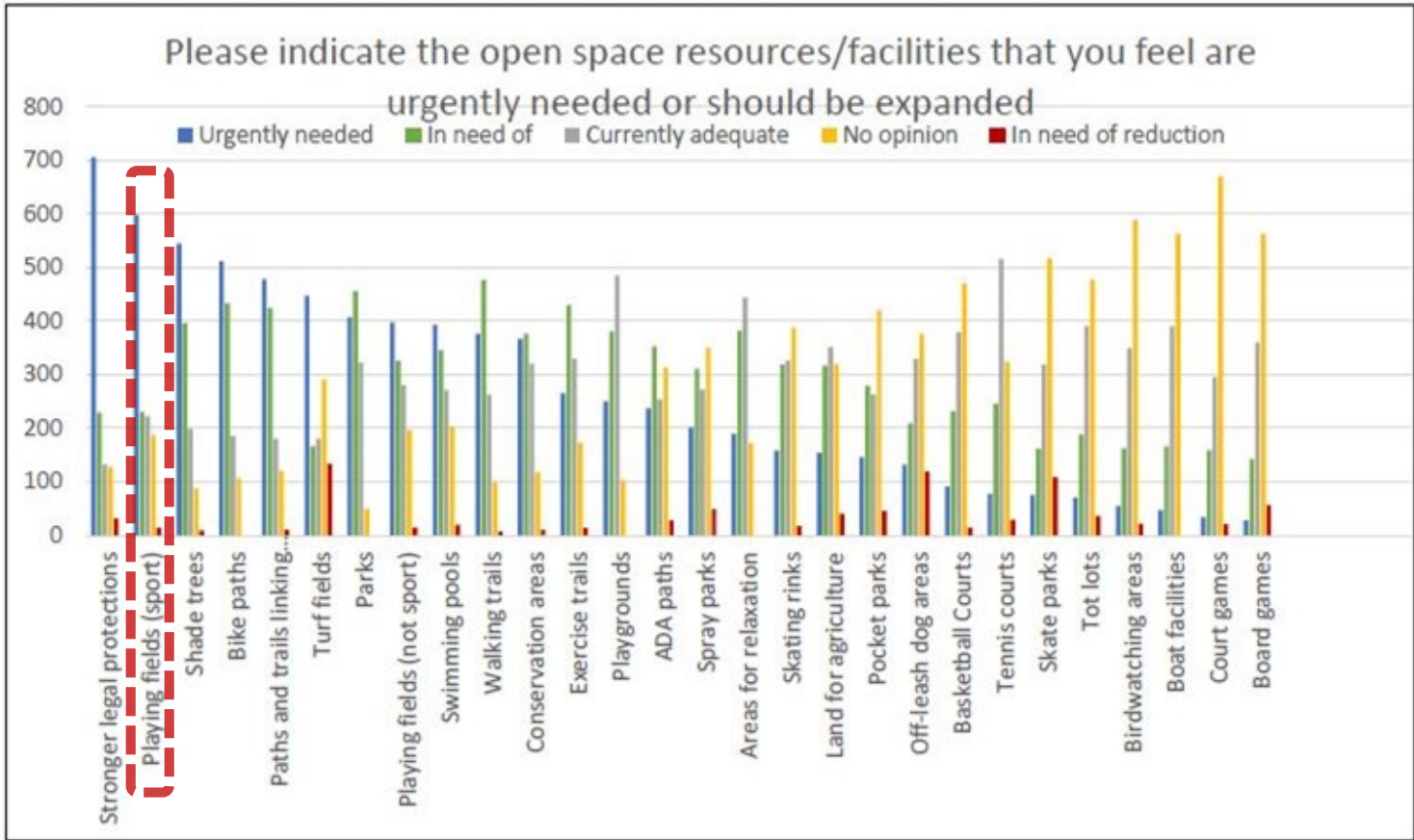
**HOW WAS PLAN DEVELOPED?**

## CITY-WIDE INITIATIVES INFORMING THE ATHLETIC FIELDS MASTER PLAN

- [CITY OF NEWTON OSRP 2020-2027](#)
- 2023-2027 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN LIST -  
[HTTPS://WWW.NEWTONMA.GOV/GOVERNMENT/FINANCE/CAPITAL-IMPROVEMENT-PLAN](https://www.newtonma.gov/government/finance/capital-improvement-plan)
- FIELD COMMUNITY MEETINGS
- PARKS + RECREATION COMMISSION FIELD SUB COMMITTEE -  
[HTTPS://WWW.NEWTONMA.GOV/GOVERNMENT/PARKS-RECREATION-CULTURE/PARK-RECREATION-COMMISSION/FIELDS-COMMITTEE](https://www.newtonma.gov/government/parks-recreation-culture/park-recreation-commission/fields-committee)
- PRC'S CONTINUED INTERNAL FACILITY USE AND CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

