



Newton Parks, Recreation + Culture Department

Athletic Fields Improvement Plan

Community Meeting # 1

Forte Park Fields

January 20th, 2021

athleticfields@newtonma.gov

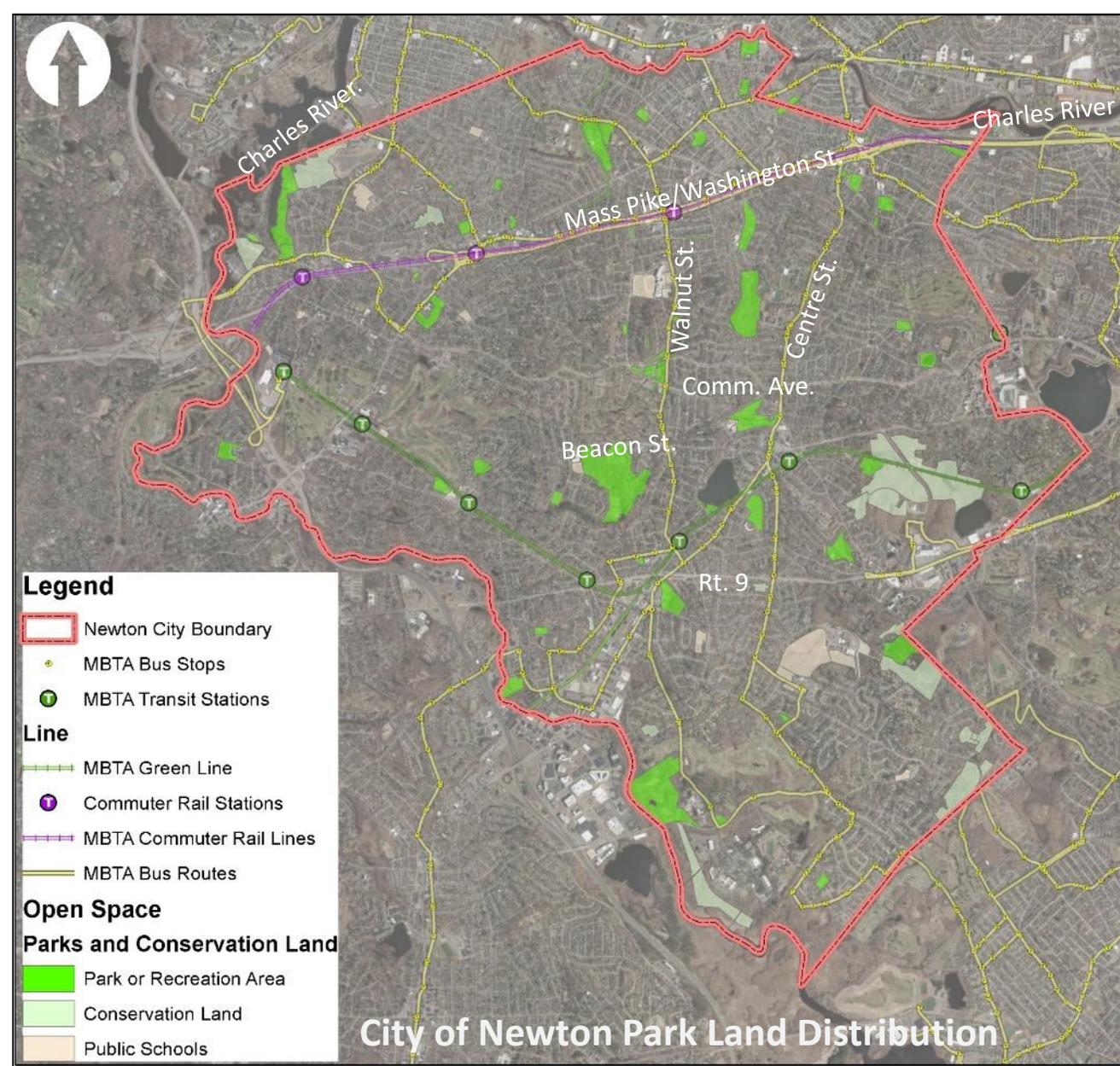
AGENDA

1

SUMMARY OF CITY-WIDE ATHLETIC FIELD MASTER PLAN

2

SUMMARY OF FORTE PARK PRELIMINARY IMPROVEMENT GOALS



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

HOW WAS PLAN DEVELOPED?

