

Hingham Athletic Fields and Outdoor Courts Study



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Acknowledgements

We thank and acknowledge the residents of the Town of Hingham, town staff members, and the many individuals representing a great number of sports programs whose participation at various meetings helped forge this report. The recommendations and priorities established within this document address the needs of the Hingham community and the needs of various other stakeholders who rely on town recreation facilities for use and enjoyment. Recommendations are intended to be pragmatic and recognize that municipal governments like Hingham must continue to provide a high level of service, even in times of financial uncertainty and increasing athletic participation rates.

Athletic facilities are an important asset to the sports and recreation community. This study intends to strike the right balance by identifying and recommending renovated or new facilities to meet the varying needs of Hingham.

When implemented, the improvements identified within the study will provide enhanced opportunities for public use and enjoyment. Sports fields and courts will be more accessible and readily available to the various sports leagues, recreational leagues, and residents of the town.

Thanks in particular to the members of the Field and Court Study Working Group (the Working Group) and Mark Thorell, Hingham's Recreation Department Director, for their assistance in providing key information on individual properties on how they are used. In addition, our appreciation goes out to the many representatives of other town departments and committees for their critical advice and insight. The recommendations contained in this master plan represent our best professional judgments and expertise, tempered by the unique perspectives of each of the participants in the process.

Hingham Field and Court Study Working Group

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2020

CHAPTER 1 Executive Summary

The following study represents a unique opportunity for the Town of Hingham to assess its athletic facility properties to develop a series of thoughtful and achievable enhancements to these spaces that will provide benefits to all members of the community. It provides a comprehensive inventory and analysis of all existing conditions as well as a series of recommendations for improving facilities throughout town. And finally, it can serve as a road map for the town as it makes decisions over the next several years to implement some, or all, of the recommendations. Even implementing a few strategic projects would help alleviate pressure and address some needs.

A needs assessment has been prepared and is based on an examination of the physical conditions of all fields and courts in addition to information gathered during a series of meetings with key user groups and stakeholders. As work progressed, the following became clear:

- There are insufficient athletic playing fields to meet increasing demands of the Hingham community. Refer to *Appendix C – Field and Courts Inventory Matrix* for field use data and *Section 4 - Needs Assessment* for more information.
- A centralized scheduling and permitting process would add transparency and reduce the frustration expressed by stakeholders.
- Centralizing all maintenance on fields town-wide and across jurisdictions would help ensure sufficient staffing, equipment, and proper materials are available. Additionally, this will help staff provide maintenance at an even and equitable level throughout town and at a level that maximizes field space potential and supports the demands of all Hingham residents.
- Due to heavy and often excessive use during all seasons of the year and during all types of weather, turf conditions are stressed at some locations. The addition of synthetic turf athletic fields would provide high-use venues and help relieve the pressures on natural grass fields and improve playing conditions.

- Poor playing conditions can demoralize users and increase the risk of injury.
- The lack of a clear, concise, and evenly enforced “Field Use Policy” places those responsible for field upkeep at a great disadvantage. Surrounding communities have long since adopted policies that have proven crucial to the maintenance of improved field/turf conditions by controlling use, particularly during poor weather. Hingham should adopt such a policy so that appropriate controls govern the use of the fields and allows for improved playing conditions to be achieved.
- Hingham should look for opportunities to modify or improve playing venues at existing properties. As an example, reorganizing the layout of Lynch Field would provide two (2) full-size football fields and enable both baseball fields to be used simultaneously with risking player safety.
- The town should aggressively pursue other traditional state and federal funding sources in order to reduce the financial burden on residents and to match local funding authorizations.

Surrounding communities have moved aggressively to expand their field-based playing venues due to dramatically increased rates of participation in youth sports and the expanding participation rate of women and girls in general. Hingham sees continued expansion in the number of programs offered and the number of individuals participating.

The most important goal of this study is to help the town get to the point of maintaining and operating quality athletic fields and courts regardless of the level of play. Making improvements to how fields and courts are constructed, in addition to sufficiently funding and staffing maintenance efforts, are critical for Hingham to provide the quality facilities that residents expressly desired.

CHAPTER 2 Introduction

The Town of Hingham retained Weston & Sampson in 2019 to complete this Athletic Fields and Outdoor Court Study. The town has invested funds to assess current field and park properties that provide critical outlets for outdoor athletic competition and recreational enjoyment for residents of all ages throughout the community. It is important to note that outdoor recreation needs relate not just to the sports/athletic programs that make use of them, but also to less formal recreational pursuits by individuals not aligned with a specific organization, like the neighborhood kids who seek a pickup game of football, baseball, or soccer within a particular venue or the parents who would like to stroll in the park with their children. In addition, the study recommends accessibility improvements at recreation assets and other improvements that encourage multi-generational use.

As demand for Hingham's available recreational resources increases, pressures mount to maintain facilities in a condition that supports the desired level of use in addition to providing gender equity. This document proposes preferred conceptual designs at specific properties that, if implemented, will improve conditions to help relieve the demand pressures currently being experienced. Some of these proposed concept plans involve major renovations while others are more surgical in their approach.

This strategic plan will serve as a guide for the future development of fields and courts, as well as a tool to secure funding from various private, Municipal, State, and Federal sources.



Cronin Complex

The specific scope of work undertaken by Weston & Sampson included:

- Compilation of base maps and plans suitable for the development of conceptual design plans for each of the properties being considered
- Compilation of all existing conditions at each property
- Identification of safety issues, site limitations, constraints, and opportunities for each property
- Formulation of a town-wide user assessment to evaluate current use and identify most critical needs
- Engaging the Hingham community in a public dialogue to further establish and confirm preferences, needs, and priorities in relation to the future renovation and restoration of each property
- Development of conceptual plans for select properties prepared specifically in response to community needs and preferences. Ultimately, these have been endorsed by both community participants and town representatives in the form of a “preferred” conceptual design for each property
- Establishment of high-level budgets, phasing, funding, and implementation strategies for all desired property enhancements
- Completion of a final master plan report

Representatives of Weston & Sampson have developed conceptual improvement plans for each of the designated properties. The plans were generated in response to the needs of the town as identified through on-site evaluations and as expressed by various user groups and town representatives who are responsible for the programming and maintenance of the various sites. At the outset of the process, Weston & Sampson representatives toured the properties to assess the existing conditions of all field and court facilities. This helped to identify current limitations, safety, and maintenance issues as well as potential opportunities for improving facilities and the user experience.

Conceptual designs were iteratively presented to the Working Group throughout the study process and to town residents at one in-person public outreach meeting held on December 2, 2020.

In addition to identifying capital improvement priorities for each site, it is important to note that this study also identifies important considerations pertaining to a modified town-wide maintenance strategy, a centralized permitting system, and the establishment of a fields use policy. If adopted, this field’s use policy will help to:

- Clearly articulate when fields are available for use and when they are closed due to inclement weather, the need to “rest” turf, or for other maintenance or refurbishment efforts
- Reduce the pressure on those making the decisions to close or delay opening a field by having clearly defined expectations and protocols
- Improve conditions at each playing field venue by eliminating play during poor weather. Use of fields during, or immediately after, poor weather can quickly damage a facility regardless of the effort and capital invested in the facility



Carlson Complex

It was clear all participants in this process want to improve playing conditions for all sports groups and players at all locations so that competition could be held within venues that meet minimum organizational standards, are safe, attractive, and comfortable for users and spectators. In short, there was a strong desire to establish playing venues the town could take pride in. This report represents the culmination of the master planning process.

This report contains narrative and graphic depictions of the preferred master plans with descriptions of potential improvements, expansion scenarios, and implementation strategies. In addition to identifying new and refurbished facilities, there was an attempt to identify other important initiatives that might improve the overall performance of a property/facility. These initiatives include improved turf conditions, improved parking, site access, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, improved ancillary features, and landscape qualities which establish the characteristics inherent to first-class park and athletic facility properties. Implementation of the improvements outlined in this master plan will require significant effort. *Section 8: Funding Opportunities* identifies potential granting agencies, non-profit entities, and other sources of capital dollars or in-kind services that might help with refurbishment of one or more of the properties.

It is important to note that a “study” is typically general and dynamic which means the recommendations are not “cast in stone”. It is fully intended that, as particular projects are implemented, the actual scope of improvements contained in this report will again be validated or refined to meet actual field conditions and community priorities and preferences through a continuing dialogue with stakeholders.

PROPERTIES ASSESSED

The study focuses primarily on eighteen (18) properties that are town-owned, but under the jurisdiction of three (3) different entities: Board of Selectmen, School Department, and Recreation Commission. Refer to *Appendix A* for a complete inventory matrix. The list of properties and their respective jurisdiction are as follows:

Board of Selectmen

- ♦ Carlson Complex
- ♦ Lynch Field
- ♦ Margett’s Field 2 (Ward Street)
- ♦ Powers Field
- ♦ South Shore Country Club
- ♦ High School (golf driving range only)

School Department

- ♦ High School
- ♦ Middle School
- ♦ East Elementary
- ♦ Foster Elementary
- ♦ Plymouth River Elementary (fields only)
- ♦ South Elementary

Recreation Commission

- ♦ Bradley Woods
- ♦ Cronin Complex
- ♦ Haley Field
- ♦ Hersey Field
- ♦ Hull Street Field
- ♦ Kress Field
- ♦ Margett’s Field 1 (Ward Street)
- ♦ Plymouth River Elementary (tennis courts only)



CHAPTER 3 Public Outreach

The study process included a series of informational and public comment sessions, with key stakeholder meetings identified in the chart located below.

Meetings were held at the Town Hall and involved the Working Group, sports league stakeholders, and members of the general public. Colored plans and digital presentations were used to communicate study findings, recommendations, and conceptual designs for each of the properties. Feedback from each meeting was constructive and positive with most participants expressing keen interest in achieving dramatic improvements to the facilities and enhanced conditions for all users.