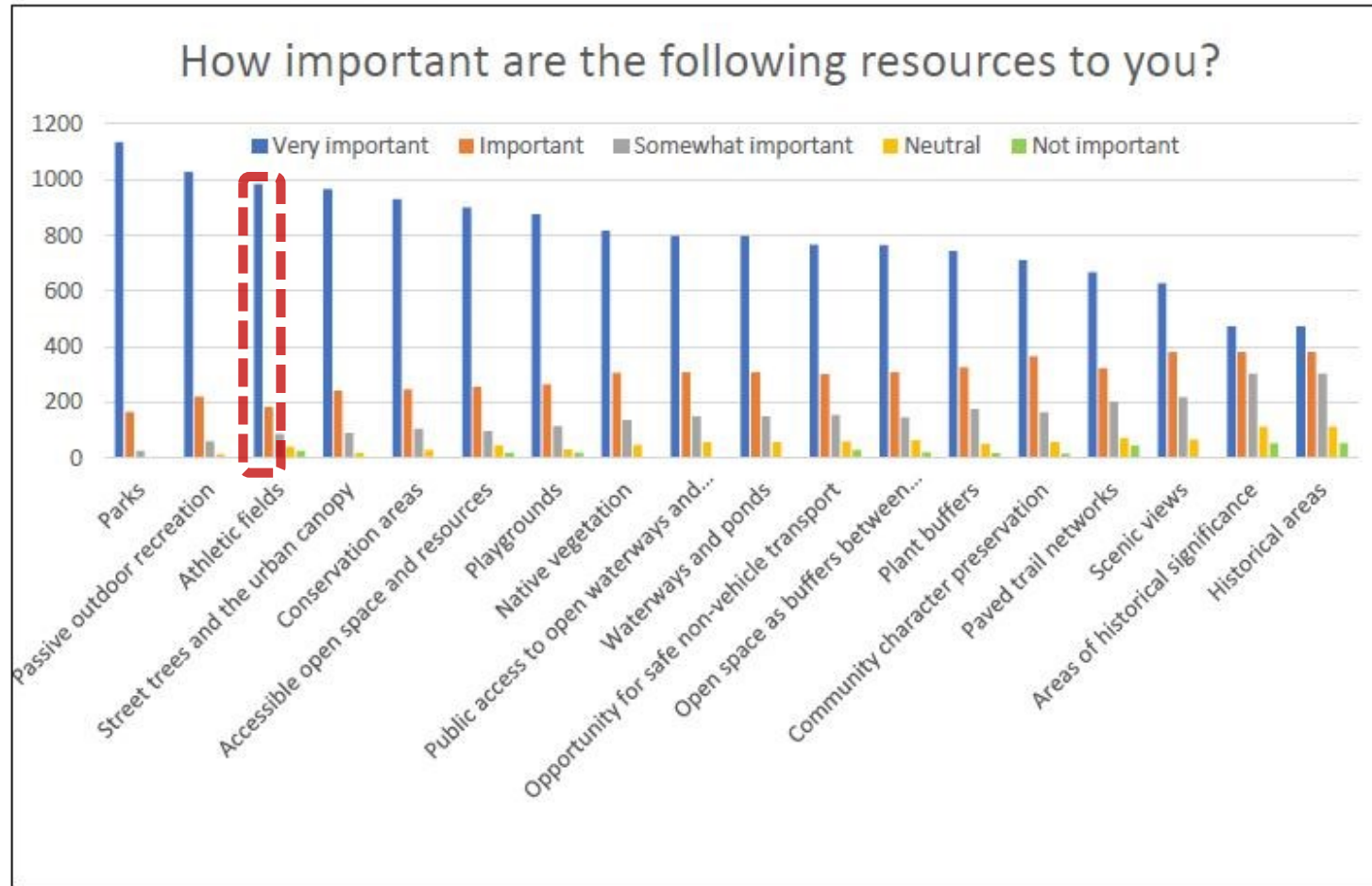
# COMMUNITY SURVEY (OPEN SPACE + RECREATION PLAN 2020-2027)

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



# COMMUNITY SURVEY (OPEN SPACE + RECREATION PLAN 2020-2027)

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







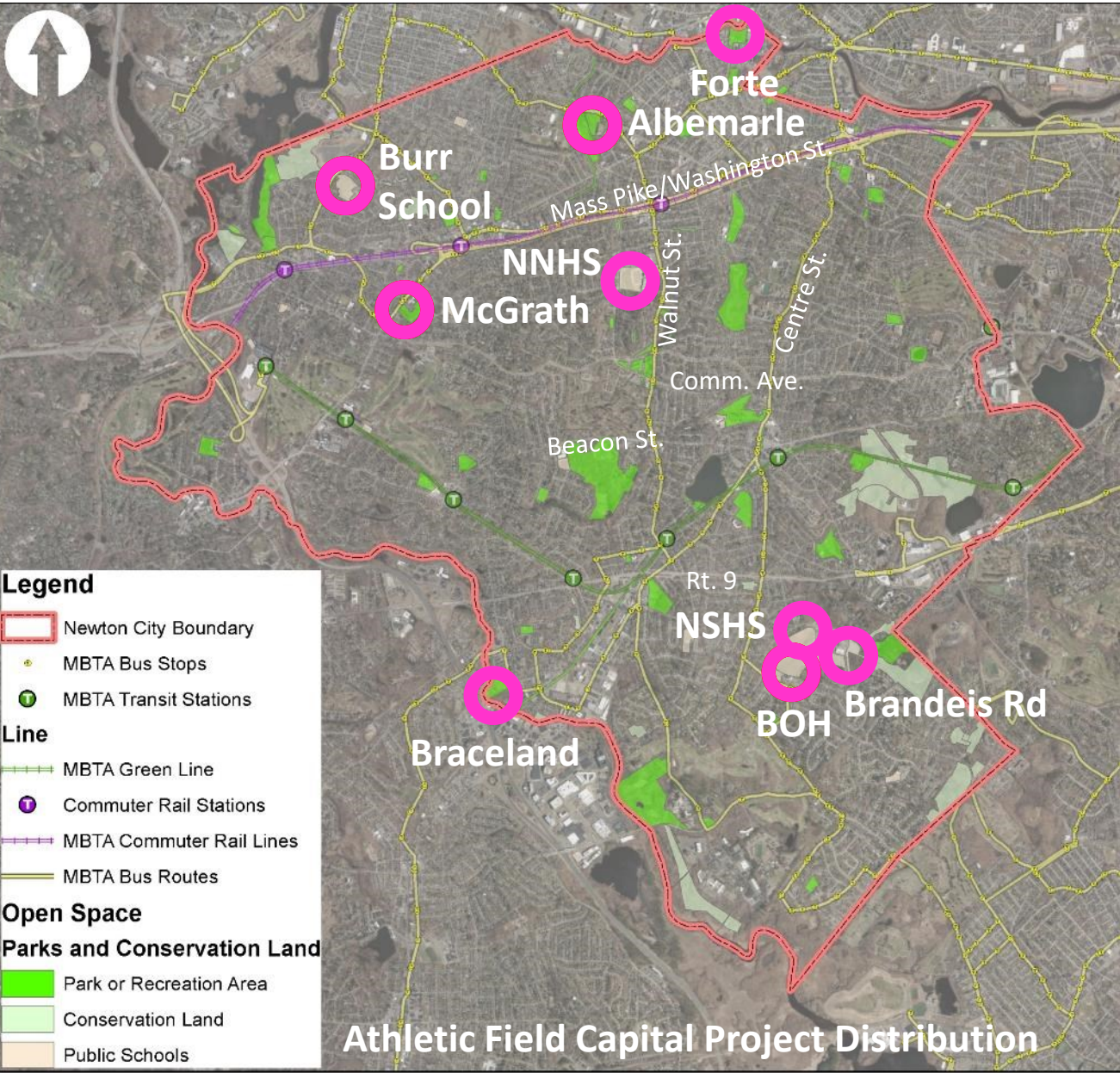
**5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN**