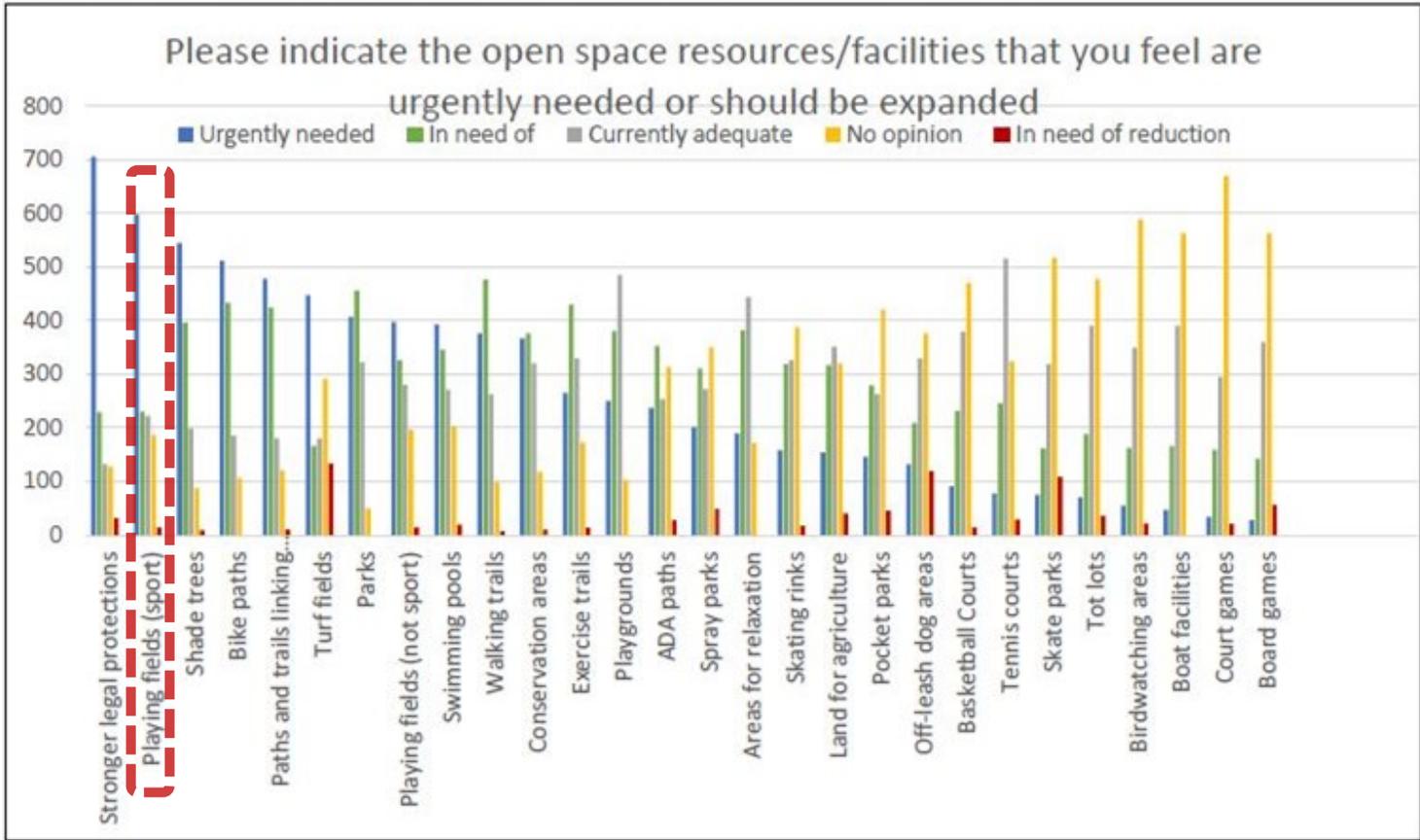


CITY-WIDE INITIATIVES INFORMING THE ATHLETIC FIELDS MASTER PLAN

- [