Individual meetings were held with several stakeholder representatives, including the following:

- ♦ Flag Football
- ♦ Tackle Football
- ♦ Girls Lacrosse
- ♦ Boys Lacrosse
- ♦ Barker Basketball
- ♦ Men's Softball
- ♦ Women's Softball
- ♦ Babe Ruth Baseball
- ♦ Little League Baseball
- ♦ Youth Soccer
- ♦ Field Hockey
- ♦ Pickleball
- ♦ Elder Services
- ♦ High School Athletic Director
- ♦ Recreation Commission Chairwoman

MEETING	SUBJECT	DATE
Working Group	Project kick-off meeting, outline scope of work, review project schedule	September 5, 2019
Stakeholder Meetings		October 15, 2019
Stakeholder Meetings		October 16, 2019
Public Survey	Public outreach survey questions and answers via SurveyMonkey.com	November 5, 2019
Public Outreach Meeting 1	Review of initial mapping and field reconnaissance efforts, receipt of comments regarding limitations and opportunities	December 2, 2020
Working Group		January 2, 2020
Working Group		January 27, 2020
Working Group		February 13, 2020
Working Group		March 6, 2020
Draft Master Plan	Initial Master Plan draft developed	March 27, 2020
Draft Final Master Plan	Meeting to review Final Master Plan and comments	May 22, 2020
Final Master Plan	Document approved	June 2020

USER SURVEYS

A public survey was generated and distributed online and in printed form by town representatives in order to benchmark resident satisfaction with existing active recreation facilities and to learn of perceived deficiencies within the Hingham outdoor athletic fields and courts system. A total of 519 Hingham residents participated in the survey. The key takeaways from the survey are as follows:



Overall Experience and Meeting Needs

In terms of their overall experience with existing facilities, over 60% of respondents rated their experience as needing improvement while 32% described it as adequate.

Approximately 67% of respondents stated the town's existing facilities do not sufficiently meet their needs in terms of availability

and performance. The respondents indicating their needs are not being met were asked to describe why. The 333 written responses were categorized to identify trends. The overwhelming majority of written responses (77%) indicated weather and/or poor field conditions as the reason their needs were not being met. A shortage of fields was the second highest reason (21%) attributed to needs not being met. Poor court conditions and a shortage of courts were included in 11% and 10% of written responses, respectively. Correspondingly, on a five-star rating scale, respondents ranked town-wide facilities as follows: 5-stars (13%), 4-stars (14%), 3-stars (33%), 2-stars (23%), and 1-star (17%). Overall, 73% of respondents ranked town facilities as 3-stars or below, meaning that they generally view playing conditions as fair to poor/unavailable.

Satisfaction with Existing Facilities

Almost every field in town (rectangular, baseball, and softball) was rated between average to very poor. The two exceptions were the Carlson Complex Little League Baseball Field and the Middle School Rectangular Fields, with 32% and 27% of respondents ranking them excellent or above average, respectively.

Similarly, almost every outdoor court in town was rated between average to very poor. The two highest-performing courts were the tennis courts at the Cronin Complex and the tennis courts at Plymouth River Elementary School with 33% and 24% of respondents ranking them excellent to above average, respectively.

What is Impacting the Experience

When asked how weather conditions impact the use of outdoor fields and courts, 70% of respondents stated their use is impacted consistently (22%) or pretty often (48%). On a related note, 67% of respondents said field and court conditions limited their use, mostly citing poor drainage as the cause.



East Elementary

In terms of availability, almost 74% of respondents found fields and outdoor courts were available to them when needed while 81% rated Hingham's permitting and schedule process between average and poor.

What is Working and What is Wanted

When asked what was working well at an existing facility that they'd like to see more, the majority of written answers included the synthetic turf field at the high school as well as the bathroom facilities at the Cronin Complex and Lynch Fields.

Survey participants were asked for the two most-critical improvements they'd like to see completed at existing athletic fields and outdoor courts. Respondents mostly cited maintenance, improved field drainage, more synthetic turf surfaces, and lights as the most critical improvements needed.

Almost 70% of respondents believe additional synthetic turf fields would help remedy their issues and/or concerns. When asked where they would like to see new synthetic turf fields installed, the responses predominantly named the Carlson Complex, the high school property, the Ward Street Fields, and Lynch.



Margetts Field

In order to assess the best use of each property, it was important to consider the most pressing needs of the Hingham community. This section represents a synthesis of the information obtained during the study process. In order to compile the range of needs, a variety of methods and tools were used including those summarized below:

- Information obtained at public information meetings
- Information obtained at meetings with key stakeholder groups including more than a dozen sports groups and organizations, the School Department, and the Recreation Department
- Information and advice from town staff members, including all key departments (Department of Public Works, SSCC, School Department, Recreation Department, etc.) since these individuals are charged with the maintenance and operation of facilities
- Anecdotal data gathered during the study process
- Analysis and inventory of existing facilities and conditions throughout Hingham
- Use of recognized industry standard parks and recreation related guidelines and protocols

Regarding the last two items in the bulleted list above, comprehensive inspections were conducted at each venue to inventory the quantity of the facilities and to assess their conditions. For playing fields, the physical condition can often be a strong indicator of the degree of use (or overuse) or if there are any unsafe playing conditions. For outdoor courts, the inspections included evaluating the playing surface, court components (i.e., basketball posts and backboards), amenities (i.e., benches), and accessibility.

Information compiled during meetings, the inventory of current facilities, and the analysis of existing conditions was most critical in determining the needs of the community. As some of the town's playing fields and outdoor courts are located on school properties, the

resulting needs assessment considers the inherent scheduling conflicts that occur at these locations.

CURRENT TRENDS AND EXPERIENCE

Over time, and throughout the New England region, there is typically an ebb and flow in the popularity of certain recreational activities. Hingham is no exception to this pattern. However, the town has historically exhibited a very consistent and robust participation rate across its sports programs. In fact, several programs reported an increase in participation rates and youth looking to sign up. This rise in activity and popularity is putting additional pressure on existing athletic field facilities and point towards a need for more field time for practices and games.

The individual stakeholder meetings with numerous sports program representatives provided insight into what they're experiencing and how existing facilities support their efforts as well as fall short. Several themes were repeated:

- Weather and poor field drainage negatively impacted ability to use fields
- Due to field capacities and/or subpar field conditions, programs need to turn new participants away or have created wait lists
- The field permitting process is confusing and inconsistent
- Field maintenance, and subsequent field conditions, is inconsistent throughout town
- There isn't a Field Use Policy that is consistently enforced town-wide
- There is an inequitable distribution of baseball fields compared to softball fields
- Field time is limited to games, but practice time is necessary and strongly desired

FIELD ANALYSIS

Due to the large participation rates of sports programs, there is a general shortfall of dedicated rectangular-shaped fields that are consistently available. As a result, the sports programs requiring rectangular-shaped fields often encounter scheduling conflicts and this causes some programs to reduce their number of practices or games. This is exacerbated when weather impacts field conditions. Maintaining turf under these conditions becomes challenging for town staff.

Field Use Analysis and Annual Hours of Use

Weston & Sampson concludes that most fields are used near to, or even beyond, their maximum number of recommended hours. It's important to note that this does not allow for the "resting" of any fields and does not include additional events such as rentals, passive recreation or other informal events that may occur. Refer to *Appendix*



B for detailed tables of field usage by season. The following is a summary of the average study field use:

- The thirty-seven (37) natural grass field footprints and one (1) synthetic turf field were used an estimated 14,600 hours for an average of 385 hours per field.

Based on total annual hours of permitted use, Hingham has a shortage of rectangular multi-use fields which is exacerbated by poor drainage and insufficient maintenance.

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To provide a better understanding of the analysis and recommendations in this report, it is useful to compare the industry standard recommendations with the assumptions used in this report. The industry standards and report assumptions can generally be divided in two categories: "ideal utilization" and "realistic utilization." The list below outlines recommendations of turf professionals (including the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) and representatives from various colleges and universities) regarding the use and maintenance of the athletic fields.

- Make every effort to begin each season with 100% turf coverage.
- Industry field and turf professionals recommend limiting field event scheduling to 25 to 50 events (100 to 250 hours) of use per year. Natural turf areas become noticeably thin and bare beyond this limit and unable to recover.
- Each field should receive at least eight (8) weeks rest (no use at all) during the active growing seasons (spring and fall) each year to allow the turf to rejuvenate prior to the next year's use.
- Each field should receive one inch minimum of water, through rain or irrigation, each week, to maintain healthy and vigorous growth.



Hingham Middle School

- ♦ Turf should receive the same level of industry recommended maintenance during active, inactive, and field rest periods.
- ♦ Each field should receive one (1) full year of rest with a full rejuvenation program every four (4) years to permit turf to be revitalized and to develop a sufficient “thatch” layer. Although seasonal thatch removal is a normal part of turf maintenance, athletic fields require a certain thickness of thatch to protect roots from players’ cleats, to maintain moisture, and to cushion players from injury.
- ♦ Football, soccer, and lacrosse tend to be more damaging to turf than other sports such as baseball and softball. Therefore, to prevent overuse of natural turf, a shared use field (i.e., soccer teams using baseball outfields) tends to be discouraged by field maintenance professionals.

While the above recommendations represent “ideal utilization” scenario, it is unrealistic for most municipal recreation and maintenance departments to closely or consistently adhere to them. Fiscal budget, personnel, and facility supply limitations require a more “realistic utilization” of athletic fields. Listed below are industry standard recommendations for the realistic utilization scenario:

- ♦ Make every effort to begin each season with 100% turf coverage.
- ♦ Field scheduling should be limited to 75% to 90% of maximum capacity per week to allow enough rain date game replays; allowance for field, player, and equipment setup/takedown time; and some measure of in-season field rest.
- ♦ Limit use of each sufficiently maintained natural turf field to 450 to 550 hours of use per season.

- ♦ Sufficient field quantities should exist to allow each field at least four (4) weeks of rest (no use at all) during an active growing season (spring and fall) each year to allow the turf to rejuvenate prior to the next year's use in either the spring or fall.
- ♦ Fields that are not irrigated should be scheduled for moderate use during the summer season with play rotated frequently during the season to minimize turf damage. Alternatively, provide on-site irrigation or watering systems for each town field. Exceptional damage occurs easily with use during hot and dry summer months as well as use immediately after a rain event.
- ♦ Maintain sufficient thatch levels and vigorous turf. All fields should receive the industry-recommended levels of maintenance throughout the spring and fall growing seasons.

- ♦ Play on multi-use fields should be routinely rotated, where possible, to minimize areas of turf damage and wear.
- ♦ Fields should be aerated and slice-seeded as necessary to ensure adequate root growth and turf coverage.