**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

TOTAL: 10 Locations



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**Athletic Fields Capital Improvement Plan**

## CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

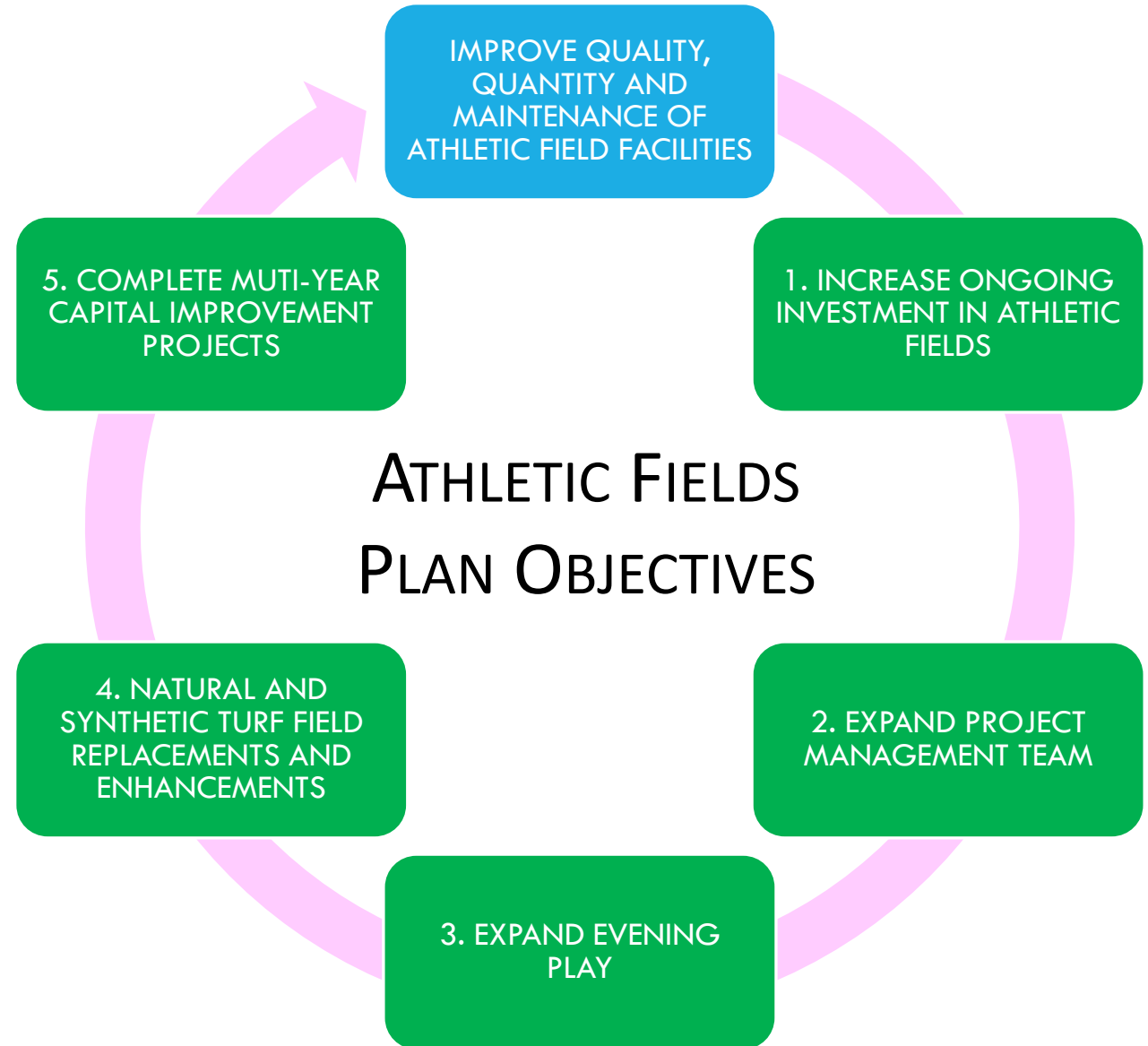
- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN LIST
- DEVELOPER MITIGATION AND IMPACT FEES CONTRIBUTING TO IMPROVEMENTS:
  - *FORTE PARK*
  - *WELLINGTON PARK*
  - *WEST NEWTON COMMON*
- OTHER CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS:
  - *SCHOOL PROJECTS THAT MAY RESULT IN NEW PARK LAND*
- PROJECT PRIORITY VARIABLE:
  - *SCHOOL TIME CHANGE*
  - *PRIVATE OPEN SPACE BECOMES AVAILABLE (GOLF COURSES ETC.)*





**OVERARCHING APPROACH TO IMPROVE FIELDS**

# HOW WILL WE ACCOMPLISH OUR PLAN?





## FIELD + PARK IMPROVEMENT GOALS

- IMPROVE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF USABLE MULTIUSE/MULTIPURPOSE FIELDS
  - *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.)*