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

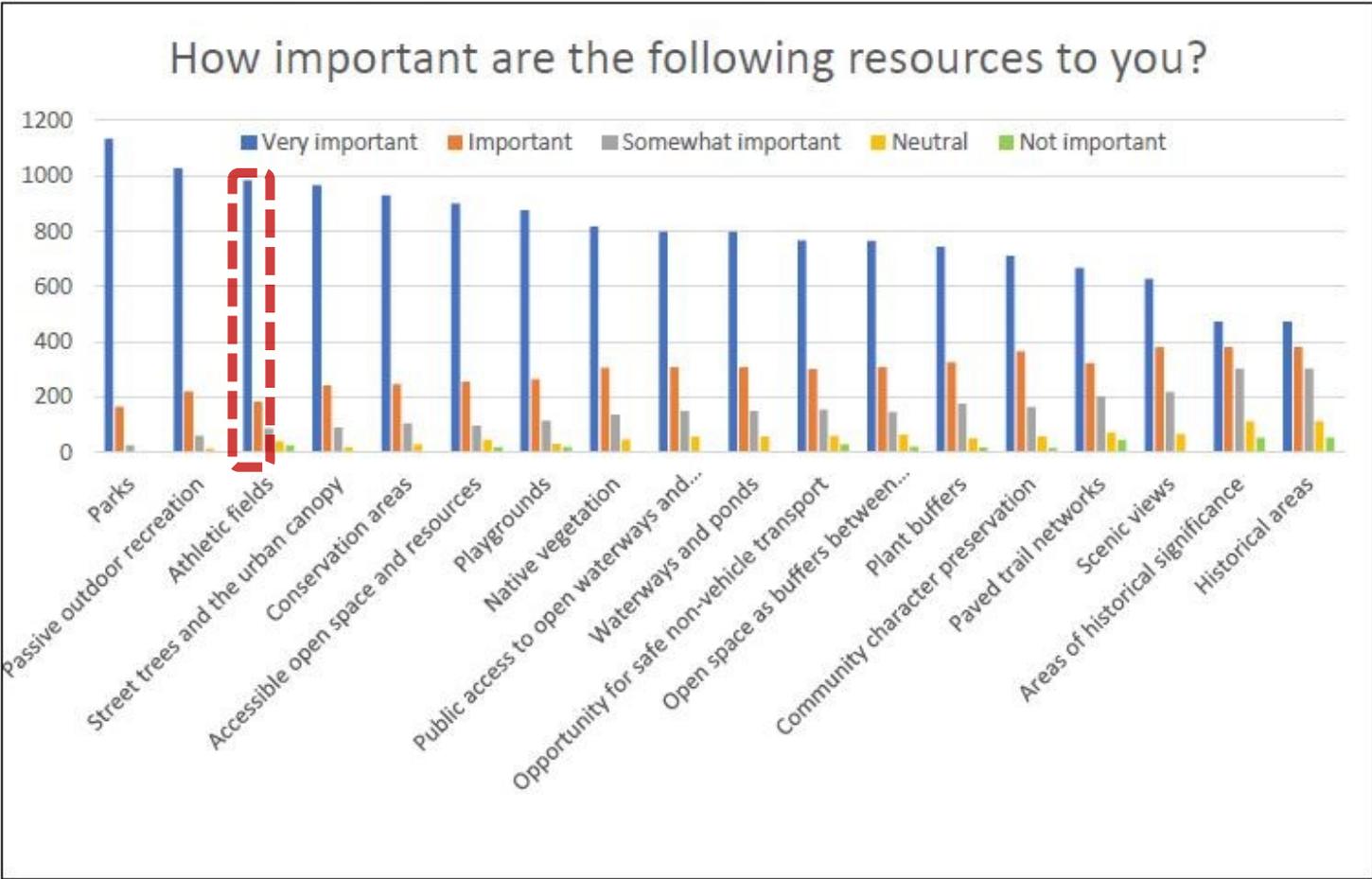
COMMUNITY SURVEY (OPEN SPACE + RECREATION PLAN 2020-2027)