COURT ANALYSIS

Hingham has a robust inventory of court facilities throughout town. There are thirty-one (31) tennis courts, eleven (11) basketball courts, and one (1) hockey court. The condition of courts varies by site. Please refer to *Chapter 6 SITE-BY-SITE ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS*. There is a surplus of tennis courts, but there are no dedicated pickleball courts despite high and increasing demand.



Hingham Middle School

PERMITTING AND SCHEDULING

Athletic facilities in Hingham fall under three different jurisdictions: Board of Selectmen, School Department, and Recreation Department. Permitting and scheduling of facilities on school property is handled by school staffing while scheduling facilities at all other sites is handled by the Recreation Department. Having two systems in place has proven to be challenging for sports program representatives to navigate and track.

MAINTENANCE PROTOCOLS

Similar to the permitting and scheduling protocols described above, the maintenance of athletic facilities throughout town is managed and performed by several entities which results in inconsistent field conditions that adversely impact the quantity and quality of play. It is also important to note that the baseball fields have been maintained primarily by volunteers through hours of work and private funding. In the recent past, league fees increased which enabled the town to hire the South Shore Country Club to handle more of the maintenance. Although the town charges fees for the use of its fields, the amount of money generated helps offset maintenance costs, but typically does

not cover the full maintenance cost. Please refer to *Appendix A* for a detailed table of current property management and maintenance responsibilities.

SUMMARY

In response to these factors, and as an outgrowth of the survey and study process, many basic needs have been identified, as summarized below:

It is anticipated that the town will require modifications and upgrades to facilities to meet the need related to continuing increases in sports activity participation rates. In addition, a key goal for the town is to better allow rotational resting of fields to help optimize playing conditions. The conceptual plans developed for each of the sites attempt to address the needs that are most pressing, most widely supported, and most realistic given the nature of the properties that are available and given fiscal realities. There are select opportunities for field expansion at existing facilities as well as the reorganization of facility types throughout town.



HINGHAM'S ATHLETIC FIELD AND COURT NEEDS

More Field Space / More Field Time to Accommodate Increasing Demand

Opportunities to Rest Fields

Improved Accessibility Town-wide

Improved Ancillary Facilities (Bleachers, Backstops, etc.)

Centralized Permitting and Scheduling

Centralized Maintenance to Provide Equity Throughout Town

Increased Funding for Basic Field Maintenance and Improvements

Increased Staffing Levels to Maintain Fields

New Capital Funding for Major Improvements at Field and Court Properties

The master planning effort presents a unique opportunity for the Town of Hingham to assess their recreation and athletic facility properties and develop a series of thoughtful and achievable enhancements to these spaces that will provide benefits to all members of the community.

The master planning process identified the critical need for new and refurbished athletic facilities (i.e., fields, courts, diamonds, etc.) to better support the many sports programs that operate within the community. Based on participation rates for various activities, Hingham does not have enough high performing fields to accommodate the large number of users. It is important to note that participation rates for several sports programs have been exhibiting year-over-year growth and indications are that this growth is expected to continue. The resulting problem is two-fold; with heavy programming/overuse and limited facilities, the town cannot serve its recreation programs adequately, and appropriate field conditions cannot be maintained. To this end, we have structured the preferred conceptual plans for various properties to:

- Recognize the desire of residents to provide good quality and well-performing sports facilities that can be maintained with reasonable resources in a manner that fits the town's (and leagues') operation and maintenance abilities;
- Identify the need to develop facilities that are properly oriented, adequately dimensioned, properly designed, and contain appropriate setbacks and buffers to ensure user safety;
- Recognize the surrounding land use context and the need to be a good neighbor by developing safe, attractive field, court, and park facilities and amenities that respect the needs of abutting property owners; and
- Provide accessible and multi-generational open space and recreation assets in order to better serve all Hingham residents.

SIMPLIFY PERMITTING AND SCHEDULING

Due to the challenges related to permitting and scheduling identified in *Chapter 4 NEEDS ASSESSMENT*, it is recommended that the town centralize and simplify its permitting and scheduling protocols to improve effectiveness and efficiency for users and town staff. Centralizing all permitting/scheduling on fields town-wide and across jurisdictions will provide better transparency and clarity on when fields are booked and when they are allowed to be used (see the *FIELD USE POLICY* subsection below.) Additionally, the town should utilize its existing scheduling software to upload permitting information to a central municipal website. The Field and Court Study Working Group discussed the Recreation Department serve as the clearinghouse for the permitting and scheduling of all athletic fields and courts in town which was well-received by representatives of pertinent stakeholders like the School Department.

FIELD MAINTENANCE

Due to the challenges related to field maintenance identified in *Chapter 4 NEEDS ASSESSMENT*, it is recommended that the town centralize all maintenance on fields town-wide and across jurisdictions to ensure sufficient staffing, equipment, and proper materials are available. This will help staff provide maintenance at an even and equitable level throughout town and at a level that maximizes field space potential and supports the demands of all Hingham residents. The Board of Selectmen, School Department, and Recreation Department should establish a protocol for the facility maintenance program, clearly defining a "central command" for maintenance and outlining who will be responsible for each required task and funding. This is essential to ensure that the town's future investments will be protected and the required work will be completed as expected by the community. It will also allow for accountability for the maintenance, game preparation, and general repairs of the facilities. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) defining the protocol should be prepared and agreed upon so

proper operations and maintenance can occur for new as well as existing facilities.

To accomplish this, the Field and Court Study Working Group discussed centralizing field and court maintenance under the oversight of the South Shore County Club superintendent due to existing maintenance expertise, staffing, and equipment. This individual would work closely with the Board of Selectmen, School Department, Recreation Department, and Department of Public Works to assure proper implementation of the maintenance and improvement programs.

In addition to the centralization recommendation above, it is also recommended that the town increase its annual maintenance budget for fields to a level that appropriately compensates for this increased responsibilities and enables staff to maintain facilities at a level that satisfies the needs and demands of Hingham's athletic and recreation programming. The MOU could outline the contributions required by each jurisdictional entity or by the town as a municipality.

The following table provides an example of calculating an approximate annual maintenance budget if Hingham strives to maintain its fields at an above-average level:

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE BUDGET EXAMPLE			
Field Type	Materials Cost per Field (\$6,000)	Labor Hours per Field (250 labor hours @ \$25/hour)	Total Annual Cost
Natural Turf Field (37 fields)	\$222,000	\$231,250	\$453,250
Synthetic Turf Field (1 fields)	\$6,000	\$6,250	\$12,250
Grand Total	\$228,000	\$237,500	\$465,500

It is important to note the budget figure above does include the cost (hours) for mowing the fields. The town should also assess current

staffing levels to properly maintain the fields and facilities. This industry average suggests one staff person per ten acres not including the superintendent.

After discussions with maintenance staff, it is also recommended that any future fence installations include a "mow curb" in order to eliminate the need for weed whacking which is time consuming from a labor perspective.

SYNTHETIC TURF VERSUS NATURAL TURF

With the increasing vagaries of weather, popularity of youth sports, and the high demand for fields and field maintenance, many communities are installing synthetic turf fields to handle the increase in user demand. Synthetic turf is extremely durable, long lasting and easy to maintain, making it reliable and available when other natural turf fields are being over-used with little to no rest creating potential safety hazards and poor playability. Below are a list of the advantages and disadvantages of each field type.



Cronin Complex

SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD	
ADVANTAGES	
Lower Maintenance Costs	Synthetic turf requires much less yearly maintenance which includes grooming the field every 100 hours of play, top dressing the infill every 2-3 years, and annual G-MAX monitoring. Annual maintenance costs can range from \$15,000-\$25,000.
Playing Time	Due to the durability, synthetic turf can support over 2,000 hours of play per year and can be played on in most weather conditions. Extended play seasons - can usually play March to December.
Fewer Injuries	The even playing surface creates fewer injuries compared to the uneven surface of natural turf where dips and patches form and are enhanced during wet conditions creating mud and slipping hazards.
DISADVANTAGES	
Initial Costs	The initial costs can be 2-4 times that of a natural turf field.
Abrasive	Synthetic turf has been known to be more abrasive than natural turf, resulting in more turf burns to a player's skin.
Heat Hazards	Synthetic turf has heat absorbing properties.
Replacement Costs	The replacement costs are a lot higher for synthetic turf and can reach up to 75% of the initial investment.

NATURAL TURF FIELD	
ADVANTAGES	
Initial Cost	The initial cost of a natural turf field is about one-half to one-third of the cost of a synthetic turf field.
Performance	Natural grass creates more friction than artificial turf, a factor that accelerates rates at which objects move across its surface. In a game such as baseball or soccer, reduced friction means ground-based plays that may be easy catches on natural grass are more difficult on artificial turf.
Replacement Costs	The replacement costs are similar to the initial costs, which are much lower than the cost of replacing a synthetic turf field.
DISADVANTAGES	
Maintenance Costs	Annual maintenance costs for a natural grass field can be more than three times that of a synthetic turf field. These costs include mowing, watering, fertilizing, aeration, seeding and labor.
Playing Time	Natural turf should not be played on more than 500 hours per year, limiting the amount of use it gets. If a natural turf field is being played on more than the recommended amount, there is less rest/ recovery time for the grass, resulting in more safety hazards and poor playing surfaces. Natural turf is also restricted by the weather condition.
Environment	An average natural turf field uses about 50,000 gallons of water per week during the growing season. Also, natural grass fields require fertilizers (and sometimes pesticides/herbicides) which can be impactful to the environment.



Reasons to install a synthetic turf field:

- ♦ Increased availability for community use and school athletics
- ♦ Extension of seasonal field usage (March-December in comparison to mid-April through November)
- ♦ Solution to New England weather (practice/compete on fields earlier in the spring and later in the fall, allowing for competition on wet, rainy days; natural turf fields require cancellation in most cases)
- ♦ Flexibility in scheduling practices and games; opportunity for longer time slots, necessitated by increased numbers of student-athletes
- ♦ Ability to rest the natural turf fields for proper maintenance, improved playing conditions, and higher performance

Due to the factors described above and based on Hingham's specific needs identified in *Chapter 4 NEEDS ASSESSMENT*, it recommended to install two (2) synthetic turf field at the Carlson Complex Fields as well as an additional synthetic turf field at Hingham High School. This will allow for athletic programs to use the field in early March and into late November when sports are in season. Due to poor current natural turf conditions, the fields can rarely be used prior to April and can be used only sporadically late in the fall season. These limitations on field use were repeatedly brought up as a frustrating experience at nearly every stakeholder meeting.