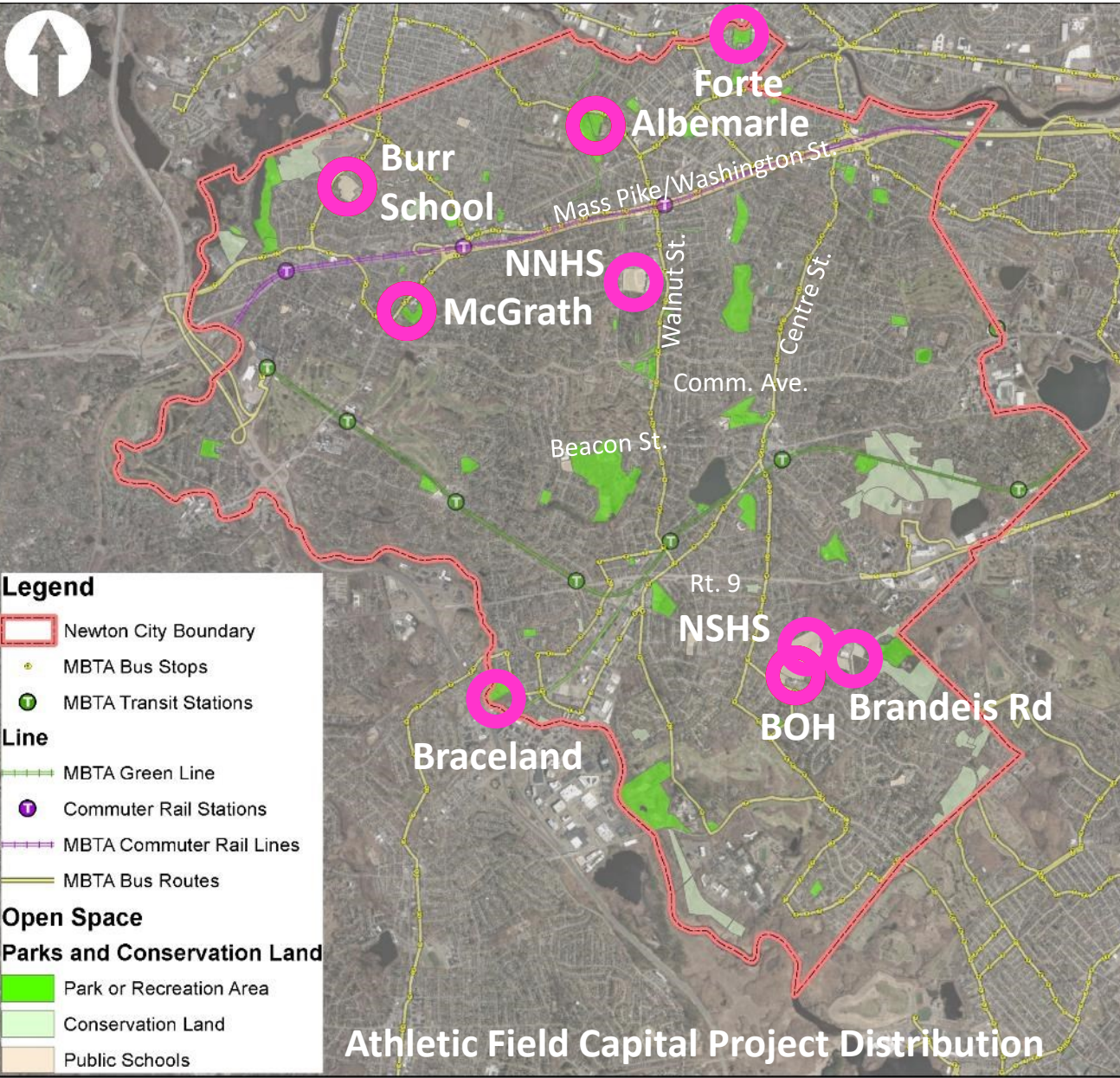
**MULTI-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECTS**



**5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN 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

TOTAL: 10 LOCATIONS



Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture Department  
**Athletic Fields Capital Improvement Plan**



A wide-angle photograph of a green athletic field, likely a soccer field, with several white goals and stadium lights visible. The field is surrounded by trees and a house is visible in the background. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The text "SUMMARY OF ATHLETIC PROJECT SITES WITHIN CONSERVATION COMMISSION RESOURCE AREAS" is overlaid in the center of the image.

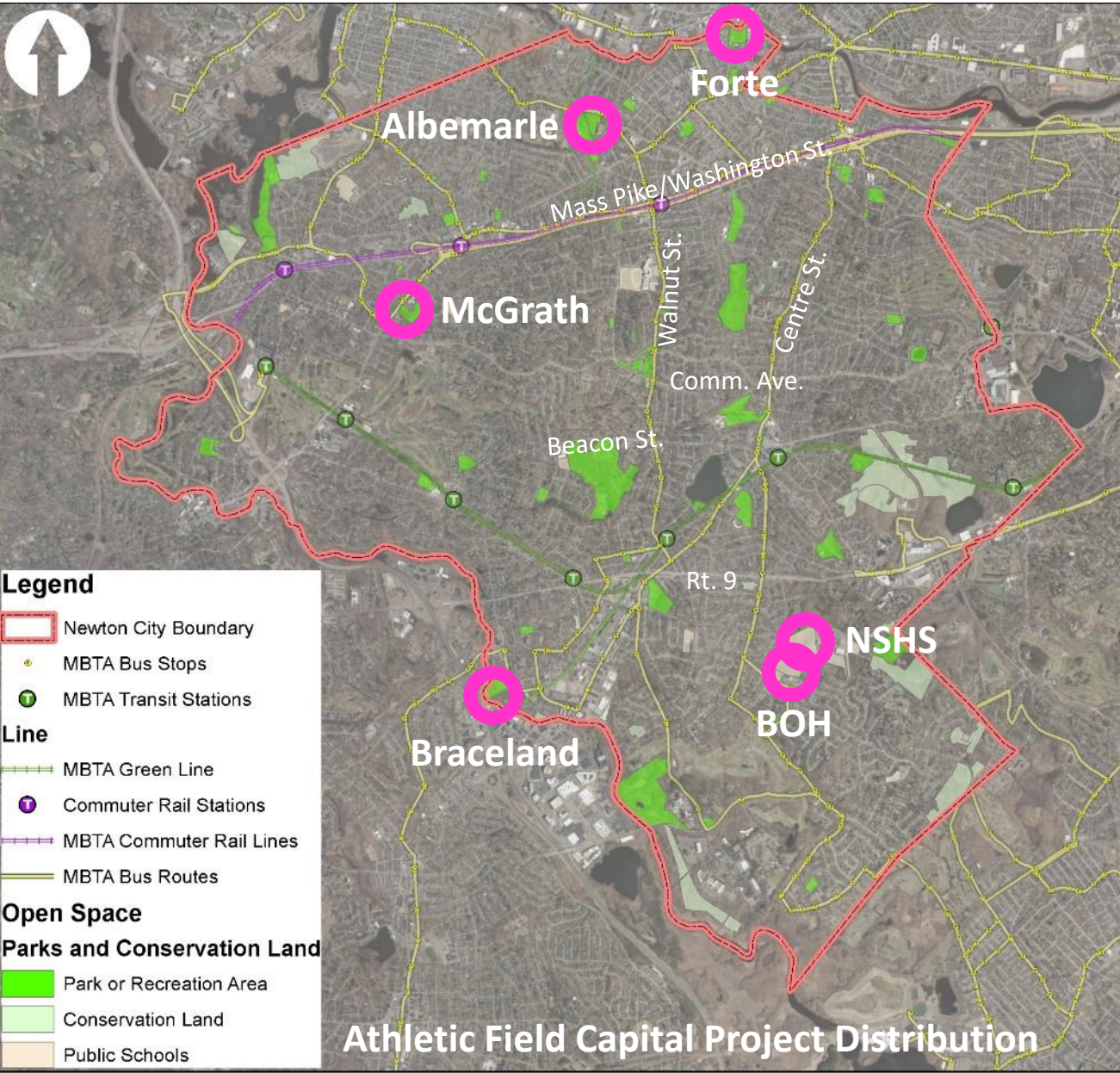
**SUMMARY OF ATHLETIC PROJECT SITES WITHIN  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION RESOURCE AREAS**