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



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

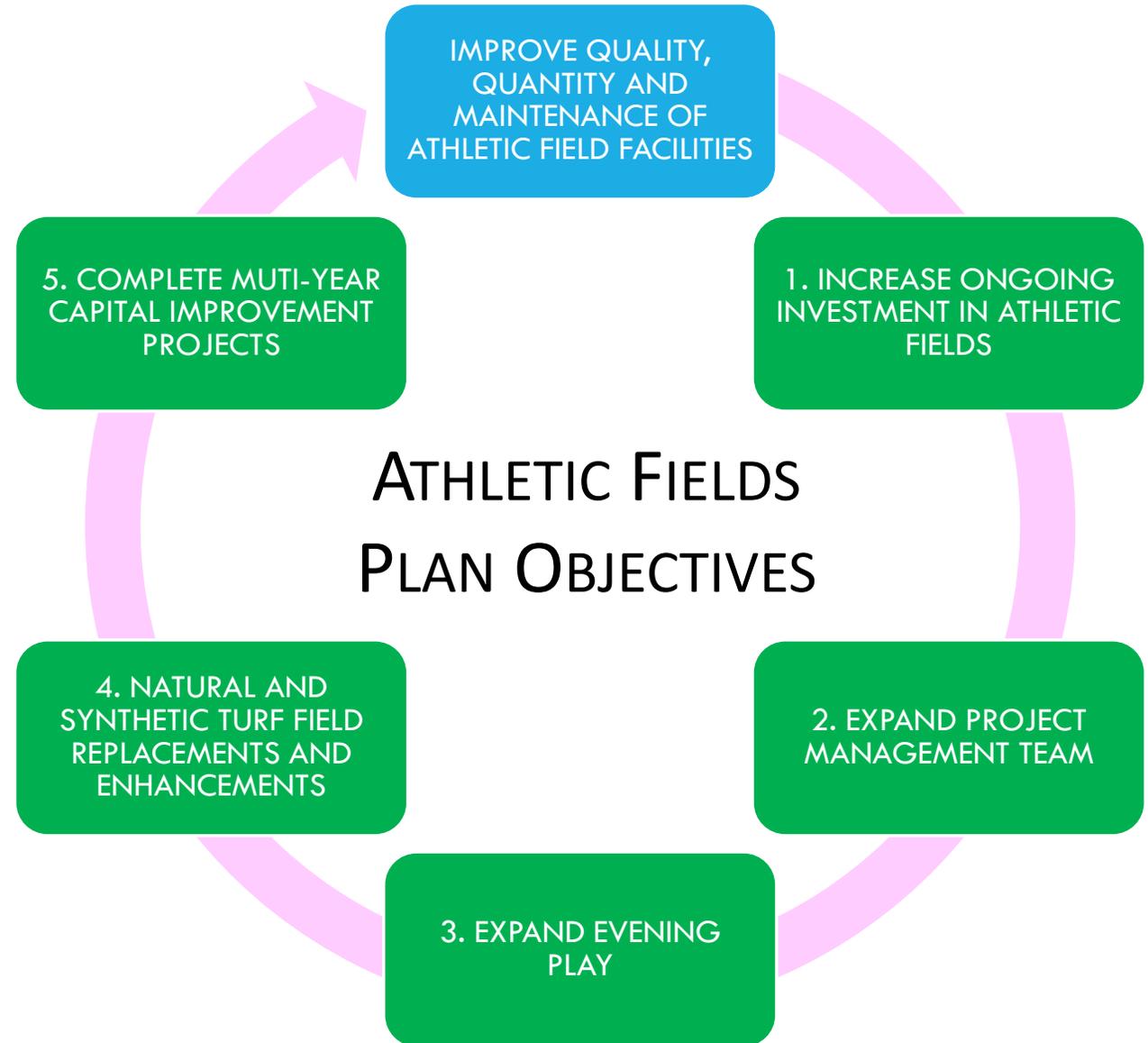
Figure 43. Community Survey: Open Space Resources in Greatest Demand





OVERARCHING APPROACH TO IMPROVE FIELDS

HOW WILL WE ACCOMPLISH OUR PLAN?