SPORTS LIGHTING

Only three town-owned sports facilities possess sports lighting: the newly renovated synthetic turf field at the high school, Lynch Field, and the tennis courts at Foster Elementary School. Of these three properties, the high school has the only field in town with lights taller than 35-feet. The town's zoning by-law Section IV-A, Intensity Regulations (starting on page 51) limits the height of any building or structure to 35-feet in height.

Due to the durable characteristics of synthetic turf fields, as described earlier, it is recommended to concurrently install sports lighting wherever synthetic turf is installed in order to maximize the hours of use. The hours diverted to synthetic turf fields relieves the burden on natural turf fields which enables more "rest" and promotes better field conditions. It is important to note that an additional synthetic turf field at Hingham High School would not contemplate additional sports

lighting due to the intended use of such an asset and a desire to be sensitive to surrounding neighbors, as has been advised.

The technology in today's sports lighting is significantly advanced compared to even five (5) or ten (10) years ago. Sports lighting of appropriate height results in better lit facilities, improved night-time play, reduced light spillage, and less glare seen by adjacent properties.

For the town to pursue the installation of sports lighting above the current zoning by-law maximum height, there are two evident paths to pursue: a zoning variance on a site-by-site basis or a change to the zoning by-law language to allow for sports lighting above 35-feet in certain zoning districts where fields are situated (and by properties owned by particular entities: Board of Selectmen, School Department, and Recreation Department.)



Hingham High School



Margetts Field

DRAINAGE MANAGEMENT AND TARGETED DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS

The proper drainage of fields (the removal of excess water from the soil surface and/or soil profile either by gravity or artificial means) is critical. Some fields possess adequate drainage because the field was constructed properly. However, poor drainage is one of the most common problems at other high-use athletic fields. Soil compaction is a major contributor to drainage issues, even if the field is properly graded. When water remains on the field surface and does not drain, many problems occur including slippery and unsafe conditions. Games are cancelled and maintenance practices are delayed. If play occurs on fields when saturated, the turf can become permanently damaged. Additionally, wet soils take longer to warm up in the spring which can delay seed germination.

The most effective way to improve the drainage performance of a natural grass turf field is a full-depth reconstruction with proper soil composition, grading, and a sub-drainage system. However, full reconstruction and sub-drainage can be cost prohibitive and take a field offline for two (2) or more growing seasons. Other drainage

improvement options are available that are less intensive and help to get a field back online faster. Some of these methods, which are frequently used together, include two-inch (2") trench drains, verti-drain aeration, verti-quake sand injection slits (available in multiple widths depending on need), and sand top-dressing. Trench drains require a perimeter collector pipe and, ultimately, an outlet structure.

The approximate cost to install these drainage improvement interventions at existing fields is summarized below:

ITEM	UNIT	UNIT COST
Cut in 2" Sand-Slit Trench Drains	LF	7.50
Verti-quake Sand Injection Slits (2 directions)	SY	\$1.25
Verti-drain Aeration	SY	\$0.25
2mm Spec. Sand for Top Dressing (1/4" depth)	CY	\$54.00
Collector Drain	LF	\$30.00
Drainage Structure	EA	\$1,000.00

The conceptual design plans included on the following pages identify the proposed configuration of the site features at individual properties. It is important to note that many recommendations suggest the refinement, enhancement, or refurbishment of existing facilities within the properties. However, the plans also recommend the development of new facilities and amenities that would provide new or expanded opportunities for public use and enjoyment. Importantly, if additional sites become available to the town for new recreational amenities, the additional facilities could alleviate/eliminate issues at other recreation and school properties.

The following property assessments and recommendations, listed in alphabetical order, identify properties and a series of improvements that would help to relieve many pressures and challenges currently being experienced by the residents of Hingham. These properties are valuable assets and, if properly redesigned, could provide more meaningful recreational opportunities to all user groups. These properties include, but are not limited to:

- ♦ Carlson Complex
- ♦ Cronin Complex
- ♦ Haley Field
- ♦ Hersey Field
- ♦ High School
- ♦ Kress Field
- ♦ Lynch Field
- ♦ Margetts Field
- ♦ Middle School
- ♦ Plymouth River School
- ♦ Powers Field
- ♦ South Elementary School

It is important to note that town representatives have provided a significant amount of input and many suggestions during the development of the conceptual plans and review process. In addition,

key stakeholders (i.e., sports league representatives) and other residents contributed to the development of the preferred plans. Short narratives describe each preferred conceptual plan, which graphically depicts the basic scope of suggested improvements.

Cost Considerations

The following pre-design program cost estimates are high-level estimates and identify an initial breakdown of costs associated with the recommended improvements. All costs have been rounded and are estimated based on previous experience with similar projects.

The soft costs found in each estimate typically cover the consultant services costs associated with survey, wetlands delineation, soil borings, test pits, stormwater modeling, permitting, bid assistance, and construction administration and oversight.

For larger versions of the existing conditions plans and larger preferred conceptual plans, please refer to *Appendix C*.

BRADLEY WOODS EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

The Bradley Woods site is located on Holly Street and contains the following facilities:

- ♦ One (1) basketball court
- ♦ One (1) natural grass field area

Programmed Uses

- ♦ Informal use only

Summary of Existing Conditions

The surface of the basketball court was in fair condition, however the court dimensions were tight around the perimeter. The backboards and goals were in fair to poor condition.



CARLSON COMPLEX EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

The Carlson Complex is located off Bare Cove Park Drive and contains the following facilities:

- ♦ Two (2) natural turf rectangular fields
- ♦ One (1) softball field
- ♦ One (1) Little League baseball field
- ♦ Batting cage and support shed
- ♦ Two (2) basketball courts
- ♦ One (1) skate park

Programmed Uses

- ♦ Youth soccer
- ♦ Field hockey
- ♦ Little League baseball
- ♦ Girls softball
- ♦ Boys lacrosse
- ♦ Little Kickers soccer

Summary of Existing Conditions

The natural turf athletic fields are used consistently throughout the year. The back 1/3 of the field area was being rested at the time of inspection, having recently been top-dressed and seeded. The grading of the field was fair while the turf was in fair to poor condition with worn spots. Poor drainage along the western side of the field area was consistently brought up during the stakeholder interview process as a limitation on playability.

The baseball field facility was in great shape.

The softball field had fair grading (with a minor lip at the infield edge) and grass turf conditions. The backstop was in fair condition, but its height was insufficient and should be replaced.



Both basketball courts were appropriately sized and the backboards and goals were in fair shape, but could be upgraded (i.e., to a TrueBounce-type product.) The surface of the eastern court was in fair condition, but in need of a new sealcoat. The surface of the western court was in fair to poor conditions with small degraded areas and minor grading issues.

The skate park was in fair condition with small instances of surface cracking. Signage was missing and needs replacement.

CARLSON COMPLEX RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended improvements include replacing the natural grass rectangular fields with synthetic turf, provide sports lighting of appropriate height, and replacing the backstop at the softball field. In developing the proposed plan, consideration was given to create multiple baseball and softball fields, but due to the displacement of several other youth sport programs this option was not recommended.

Recommendations Summary

- Construct a synthetic turf field that is equivalent to two (2) 220' x 360' fields.
- Install sports lighting of appropriate height to maximize the programmed use of the synthetic turf field.
- Install new backstop of appropriate height (25') at the softball field.
- Mill and overlay basketball courts and apply new color sealcoat.
- Continue to monitor the condition of the skate park and implement small upkeep elements.

Cost Consideration

ITEM	COST
SITE PREPARATION	\$75,000
SYNTHETIC MULTI-USE FIELDS	\$2,210,033
SPORTS LIGHTING	\$590,000
SOFTBALL BACKSTOP	\$25,000
BASKETBALL COURT IMPROVEMENTS	\$30,000
SITE WORK and PLANTING	\$10,725
Subtotal:	\$2,940,758
Mobilization, Overhead & Profit (15%):	\$441,114
Contingency (20%):	\$588,152
Soft Costs (10%):	\$294,076
SUBTOTAL:	\$4,264,100
Subtotal with Inflation Allowance (5%):	\$4,447,305



CRONIN COMPLEX EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

The Cronin Complex is located adjacent to Town Hall and near to Burr Road, Main Street, and Central Street and contains the following facilities:

- ♦ One (1) basketball court
- ♦ One (1) natural turf rectangular field
- ♦ One (1) cinder ash walking track
- ♦ One (1) baseball field
- ♦ One (1) street hockey court
- ♦ Six (6) tennis courts
- ♦ Two (2) batting cages

Programmed Uses

- ♦ Youth Girls Field Hockey
- ♦ High School Baseball
- ♦ Babe Ruth Baseball
- ♦ South Shore Baseball Club
- ♦ United Soccer Club
- ♦ Youth Soccer
- ♦ Recreation Department Summer Program

Summary of Existing Conditions

The baseball field has an irrigation system in place, but it is rarely used. The grading, drainage, fencing, and grass turf are in fair condition. The infield is in fair condition, but weeds are present. The backstop, dugouts, batting cages, and scoreboard are in poor condition.

The soccer field was in fair condition, with the turf a little thin down the center. Note that the field just came off a resting and refurbishment period of about 1-1/2 years.



The cinder ash walking track surrounding the grass field is in fair to poor condition and is mostly covered by weeds. A worn walking path is visible indicating some level of use.

The tennis courts are in good condition with new sealcoating applied in August of 2019 that included the addition of pickleball striping. The fence is in fair condition with some areas in need of moderate repair. There is no ADA accessible route to the courts.

The basketball court is in fair to poor condition. The surface has some big cracks that impact play and represent a safety concern. Additionally, the court limits went to the edge of pavement and do not have run-off space for players. The posts and hoops are not plumb. The pathway to the court from Burr Road is not ADA accessible.

The street hockey court is heavily used. The dasherboard and fencing systems are in poor condition. The court surface has significant cracking and weeds. There is no ADA accessible route to the courts.

The Cronin Field memorial is showing signs of age and is becoming overgrown by surrounding vegetation.