**5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECTS WITHIN RESOURCE AREAS:**

- ALBEMARLE PARK
- BOBBY BRACELAND
- BROWN/OAK HILL FIELDS
- FORTE PARK
- MCGRATH PARK
- NSHS SYNTHETIC TURF REPLACEMENT

TOTAL: 6 LOCATIONS



Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture Department  
**Athletic Fields Capital Improvement Plan**



# Russ Halloran Sports & Recreation Complex at Albemarle

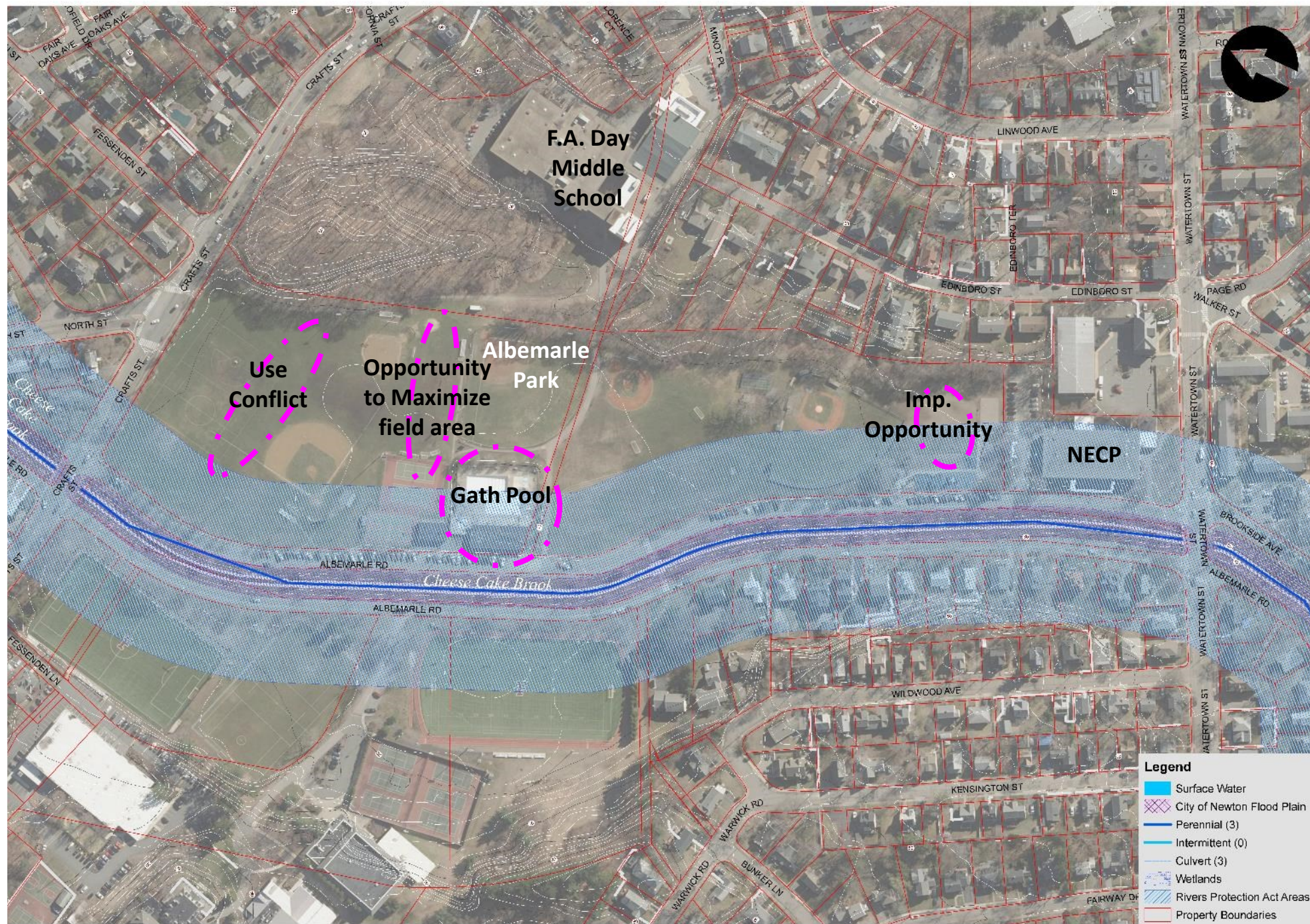
24.9 ACRES

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)





## **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 Stormwater Management
- 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