FIELD + PARK IMPROVEMENT CAPITAL PROJECT 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, SYNTHETIC TURF, BENCHES ETC.)*



5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

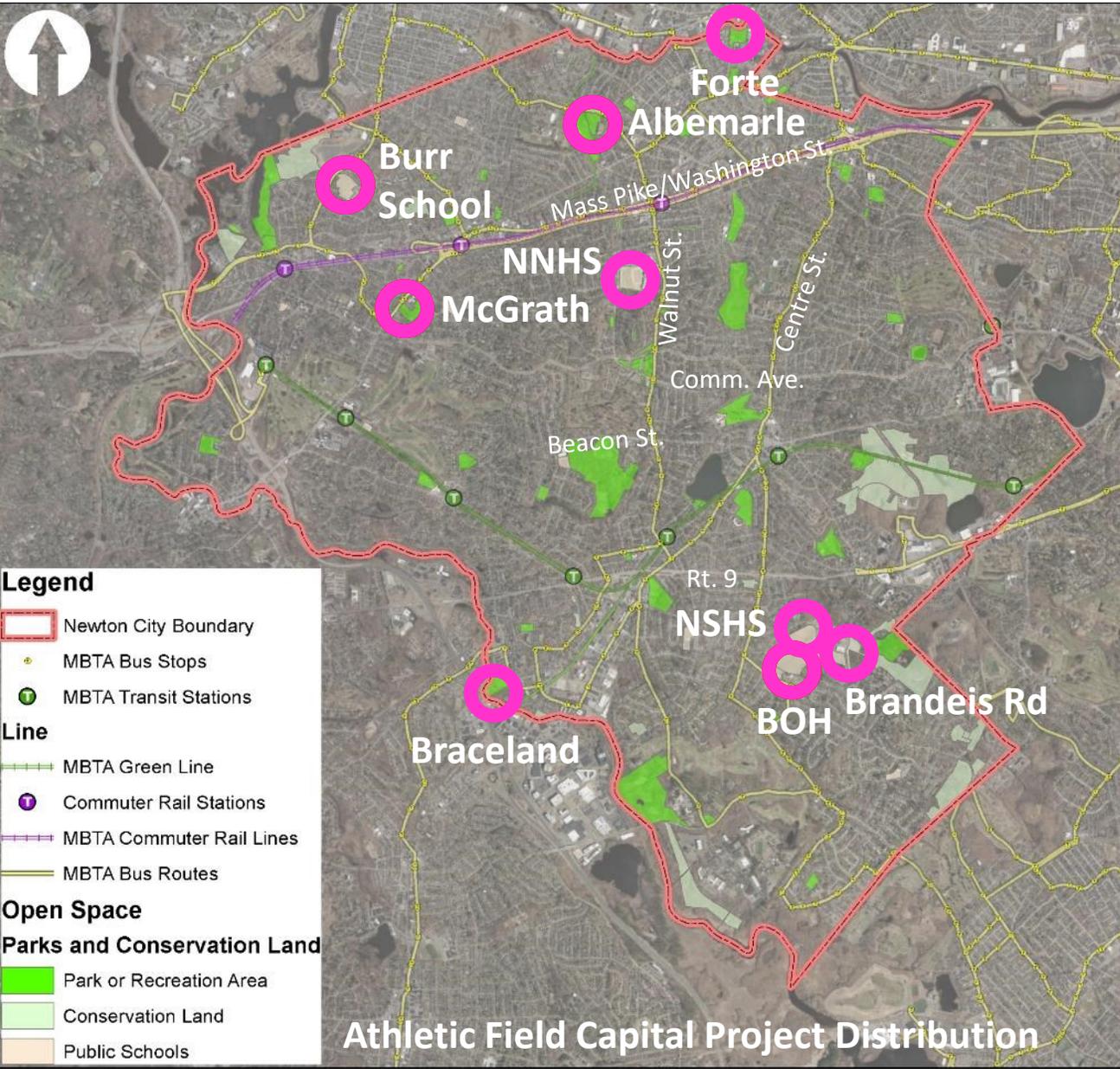
PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

