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Newton ARPA Investment High School Field Lights - \$1,400,000

With the change to a later high school start time and the limited number of alternative playing fields in the City, the two unlit artificial turf fields in the City (one at Newton South High School known as the Brandeis Field and the other at Newton North High School's stadium on the Lowell Avenue side) need high-quality lighting systems to allow for late afternoon/evening playing time. Thanks to a \$270,000 fundraising campaign by Newton South's Boosters Club, a field lighting system using directed LED lights, helped pay for the field lights which we installed in 2020 at our third artificial turf field at the Newton South High School Stadium field.

This past fall, the Newton Public Schools had to use temporary lights at both fields. These temporary lights were noisy, smelly, provided poor field light quality which also spilled into the neighboring homes. New light systems, like the ones at the South Stadium, provide excellent field lighting, low neighborhood glare, eliminate reliance on fossil fuels by tapping into the electrical grid, and have no sound/odor problems. They are also highly programmable using a web-based control system, so that exact on, off, and dimming timing can be set according to protocols worked out with neighbors. These lighted fields will also provide much needed playing space while our grass fields throughout the City are rehabilitated.

Just as the South Boosters Club raised \$270,000 for the purchase of the South Stadium lights, the North Boosters Club have stepped forward to raise the same amount to contribute to the overall project cost, currently estimated in the \$650,000-\$750,000 range for each set of lights. Like the South Stadium project, our Newton Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) staff is managing these light projects.

We are also looking at adding an artificial turf field at the Russell Halloran Sports and Recreation Complex (a.k.a., Albemarle fields) with a modern lighting system. We expect this turf field will be used by both Newton North student athletes and players in our community leagues and teams. Newton PRC currently is designing a large-scale renovation to all the Albemarle fields, including this new artificial turf field area.

The new field lights will be followed in the next few years by a City-funded program to replace the aging artificial turf and track surfaces at both high schools. This will start at the oldest two fields at Newton South followed by the Newton North stadium field/track the following year. We'll make sure the new light systems are designed to allow us to replace the surfaces which needs to be done every 10 to 15 years.