# Bobby Braceland

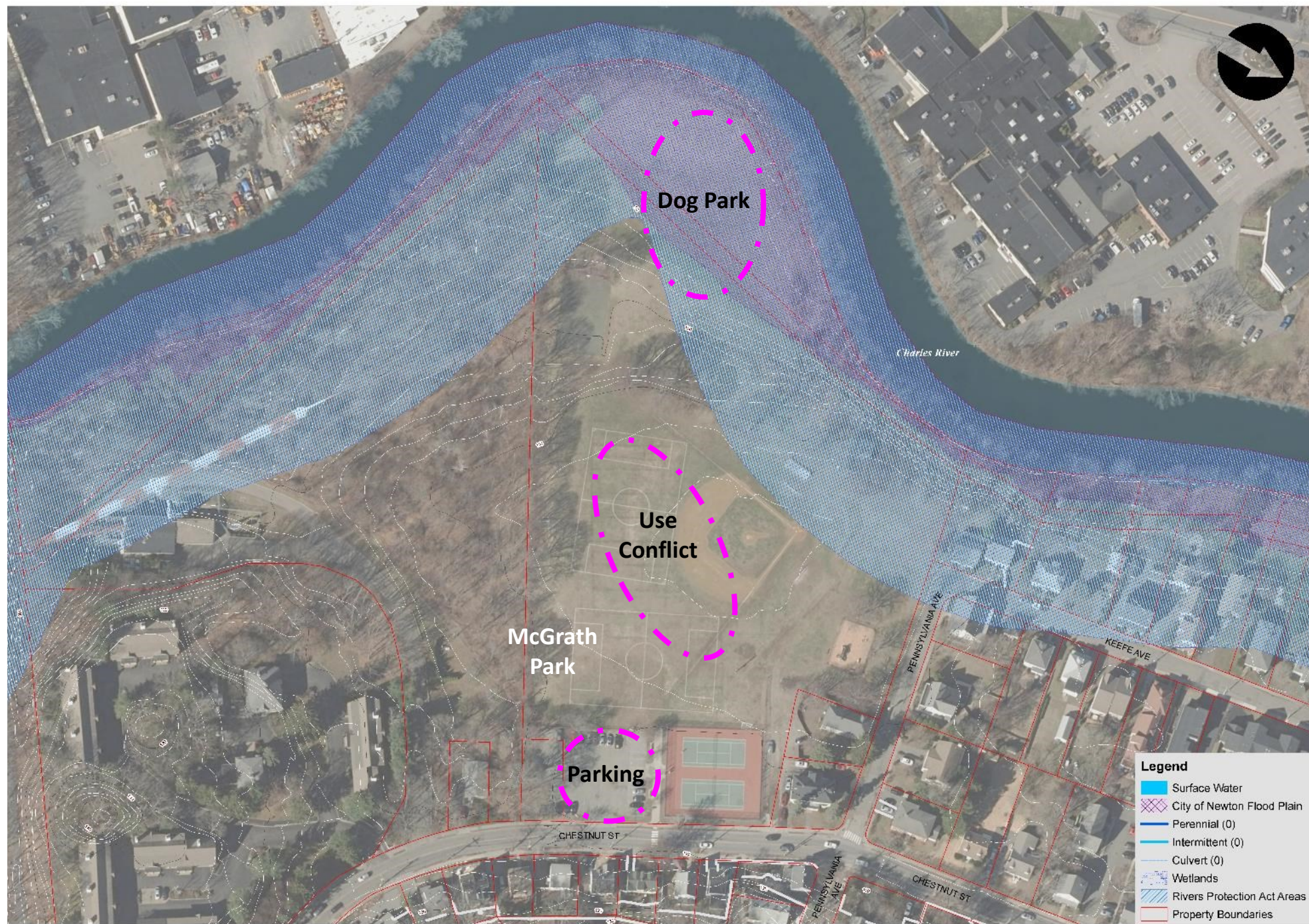
8.8 ACRES

Ward: 5

Village: Upper Falls

## Existing Amenities

- 1 little league diamond
- 32 parking spaces (2 ADA)
- 2 tennis courts
- 1 basketball Court
- off leash dog area
- 1 – 2 Intermediate rectangular fields per site allows





## Bobby Braceland Playground Phase 2

### Improvement Ideas/Goals

- New accessible perimeter path and seating
- Install high efficiency irrigation with remote access and weather clock
- Improve field perimeter fence (and netting)
- Improve basketball court
- Scoreboards
- Caliper inch replacement for any trees removed
- Increase tree canopy where possible
- Revisit and update 2008 Plan to account for current and newly identified community needs