CRONIN COMPLEX RECOMMENDATIONS



The recommended improvements include providing an accessible pathway system around the site perimeter and to various facilities, widening the natural turf rectangular field, improving the basketball and hockey courts, installing sports lighting at the tennis courts, improving the parking lot and entry drive adjacent to the auxiliary barn, and improving the site's landscape quality.

Recommendations Summary

- Construct accessible pathways to create a pedestrian circulation system throughout the site and to various facilities.
- Install pedestrian lighting along the pathway connecting the proposed Haley Field parking lot to Town Hall.
- Replace the cinder track with a paved pathway. The pathway width will be reduced and allow for a slightly expanded natural grass rectangular field within the interior.
- Mill and overlay the basketball court, apply new color sealcoat, and provide an accessible pathway and seating.
- Full-depth reconstruction of the hockey court pavement with new color sealcoat, install a new dasherboard system, and provide an accessible pathway.

- Provide an accessible pathway to the tennis courts and install sports lighting. The recessed, bowl-shaped topography within which the courts are situated will reduce impacts to adjacent properties.
- Convert three (3) tennis courts to designated pickleball use.
- Pave a portion of the entry drive from Main Street and the parking lot at the auxiliary barn. (*Not depicted in proposed plan*)
- Construct new baseball dugouts and install new batting cage.
- Renovate the existing Cronin memorial.
- Install new 20'-height ball safety netting at the parking lot edge.
- Install new tree plantings to provide shade and enhance the landscape quality of the property.

Cost Considerations

ITEM	COST
SITE PREPARATION	\$75,000
WALKWAYS and LIGHTING	\$120,000
PARKING and DRAINAGE	\$225,000
FIELD IMPROVEMENTS	\$450,000
BASKETBALL COURT IMPROVEMENTS	\$35,000
HOCKEY COURT IMPROVEMENTS	\$105,000
TENNIS COURTS TO PICKLEBALL COURTS	\$15,000
TENNIS COURT LIGHTING (w/ New Electrical Service)	\$300,000
SITE WORK and PLANTING	\$85,000
MEMORIAL RENOVATIONS	\$10,000
Subtotal:	\$1,420,000
Mobilization, Overhead & Profit (15%):	\$213,000
Contingency (20%):	\$284,000
Soft Costs (15%):	\$213,000
SUBTOTAL:	\$2,130,000
Subtotal with Inflation Allowance (5%):	\$2,236,500

EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

The East Elementary School site is located off East Street on Collins Road and contains the following facilities:

- ♦ Two (2) natural grass rectangular field areas

Programmed Uses

- ♦ Recess and informal field play

Summary of Existing Conditions

The two rectangular field areas are in poor condition in terms of grass condition, which is typical for this type of space and consistent recess use. The lower rectangular field space is irrigated. The field sizes are limited by grading and proximity to the Weir River.



FOSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

The Foster Elementary School site is located on Downer Avenue and contains the following facilities:

- ♦ One (1) Little League baseball field
- ♦ Three (3) basketball courts (one in a pavilion)
- ♦ Three (3) tennis courts

Programmed Uses

- ♦ Youth Girls Softball
- ♦ High School Softball

Summary of Existing Conditions

The basketball pavilion is in poor condition and is not ADA accessible. The other two basketball courts are in fair to poor condition in terms of surface condition and grading.

The baseball field is in fair to poor condition in terms of grading, grass condition, infield condition, and field amenities. The drainage is poor, likely due to its proximity to wetland areas of Broad Cove.

The tennis courts, which have sports lighting, are in poor condition from a surfacing and fencing perspective. Moderate cracking and weeds were prevalent throughout.

FOSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS

No recommendations are being proposed for Foster Elementary due to the anticipated construction of a new school building. Any improvements would be considered after construction is complete and resulting site conditions are understood.



As part of the new school development, the town should consider implementing multi-use fields and baseball/softball fields. The layout would be dependent on the proposed development plan of the school.

HALEY FIELD EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

The Haley Field site is located on Main Street, is adjacent to the Cronin Complex property, and contains the following facilities:

- ♦ One (1) Little League baseball field

Programmed Uses

- ♦ Little League baseball

Summary of Existing Conditions

This Little League infield was renovated in 2017 and is in good condition in terms of grading, drainage, fencing, and grass condition. Irrigation is in place, but rarely used. The dugouts are in fair condition, but not ADA accessible. The entry drive is paved, but in poor condition. The gravel parking lot is undefined and not ADA accessible. It should be noted that the parking lot is utilized by visitors to the adjacent Town Hall and Cronin Complex.

The Hingham Little League Founder's Memorial bench area is in poor condition and a challenge to maintain.



HALEY FIELD RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended improvements include paving the parking lot, adding accessible pathways, installing pedestrian lighting, and improving the site's landscape quality.

Recommendations Summary

- Repave the entry drive and parking lot. The new lot will provide a total of 53 parking space including two (2) handicapped accessible spaces.
- Construct accessible pathways that connect the parking lot to the baseball field, dugouts, spectator seating, and the Cronin Complex property to the north.
- Install pedestrian lighting at the parking lot and along the pathway.
- Plant additional trees in the parking lot.
- Renovate the existing memorial and improve ground-plane materials to enable easier maintenance.

Cost Considerations

ITEM	COST
SITE PREPARATION	\$20,000
WALKWAYS and PARKING (Including Lighting)	\$265,000
SITE WORK and PLANTING	\$35,000
MEMORIAL RENOVATIONS	\$10,000
Subtotal:	\$330,000
Mobilization, Overhead & Profit (15%):	\$48,000
Contingency (20%):	\$64,000
Soft Costs (12%):	\$39,600
SUBTOTAL:	\$481,600
Subtotal with Inflation Allowance (5%):	\$505,680



HERSEY FIELD EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

Hersey Field is located on Thaxter Street and contains the following facilities:

- ♦ One (1) Little League baseball field

Programmed Uses

- ♦ Little League baseball

Summary of Existing Conditions

The baseball field is in fair condition in terms of grading, drainage, fencing, infield, dugouts, and grass condition. The field is not irrigated. The parking lot is in poor condition, does not have sufficient parking, and has significant drainage problems leading to the field area. The dugouts, spectator seating and the parking lot are not ADA compliant.



HERSEY FIELD RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended improvements include paving the parking lot, adding accessible pathways, and improving the site's landscape quality.

Recommendations Summary

- Construct a paved entry drive and parking lot in place of the existing gravel drive and parking lot. The new lot will provide a total of 38 parking space including two (2) handicap spaces.
- Construct accessible pathways that connect the parking lot to the playground and baseball field dugouts and spectator seating.
- New tree plantings in the parking lot and near the spectator seating to provide shade and enhance the landscape quality of the property.

Cost Considerations

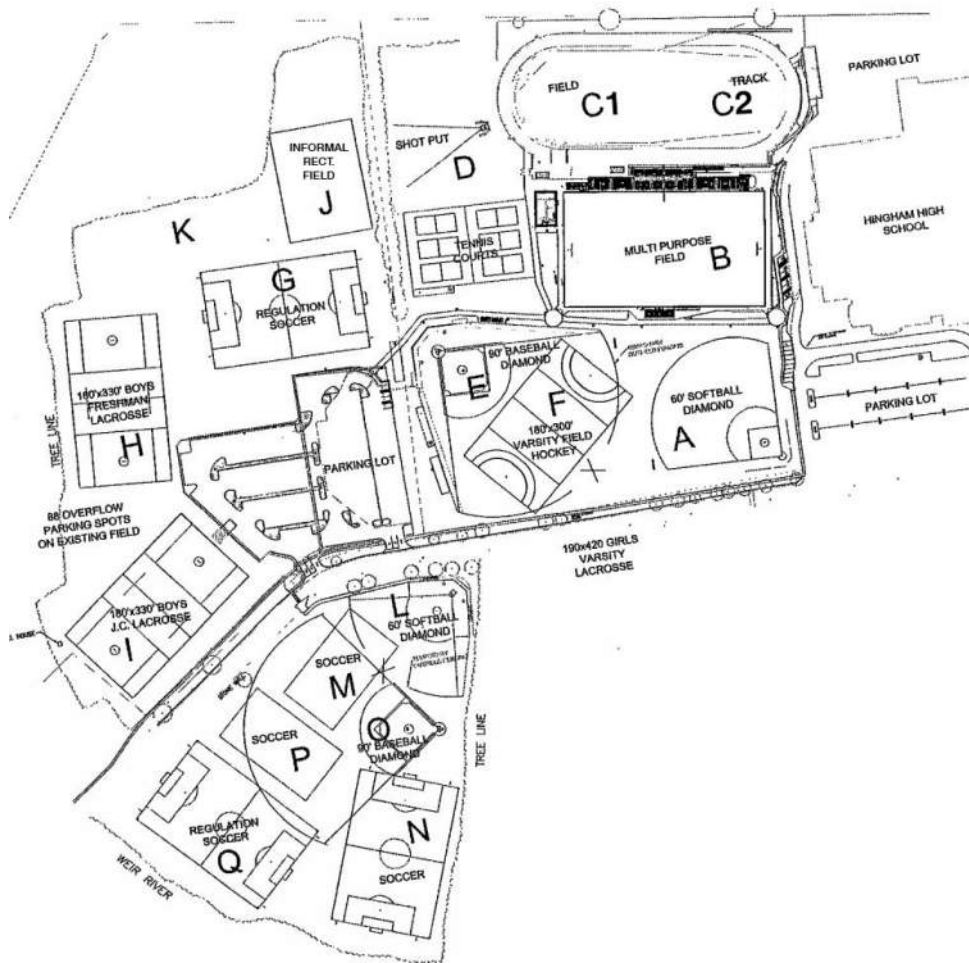
ITEM	COST
SITE PREPARATION	\$20,000
WALKWAYS and PARKING LOT	\$170,000
DRAINAGE and MITIGATION	\$35,000
SITE WORK and PLANTING	\$25,000
Subtotal:	\$250,000
Mobilization, Overhead & Profit (15%):	\$37,500
Contingency (20%):	\$50,000
Soft Costs (12%):	\$30,000
SUBTOTAL:	\$367,500
Subtotal with Inflation Allowance (5%):	\$385,875



HINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

The Hingham High School site is located off Pleasant Street and Union Street and contains the following facilities:



- One (1) synthetic turf grass rectangular field
- One (1) track
- Two (2) softball fields
- Two (2) baseball fields

- Three (3) natural grass rectangular field areas on the high school side with several field footprints
- One (1) large natural grass field area across Union Street with several field footprints
- Two (2) batting cages
- Six (6) tennis courts
- Two (2) support buildings
- Golf driving range

Programmed Uses

- Football
- Soccer
- Baseball
- Softball
- Field hockey
- Lacrosse
- Youth soccer
- Ultimate frisbee
- SNAP soccer
- SNAP flag football
- Rugby
- Flag football (high school level)

Summary of Existing Conditions

Field A: This field is used by JV Girls Softball. Several areas of the outfield showed signs of drainage issues where stormwater collected and/or was slow to dissipate.