- **OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN**
- **CITY OF NEWTON CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP)**
- **POTENTIAL FOR GREATEST CITY-WIDE BENEFIT**
- **PROJECT SEQUENCING: PRIORITIZE FIELDS WITH PLAY EXPANSION POTENTIAL BEING BROUGHT ONLINE FIRST**
- **POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION OF MULTIUSE FIELDS**
- **POTENTIAL FOR EXPANDING EVENING PLAY (LIGHT IMPROVEMENTS/ ADDITIONS)**
- **USE AND CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT DATA (IN DEVELOPMENT PHASE)**
- **SPATIAL CRITERIA FOR REGULATION MULTIUSE FIELDS**
- **ANY PREVIOUS MASTER PLANS CONDUCTED**
- **INPUT FROM ATHLETIC LEAGUE STAKEHOLDERS**
- **INTEGRATED WITH OTHER PROJECTS IN A PARK AREA (E.G., PATH AT McGRATH, GATH POOL PROJECT, FEE ANALYSIS AND INCREASE, STAKEHOLDER FUNDRAISERS ETC.)**

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 OR ENHANCED PARK LAND*
- **PROJECT PRIORITY VARIABLE:**
 - *SCHOOL TIME CHANGE*
 - *PRIVATE OPEN SPACE BECOMES AVAILABLE (GOLF COURSES ETC.)*

ADDITIONAL NON-ATHLETIC FIELD PROJECTS IN THE WORKS:

- **LOUISE LEVINGSTON COVE IMPROVEMENTS AT CRYSTAL LAKE**
- **MARTY SENDER GREENWAY PHASE 2 IMPROVEMENTS**
- **GATH POOL RECONSTRUCTION**
- **ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS AND OVERALL MASTER PLAN FOR CRYSTAL LAKE**
- **SPEARS PARK COMMUNITY GARDENS**
- **NEWTON CENTER PLAYGROUND PAVILION**
- **CABOT PARK PAVILION**



CrossFit City Line

Howe Park Off
- Leash Area

Charles River

Charles River

Charles River

Forte Park

Allison Park

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 multi-purpose field
- Playground
- Field House and restrooms



Forte Park Fields Key Athletic and Facility Stake Holder Data

Location	ATHLETIC FIELD TYPE	Total Hours (Apr 1 thru Nov 30)
Forte Park	Lighted Skinned Softball Field	182.75
	Lighted Soccer/Lax/Frisbee	768

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
- ASSESS SYNTHETIC TURF FEASIBILITY
- IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY
- IMPROVE SITE FURNITURE OFFERINGS (BIKE RACKS, BENCHES AND DRINKING FOUNTAINS)
- IMPROVE/ADD FIELD PERIMETER FENCE (AND NETTING)
- SCOREBOARDS
- INCREASED TREE CANOPY WHERE POSSIBLE

COMPLETED STEPS

- ATTAINED COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT FUNDING FOR DESIGN/ENGINEERING WORK
- PREPARED REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND ADVERTISED BID FOR DESIGNER
- DESIGNER SELECTION COMMITTEE CHOSE DESIGN FIRMS

NEXT STEPS

- DEVELOP ATHLETIC FIELD DESIGN/ LAYOUT BASED ON COMMUNITY INPUT, STAKEHOLDER AND DEPARTMENTAL NEEDS
- DEVELOP A PROJECT CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE
- SECURE CONSTRUCTION FUNDING

Questions and Discussion

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

For Presentation, Chat, recordings and meeting recordings, please go to
www.newtonma.gov/fieldprojects