June 2008



# Brown-Oak Hill Fields

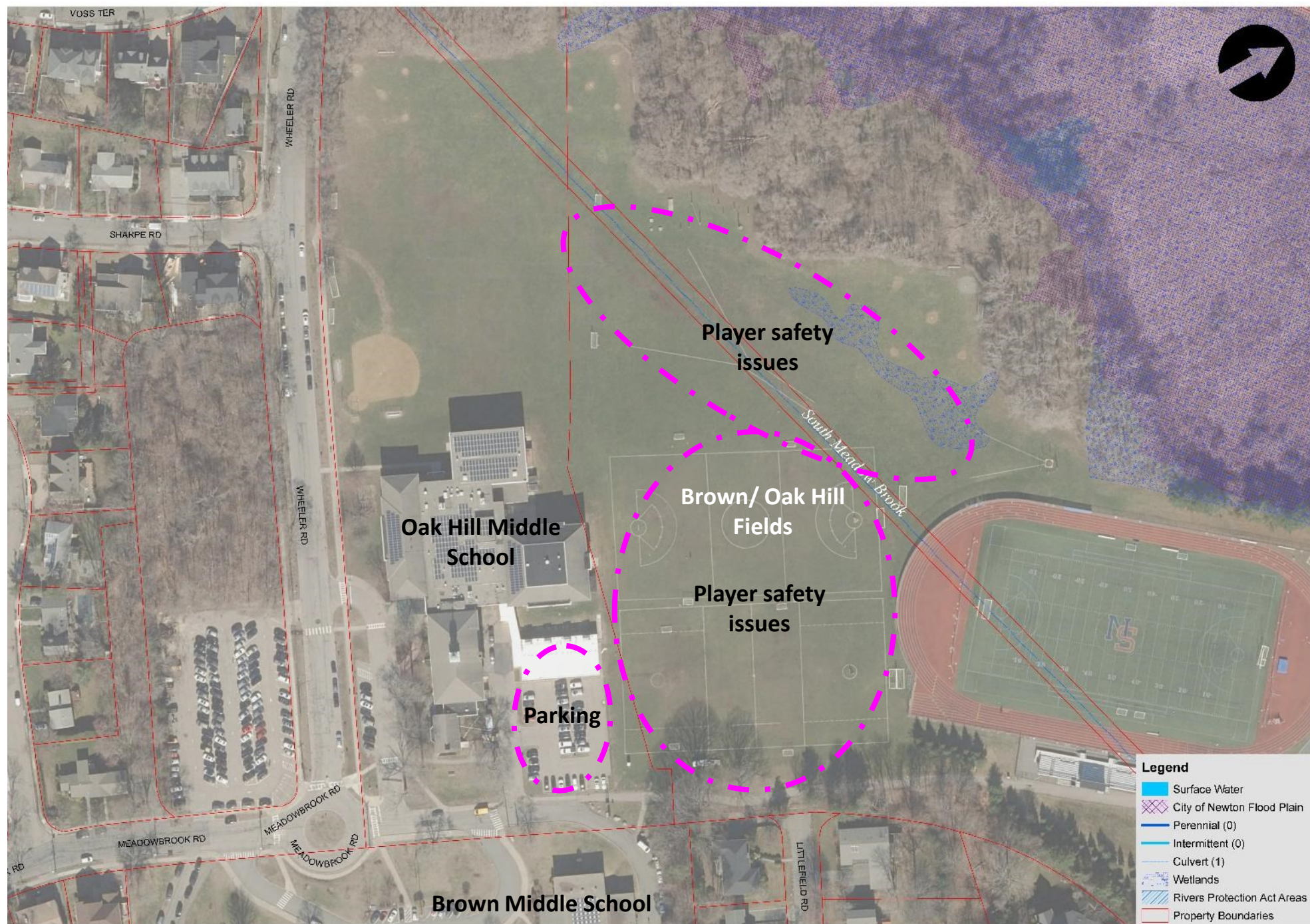
11.3 ACRES

Ward: 8

Village: Oak Hill

## Existing Amenities

- Challenge course,
- 4 full-size soccer/LAX
- 2 Softball,
- MS School baseball
- Little league ball field
- Practice track & Field
- 38 Parking Spaces
- Adjacent to HS Synthetic lighted track & field





## **Brown-Oak Hill Middle School Fields**

### **Improvement Ideas/Goals**

- Maximize field and site layout for increased permitted field space
- Improve accessibility
- Improve site furniture offerings (bike racks, benches and drinking fountains)
- Regrade field area to meet current athletic field surface specifications and standards
- Install high efficiency irrigation with remote access and weather clock
- Improve field drainage



# Forte Park

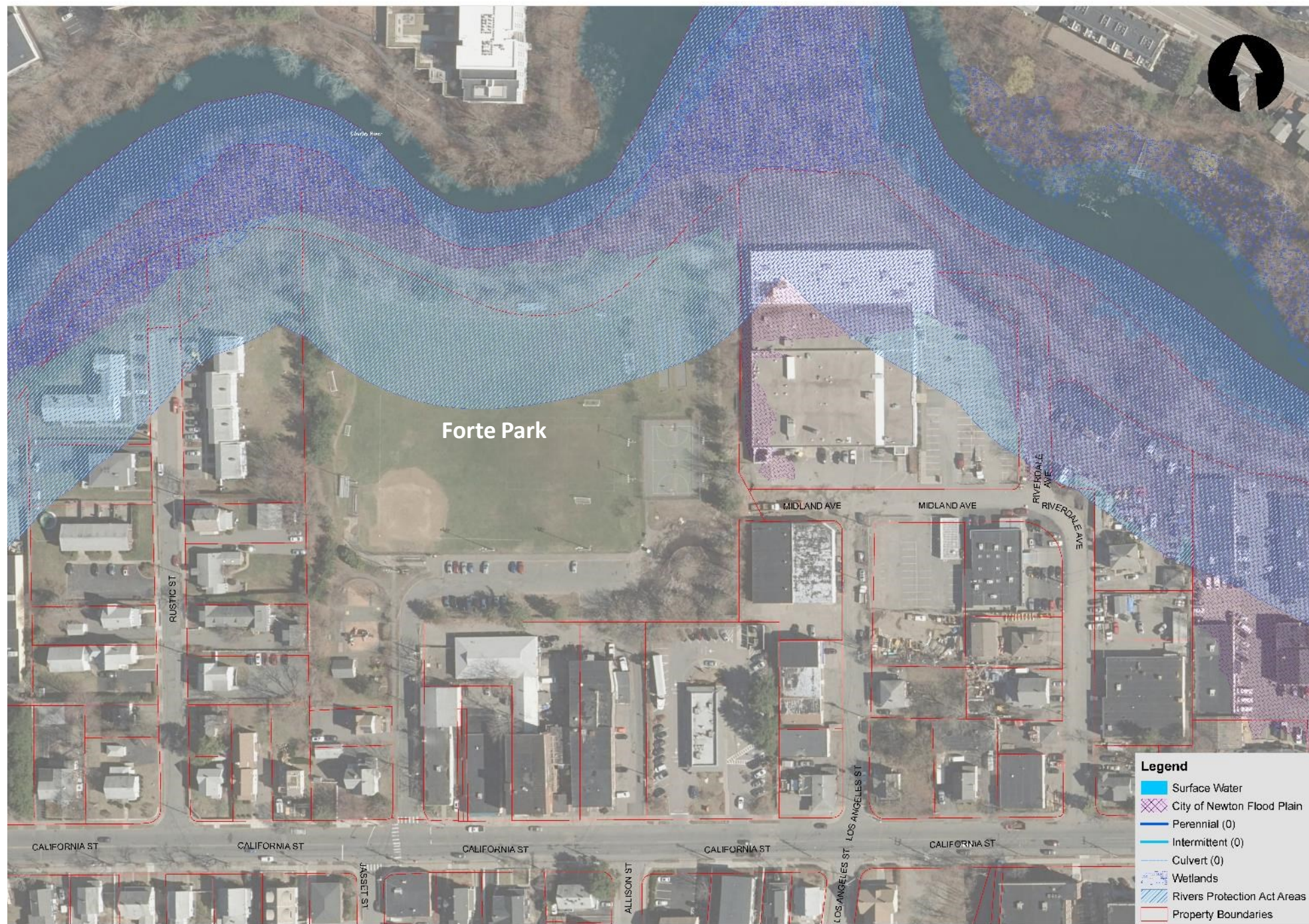
6 ACRES

Ward: 1

Village: Nonantum

## Existing Amenities

- 1 lighted softball diamond
- 42 parking spaces (2 ADA)
- 1 lighted basketball court
- 3 lighted bocce courts
- irrigated
- 1 lighted regulation-sized rectangular field
- Playground
- Field House and restrooms