Field B: The synthetic turf field, which includes sports lighting, was constructed in 2013 with athletic use beginning in 2014. It is striped for football, soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey. The field appears to be in fair condition and showing the typical signs of aging. The support building with concessions was constructed in 2014.

Field C1 and C2 (track): The natural grass field area is primarily used for football practice. It was in fair condition in terms of grass coverage,

grading, and drainage. The track appears to be in fair to poor condition with some surface areas needing repair and some areas showing signs of settlement. It was renovated in 2012 followed by a full-depth replacement in 2016.

Field D: This area adjacent to the shotput is in fair condition and receives very informal field use.

Field E: The varsity baseball field was renovated in 2013 and this included an irrigation system and subdrainage. Overall, the field was in fair condition in terms of grass coverage, grading, and amenities. While the infield is in fair condition, the infield mix could use some minor improvement. The outfield fence is temporary and can be removed to allow for overlapping rectangular field in the outfield. There were signs of drainage issues in deep, left field.

Field F: This rectangular field space overlaps the outfields of the varsity baseball field (Field E) and the JV softball field (Field A) and is used for varsity field hockey. It was noted that the drainage issues described above negatively impact field hockey play.

Fields G: A rectangular natural grass field that is in fair to poor condition due to the prevalence of weeds and bare spots. However, there did not appear be any grading or drainage issues. This field is used for soccer and lacrosse with the orientation being rotated by season/sport.

Field H: A natural grass rectangular field that appears to have too much pitch with some bare spots at goal mouths. Overall, the field is in fair condition. This field is used for soccer and lacrosse with orientation being rotated by season/sport.

Field I: A natural grass rectangular field that has irrigation and is in fair condition despite irregular grading in some locations as well as wear at the mouths of the lacrosse goals. The orientation of this field does not get rotated.

Field J: A natural grass field area with irregular grading as well as signs of over-compaction. The space is used for football practice and Pop-Warner football.

Field K: A rectangular natural grass field that is in fair to poor condition due to the prevalence of weeds and bare spots. However, there did not appear be any grading or drainage issues. This field is used for soccer and lacrosse with the orientation being rotated.

Field L: This softball field, constructed in 2014, is in fair to good conditions and is used for varsity softball. The outfield fence is temporary. The facility includes a new batting cage, but lacks spectator seating.

Fields M, P, Q, and N: This expansive natural grass field space appears to be in fair condition overall. The grass condition was fair. The grading appears to fair, but exhibited some irregularities. The eastern edge near the tree line showed some drainage issues, likely due to its proximity to the Weir River.

Field O: The baseball field, primarily used by the JV baseball team, was in fair to poor condition in terms of the infield, backstop and team bench areas, and spectator seating. The grass condition and grading were in fair condition.

The tennis courts were renovated in 2012 using a renovation strategy referred to as the “RiteWay” process. Sizeable cracks prevalent throughout present player safety concern. Drainage issues were evident along the northern edge of the courts.



HINGHAM HIGH SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended improvements include constructing synthetic turf multi-use fields, renovating the tennis courts, improving the grading and drainage between the softball and baseball fields (on the main campus), improving the drainage along the eastern edge of the Union Street fields, adding accessible pathways where needed, and improving the site's landscape quality.

Recommendations Summary

- Construct a synthetic turf field that is equivalent to one (1) 210' x 360' field and one (1) 180' x 330' field. (When play is rotated, this will accommodate a maximum field size equal to 220' x 360'.)
- Since the courts have already been repaired once through the RiteWay process with just moderate success, full-depth reconstruction of the tennis courts is recommended.



- Perform targeted grading and drainage improvements in field space where the softball and baseball fields converge (on the main high school campus). *Refer to Chapter 5 - Drainage Management and Drainage Improvement Options.*
- Perform targeted drainage improvements along the eastern edge of the Union Street fields.
- Construct accessible pathways where needed at the renovated tennis courts and newly constructed synthetic turf field.

Cost Considerations

ITEM	COST
SITE PREPARATION	\$100,000
WALKWAYS	\$50,000
TENNIS COURTS	\$325,000
SYNTHETIC MULTI-USE FIELDS	\$2,150,000
BASEBALL and SOFTBALL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS	\$125,000
UNION STREET FIELDS DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS	\$125,000
TENNIS COURT LIGHTING (w/ New Electrical Service)	\$300,000
SITE WORK and PLANTING	\$50,000
Subtotal:	\$2,925,000
Mobilization, Overhead & Profit (15%):	\$438,750
Contingency (20%):	\$585,000
Soft Costs (10%):	\$292,500
SUBTOTAL:	\$4,241,250
Subtotal with Inflation Allowance (5%):	\$4,453,313

HULL STREET FIELD EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

Hull Street Field is located on Hull Street near the intersection with Canterbury Street and contains the following facilities:

- ♦ One (1) informal grass field area with backstop

Programmed Uses

- ♦ None

Summary of Existing Conditions

The field, used for informal use only, is in fair condition with irregular grading. The backstop is in fair to poor condition and there is no infield.

A playground and small parking area was in the midst of construction at the time of observation.



KRESS FIELD EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

Kress Field is located off Gardner Street and contains the following facilities:

- ♦ One (1) basketball court
- ♦ One (1) softball field

Programmed Uses

- ♦ Women's Softball
- ♦ South Shore Baseball Club

Summary of Existing Conditions

The baseball field was in fair to poor condition and the grading could be improved. A lip was observed at the pitcher's mound and at the transition from infield to outfield. There are no permanent bases, the pitcher's mound was flat, and there is no outfield fence.

The basketball court was in fair to poor condition and the out-of-bounds line is at the edge of paving. Some drainage issues and cracking was observed with the surface in need of a new sealcoat application.

The gravel parking lot is not ADA compliant and is showing signs of erosion, potholes, and rutting. It was also noted that the lot has an insufficient number of parking spaces and the site can accommodate a moderate expansion.



KRESS FIELD RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended improvements include changing the layout of the field for softball with a skinned infield, paving the entry drive and parking lot, and adding accessible pathways.

Recommendations Summary

- Reconstruct the infield to convert it into a softball skinned infield layout.
- Construct a paved entry drive and parking lot in place of the existing gravel drive and parking lot. The new lot will provide a total of 19 parking spaces including two (2) handicapped accessible spaces.
- Mill and overlay the basketball court and apply new sealcoat.
- Construct accessible pathways that connect the parking lot to the playground and softball field.
- Perform tree pruning on the trees along the eastern edge of the baseball field. New tree plantings adjacent to the parking to enhance the landscape quality of the property.

Cost Considerations

ITEM	COST
SITE PREPARATION	\$25,000
WALKWAYS and PARKING	\$120,000
INFIELD IMPROVEMENTS (Softball)	\$20,000
BASKETBALL COURT IMPROVEMENTS	\$14,000
SITE WORK and PLANTING	\$16,000
Subtotal:	\$195,000
Mobilization, Overhead & Profit (15%):	\$29,250
Contingency (20%):	\$39,000
Soft Costs (20%):	\$39,000
SUBTOTAL:	\$302,250
Subtotal with Inflation Allowance (5%):	\$317,363



LYNCH FIELD EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

The Lynch Field site is located off Beal Street and contains the following facilities:

- ♦ Two (2) natural turf grass rectangular fields
- ♦ Two (2) Little League baseball fields
- ♦ Batting cage and support building
- ♦ 35'-ht sports lighting

Programmed Uses

- ♦ Little League baseball
- ♦ Tackle football
- ♦ Flag football

Summary of Existing Conditions

The Little League baseball fields are situated on the western edge of the site. Their overlapping outfields (with portable outfield fences) pose a safety concern for players if both fields are used simultaneously. The grading and grass turf are in poor to fair condition. The distance between home plates and the backstops is shorter than the recommended standard.

The natural grass rectangular fields have irregular grading and poor to fair turf coverage.

Lynch Field is one of two sites in town to have sports lighting, which is critical to the operation of the youth football programs. However, the lights, at 35' in height, are significantly shorter than recommended and this impacts the quality of play and causes excessive glare at adjacent properties.



LYNCH FIELD RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended improvements include relocating one (1) baseball field, performing site-wide grading and soil composition improvements, installing height-appropriate sports lighting, providing an accessible pathway system, and improving landscape qualities throughout. In developing a proposed plan for Lynch, consideration was given to create four (4) baseball fields, but due to site size restrictions, this option was not recommended.

Recommendations Summary

- Relocate one (1) baseball field to the southeast and regrade site to accommodate two (2) full-size football fields with overlapping baseball outfields.
- Install height-appropriate sports lighting (65' – 85').
- Provide a perimeter walking loop that connects to the Bare Cove Park pathway system.
- New tree plantings to provide shade for players and spectators and to enhance the landscape quality of the property.

Cost Considerations

ITEM	COST
SITE PREPARATION	\$125,000
WALKWAYS	\$70,000
GRASS TURF FIELDS (Football / Baseball)	\$695,000
SITE WORK and PLANTING	\$15,000
SPORTS LIGHTING	\$590,000
Subtotal:	\$1,495,000
Mobilization, Overhead & Profit (15%):	\$224,250
Contingency (20%):	\$299,000
Soft Costs (15%):	\$179,400
SUBTOTAL:	\$2,197,650
Subtotal with Inflation Allowance (5%):	\$2,417,415



Baseball Infield Alternative Option

An alternative option for the two (2) baseball fields in the proposed plan above is to convert the infield surface material to synthetic turf. This would provide a resilient surface that maximizes playability, is less impacted by weather events, and reduces maintenance needs. This would still allow for grass turf in the outfields which can be overlapped with the football fields.

There are types of synthetic turf that are specially manufactured for baseball play.

