



A TOWN-WIDE ASSESSMENT OF THE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MULTIPURPOSE SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES

Presented on March 6, 2023



Assessment Process

- Met with Parks and Recreation Board to discuss facilities availability, conditions and needs;
- Established an Athletic Facilities Assessment Committee;
 - Included Town Manager, Parks and Recreation Director, and two members of the Parks and Recreation Board (Colleen Mattatall and Suzanne Barton);
- Looked at all current facilities (purpose, use, and condition);
- Met with local sports leagues (primary users of the facilities) and to get their input on the local facilities (purpose, use, and conditions);
- Examined all Town and State-owned properties for potential opportunities for the development of additional needed facilities.



Assessment Report Format

- Analysis of the Condition of Existing Facilities;
- Ongoing Maintenance and Care of Existing Facilities;
- Need for Additional Facilities;
- Opportunities for the Development of Additional Needed Facilities;
- Recommendations for Actions



Analysis of the Condition of Existing Facilities

- The current athletic facilities in Town are in substandard condition and in need of various repairs and upgrades;
- Some of the facilities utilized for sporting events were not designed for those uses and therefore do not meet the minimum standards.



Ongoing Maintenance and Care of Existing Facilities

- Regular maintenance of the facilities is not sufficient to keep up with the current use demands;
- Personnel and funding for regular maintenance of facilities is low when compared to that of neighboring communities with similar facilities.



Need for Additional Facilities

- 2-4 multi-use artificial turf fields to provide space for soccer, lacrosse, field hockey and football;
- Indoor space for pickleball, volleyball, and off-season training and conditioning space;
- One additional larger-sized little league baseball field for ages 12-13;
- Additional needs will be created if the proposed elementary school rebuilds move forward.



Opportunities for the Development of Additional Needed Facilities

- Examined all available Town and State-owned properties
 - Developable Lot Area (minus wetlands, floodplains and steep slopes).
 - Access to travel ways and potential traffic impacts.
 - Potential impacts to residential neighborhoods and/or schools.
- Determined two existing town-owned properties could currently accommodate multi-use field development
 - Mill Woods Park
 - Kycia
- There is a current need for additional indoor facilities but scope, size and location needs more analysis to determine best options.



Recommendations for Actions

1. Use available ARPA funds to develop 1-2 new artificial turf multi-use fields at either Kycia Farm or Mill Woods Park. Consider including a half-sized field for practice and drills as part of this development.
2. Consider a recreation bond (of up to \$5 million) to fund the much-needed major capital projects and to bring the facilities up to standard and to complete field development not covered by ARPA funds.
3. Begin to increase staffing and resources for parks and fields maintenance and develop an organizational restructuring in physical services that maintains dedicated field personnel through the fall and winter.
4. Reinstate seasonal staffing levels for parks and fields.



Questions?