## **Forte Park**

### Improvement Ideas/Goals

- Improved lighting to high efficiency, low spillage fixtures and upgrade for remote access (retain existing poles) – 15 Riverdale Developer mitigation funds
- Improve accessibility
- Improve site furniture offerings (bike racks, benches and drinking fountains)
- Install high efficiency irrigation with remote access and weather clock
- Improve field drainage
- Improve/ add field perimeter fence (and netting)
- Scoreboards
- Increased tree canopy where possible
- Assess synthetic turf feasibility

# 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





## **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

# Newton South HS Stadium

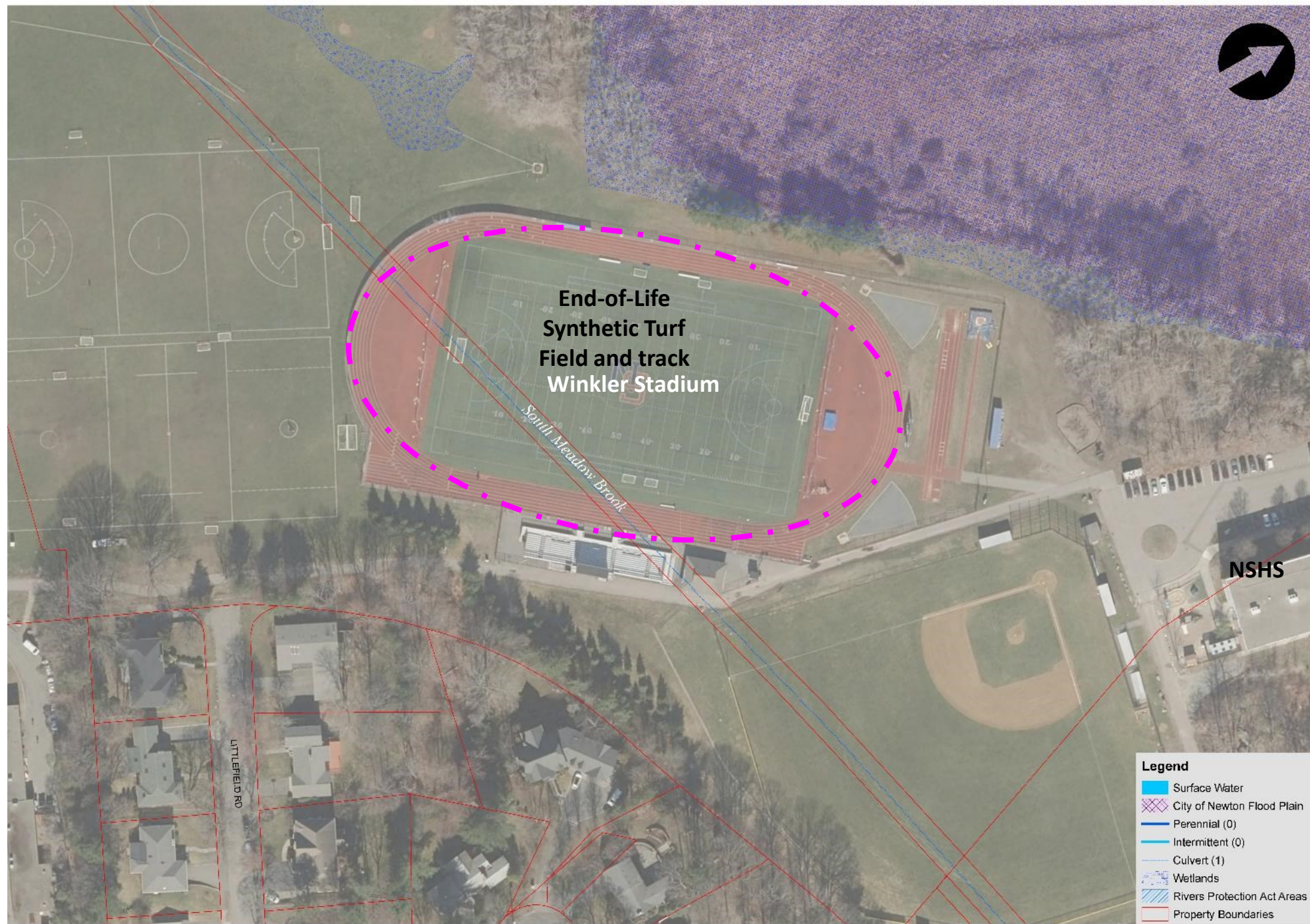
7 ACRES

Ward: 8

Village: Oak Hill

## Existing Amenities

- Lighted HS Synthetic lighted track & multipurpose field





## **NSHS Winkler Stadium**

### **Improvement Ideas/Goals**

- Replace existing end-of-life Synthetic turf with newer, more sustainable turf surfacing
- Replace Track and field amenities within the stadium
- Improve site furniture offerings (bike racks, benches and drinking fountains)
- Improve field drainage

# **ADDITIONAL NON-ATHLETIC FIELD PROJECTS WITHIN CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

## **RESOURCE AREAS:**

- **MARTY SENDER GREENWAY PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS**
  - INSTALL BOARDWALK OVER WETLAND AREA BEHIND LYONS FIELD
  - IMPROVE AND RENOVATE TRAIL SURFACE TO MATCH PHASE 1
  - IMPROVE OVERALL ACCESSIBILITY
- **GATH POOL RECONSTRUCTION**
- **ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AND OVERALL MASTER PLAN FOR CRYSTAL LAKE**
  - CREATE AN ACCESSIBLE PARK CORRIDOR FROM LEVINGSTON COVE THROUGH CRYSTAL LAKE PARK AND THE BATH HOUSE
  - EXPAND BEACH AREA KNOWN AS LEFT BEACH WITH DECKING OR DOCK SYSTEM
  - REVISIT AND ASSESS 2008 MASTER PLAN FOR THE BATH HOUSE AND



# Questions and Discussion

For additional questions and input please contact: [athleticfields@newtonma.gov](mailto:athleticfields@newtonma.gov)

**For Presentation, Chat, recordings and meeting recordings, please go to**  
[www.newtonma.gov/fieldprojects](http://www.newtonma.gov/fieldprojects)