The total cost for installing turf at both infields would approximately \$390,000 which includes a \$30,000 allowance for drainage connections. For comparison, the cost of the two (2) traditional skinned infields in the proposed plan above is approximately \$52,000. Both figures include contractor mobilization, overhead, and profit, contingency, and soft costs.

MARGETTS FIELDS 1 and 2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

The Margetts Fields site is located off Ward Street and contains the following facilities:

- ♦ Two (2) natural turf grass rectangular fields

Programmed Uses

- ♦ Youth girls lacrosse
- ♦ Youth boys lacrosse
- ♦ Scoops lacrosse

Summary of Existing Conditions

The natural grass rectangular fields are in fair condition from a grading and grass turf perspective. The northern field appeared to have some moderate grading and drainage issues.

The informal, gravel parking lots adjacent to both fields need to be improved, particularly from an accessibility standpoint. The parking lot surface is crushed stone which is showing typical signs of rutting and potholes. Also, the reclaimed logs serving as edge-control are in poor condition. The guardrail of the front parking lot needs to be replaced. Amenities like seating are lacking or insufficient.



MARGETTS FIELDS 1 and 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended improvements include paving the parking lot, adding accessible pathways, and performing drainage improvements to the northern field.

Recommendations Summary

- ♦ Pave the parking lots in place of the existing gravel lots. The new lots will provide a total of 59 parking spaces and 120 parking spaces, respectively. It is recommended that the northern parking lot be widened slightly to accommodate a drainage infiltration bioswale in the center to remediate stormwater.
- ♦ Perform drainage improvements to northern field. *Refer to Chapter 5 - Drainage Management and Drainage Improvement Options.*
- ♦ Construct accessible pathways that connect the parking lot to the rectangular fields.
- ♦ Plant additional trees in the parking lot.

Cost Considerations

ITEM	COST
SITE PREPARATION	\$25,000
WALKWAYS and PARKING	\$470,000
FIELD DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS (2" Sand-slit Trench Drainage)	\$100,000
SITE WORK and PLANTING	\$32,000
Subtotal:	\$627,000
Mobilization, Overhead & Profit (15%):	\$94,050
Contingency (20%):	\$125,400
Soft Costs (12%):	\$75,240
SUBTOTAL:	\$921,690
Subtotal with Inflation Allowance (5%):	\$967,775



HINGHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

The Hingham Middle School site is located off Main Street on Rosemary Lane and contains the following facilities:

- ♦ One (1) baseball field
- ♦ Two (2) natural grass rectangular field areas
- ♦ Four (4) tennis courts

Programmed Uses

- ♦ Babe Ruth Baseball
- ♦ Youth Soccer

Summary of Existing Conditions

The baseball field, sized to accommodate 50' – 70' base paths, is in good condition in terms of the infield, grading, drainage, and grass condition. However, the backstop is under-sized and there are only team benches with no dugouts or protective fencing. The baseball field is lightly programmed.

The rectangular field areas are good condition. The fields are irrigated with well water and receive a good maintenance program is in place. The fields are lightly programmed.

The tennis courts are in good condition, however, additional wind-screening has been requested by residents as well as better seasonal leaf removal.



HINGHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended improvements include expanding the multi-use field space by removing the Babe Ruth baseball field and amenities. In developing the proposed plan, consideration was given to keeping the existing baseball field if the need exists for an intermediate-sized baseball field.

Recommendations Summary

- Expand the multi-use field space by removing the Babe Ruth baseball field and amenities. It is recommended that sod be used to vegetate the current infield of the baseball field in order to minimize the time the field is offline while the grass establishes.

Cost Considerations

ITEM	COST
SITE PREPARATION	\$7,500
GRASS SOD AT INFIELD	\$15,000
SITE WORK and PLANTING	\$2,000
Subtotal:	\$24,500
Mobilization, Overhead & Profit (15%):	\$3,675
Contingency (20%):	\$2,450
Soft Costs (15%):	\$10,000
SUBTOTAL:	\$40,625
Subtotal with Inflation Allowance (5%):	\$44,688



PLYMOUTH RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

The Plymouth River Elementary School site is located off High Street on Stanford Drive and contains the following facilities:

- ♦ One (1) baseball field
- ♦ One (1) basketball court and pavilion
- ♦ One (1) half-court basketball
- ♦ Six (6) tennis courts
- ♦ One (1) small rectangular field space

Programmed Uses

- ♦ Youth Girls softball
- ♦ High School Softball
- ♦ Informal tennis play

Summary of Existing Conditions

The basketball court pavilion is in fair condition, however, the basketball goals and court surfacing are in poor condition.

The tennis courts are approximately 15 years old and are heavily used. The court surface is exhibiting long linear cracking along the pavement seams. The tennis posts and nets are aging. Although the chain link fencing is in fair condition, the footings are showing signs of settlement. The pathways leading to the courts are settling and no longer ADA compliant.

The baseball field is primarily used by girls softball groups. The turf, grading, infield, and fencing all appear to be in poor to fair condition. Amenities, like team benches, are absent.

The other basketball courts are in fair condition.

The small rectangular field space behind the school is in poor condition which is typical for small field spaces that receive daily

recess use. An irrigation system is in place in the area behind the school, however it does not extend to the back field.



PLYMOUTH RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended improvements include changing the layout of the field for softball with a skinned infield. Other improvements include the following:

- ♦ Moderate grading improvements to field to improve drainage.
- ♦ Improve soil composition and the condition of the grass turf.
- ♦ Replace the outfield fence and add a warning track.
- ♦ Provide accessible pathways to the softball field and team bench areas.

The courts will be repaired in 2021 utilizing the Rite-Way process, but will eventually need full-depth replacement in approximately seven (7) to eight (8) years.

Cost Considerations

ITEM	COST
SITE PREPARATION	\$5,000
TENNIS COURTS	\$325,000
SOFTBALL FIELD	\$75,000
Subtotal:	\$405,000
Mobilization, Overhead & Profit (15%):	\$60,750
Contingency (20%):	\$81,000
Soft Costs (10%):	\$4,050
SUBTOTAL:	\$550,800
Subtotal with Inflation Allowance (5%):	\$578,340



POWERS FIELD EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

The Powers Field site is located off School Street and contains the following facilities:

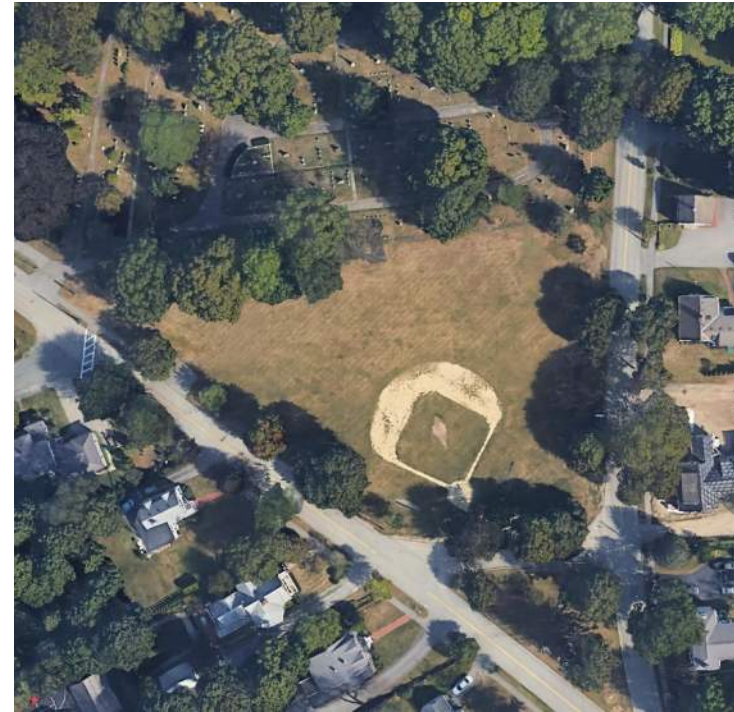
- ♦ One (1) natural grass Little League field

Programmed Uses

- ♦ Women's softball

Summary of Existing Conditions

The natural grass baseball field is in fair to poor condition from a grading and grass turf perspective. The infield has weeds and a lip where it meets the outfield. The outfield noticeably slopes uphill towards the adjacent cemetery where the trees are impacting play and need pruning. The cemetery fence was recently replaced with an ornamental wrought iron fence with sharp protrusions – this presents a potential player safety hazard. The backstop is in poor to fair condition and team bench areas are lacking. There are minimal parking options.



POWERS FIELD RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended improvements include changing the layout of the field for softball with a skinned infield. Other improvements include the following:

- ♦ Parking improvements
- ♦ Tree pruning
- ♦ Consideration of adding a warning track along the cemetery fence

Cost Considerations

ITEM	COST
SITE PREPARATION	\$2,500
SOFTBALL INFIELD	\$20,000
PARKING IMPROVEMENTS	\$2,500
Subtotal:	\$25,000
Mobilization, Overhead & Profit (15%):	\$3,750
Contingency (20%):	\$5,000
Soft Costs (10%):	\$2,500
SUBTOTAL:	\$36,250
Subtotal with Inflation Allowance (5%):	\$38,063



SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

The South Elementary School site is located on Main Street and contains the following facilities:

- ♦ One (1) basketball court
- ♦ One (1) natural grass rectangular field
- ♦ One (1) softball field

Programmed Uses

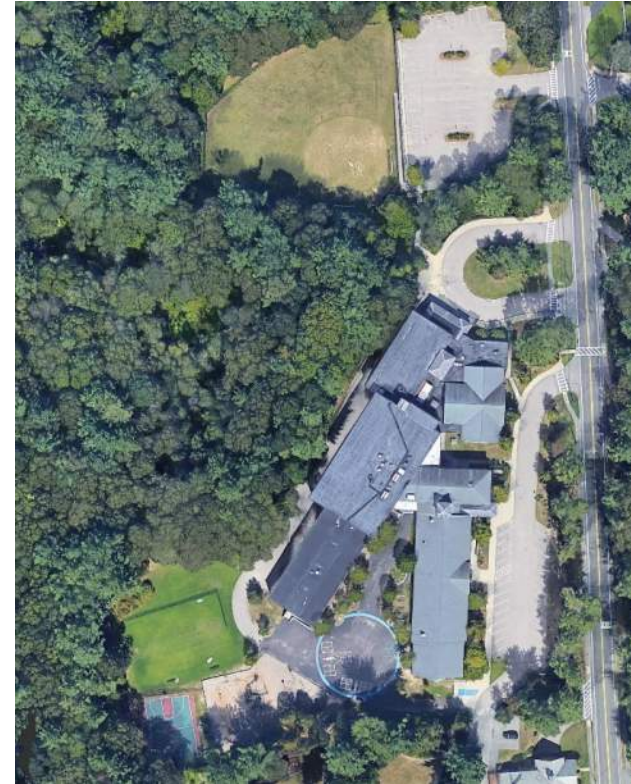
- ♦ Youth Girls Softball

Summary of Existing Conditions

The softball field was in fair condition in terms of grading, drainage, fencing, and grass condition. The infield was in fair to poor condition. It was noted that the mesh on the backstop and team areas was installed (in 1998) on the wrong side. The outfield fence was getting overgrown. The left field foul pole was incorrectly located. The team benches were damaged and no spectator seating was available.

The goals and surface of the basketball court were in fair condition. However, there was no baseline.

The small rectangular grass field in in fair to poor condition. An irrigation system is in place, but is rarely used. The field shows signs of insufficient rest, likely due its use daily for recess.



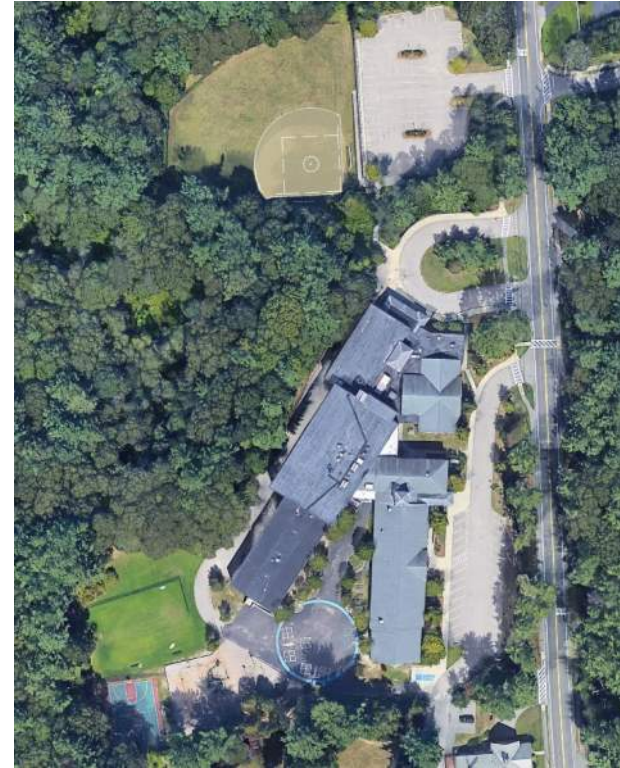
SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended improvements include changing the layout of the field for softball with a skinned infield. Other improvements include the following:

- ♦ Install a new backstop and team benches
- ♦ Construct an accessible pathway to the softball field

Cost Considerations

ITEM	COST
SITE PREPARATION	\$5,000
SOFTBALL FIELD	\$35,000
Subtotal:	\$40,000
Mobilization, Overhead & Profit (15%):	\$6,000
Contingency (20%):	\$8,000
Soft Costs (10%):	\$4,000
SUBTOTAL:	\$58,000
Subtotal with Inflation Allowance (5%):	\$60,900



SOUTH SHORE COUNTRY CLUB EXISTING CONDITIONS

Basic Site Description and Location

The South Shore Country Club site is located off South Street and contains the following (study-related) facilities:

- ♦ Three (3) tennis courts
- ♦ One (1) informal natural grass field area (located adjacent to the entry drive)

Programmed Uses

- ♦ Summer sports camp
- ♦ Various Recreation Department uses

Summary of Existing Conditions

The tennis court surfacing is in poor condition with evidence of drainage issues. The fencing, tennis posts, and netting are in fair condition.



SOUTH SHORE COUNTRY CLUB RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended improvements include full-depth reconstruction of the tennis courts and replacement of the perimeter fencing with black vinyl chain link fence.

** SSCC is investigating a new pool location where the tennis courts are currently situated*

CHAPTER 7 Field Use Policy and Maintenance

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FIELD USE POLICY

During site analysis efforts at various field properties and in discussions with town staff members, it became apparent that Hingham needs a more formal field use policy. In recent years, many similar communities have adopted field use protocols in order to:

- ♦ Bring fair and equitable treatment to all user groups.
- ♦ Control use of fields during poor weather conditions (note that good field and turf conditions can be drastically deteriorated by a single use/event held during bad weather).
- ♦ Protect recent/future field improvements.
- ♦ Maintain better field conditions overall.

- ♦ Reduce pressure and help protect decision-makers by adopting a clearly articulated and evenhanded use policy that is widely published, easily accessible, and understood.

Field use policies have become critical tools in establishing basic order and in protecting the significant investments that have been made at field complexes throughout the region. There is strong desire to maintain superior playing conditions once major capital projects have been completed. That desire has motivated many Massachusetts communities to establish use protocols.

- ♦ In Waltham, officials will not rush the opening of a new field facility until maximum grow-in (turf establishment) has been achieved. In this way, they are protecting their significant capital investments by preventing use until facilities can withstand play.





drier conditions allow for use without risk of excessively damaging the turf and underlying soil structure.

The field use policy has become an essential tool in the programming, operation and maintenance of all field facilities and it helps officials to protect significant recent capital expenditures at various properties.

As Hingham considers making capital improvements to various playing field venues, it is critical to establish and adopt a field user policy to protect future improvements and to maintain desirable playing conditions. Even without new capital improvements, the policy is needed to help protect and improve current playing conditions at all playing venues. It takes considerable resources (town funds for labor, materials, equipment, etc.) to maintain fields at present. A field use policy would allow stakeholders to manage facilities better and to achieve better playing conditions as a result. Basic steps related to establishment of a field use policy in Hingham may include the following:

- ♦ In Needham, fields are often closed for short periods of time for minor renovation efforts (e.g., seasonal aeration and slice seeding operations). This inconveniences user groups, but the need to maintain good playing conditions takes precedent.
 - ♦ Officials in Westwood and in Needham all aggressively monitor field conditions and issue advisories to user groups as to field status. In Needham, a parent or player does not leave for an event without checking the field status on the town's website or recorded information line. Coaches also alert parents and players through e-mail and group text messages. During peak seasons, updates are issued on a daily basis (typically by 3:00 PM weekdays and early morning weekends). Needham recreation programming and public works staff collaborate to determine whether a field facility will be open for use.
 - ♦ Waltham and Westwood hold violators of field policies responsible for damages to facilities.
 - ♦ In many communities, fields that are plagued by heavy, wet soils that are slow to drain can be closed for several days until
- ♦ Designate the responsible staff who will implement and enforce the field use policy. This includes having a dedicated supervisor on for overtime on weekends and holidays.
 - ♦ As part of the policy there should be a collaboration between the Board of Selectmen, Hingham Recreation Department, School Department, Department of Public Works, and South Shore Country Club.
 - ♦ Review other similar policies used in surrounding towns.
 - ♦ Meet with officials from nearby communities to determine strengths and weaknesses of their respective policies.
 - ♦ Draft a field use policy that best meets the needs and desires that are unique to Hingham.
 - ♦ Review the draft policy with key constituents and stakeholders. Establish support and buy-in.
 - ♦ Adopt the policy.
 - ♦ Begin implementation of the policy. Widely circulate and publicize the policy.

FIELD USE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

It is important to note that the adoption of a clearly articulated, comprehensive field user policy in Hingham is not the sole avenue to better playing field conditions. As mentioned throughout the feasibility study, conditions will only improve by:

- ♦ Earmarking additional funds through the annual budgeting process for new maintenance staff hires as well as materials and equipment such that basic improvements can be undertaken in-house.
- ♦ At field facilities that require major refurbishment efforts, authorize capital expenditures to design, bid and construct the desired facilities. This includes the upgrading of existing facilities or the development of improvements within undeveloped sections of existing field properties.
- ♦ It is evident that Hingham has a shortage of quality multi-use fields. The conflicts and pressures has been documented throughout this study. It is critical to establish improved playing venues at existing town-owned properties.

As old fields are refurbished and new fields are developed, the field user policy becomes a mechanism for protecting fields and to maintaining better playing conditions overall for all users.

MAINTENANCE

Prior to the completion of each new capital project, the town should work with its consultants to prepare an operation and maintenance plan for the established and newly constructed facilities. As a general outline to minimize adverse field conditions due to maintenance issues and to protect the town's investments, we recommend all fields be maintained to the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) and Turf Magazine industry standards listed later in this section.

The Recreation Department, DPW, School Department, and SSCC should establish a protocol for the facility maintenance program, clearly defining a "central command" for maintenance and outlining who will be responsible for each required task and funding which is essential to ensure the town's investments will be protected and heightened resident expectations will be met. It will also allow for accountability for the maintenance, game preparation, and general repairs of the facilities. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) defining the protocol should be prepared and agreed upon so proper



Kress Field



operations and maintenance can occur for new, as well as existing, facilities.

The town should hire or appoint a Director or Superintendent of Recreation Facility Maintenance (The Superintendent) similar to positions in communities like Needham, Natick, Wellesley, Framingham, Newton, and Natick to oversee the maintenance of the facilities, schedule the work effort, and plan for capital improvements projects. In a way that is very much unique to Hingham, it appears that this position will be best suited to maintenance management staff at the South Shore Country Club. This individual would work closely, coordinate, and cooperate with the Recreation Department, Department of Public Works, School Department, and SSCC to assure proper implementation of the maintenance and improvement programs. Recreation and school programming will still be under the command of the Recreation Department Director and the School's Athletic Director. Under this recommendation a budget could be established for the maintenance of facilities and the MOU could

outline the contributions required by each entity needing maintenance services.

Along with this position, the Recreation Department, Department of Public Works, School Department, and SSCC should assess current staffing levels to properly maintain the fields and facilities. The following are STMA industry standards for maintaining a field at a moderate level:

- Natural Grass: between \$4,000 to \$9,000 in materials cost per field and 250 labor hours per field.
- Synthetic Turf: \$6,000 in materials cost per field and 375 labor hours.

If Hingham targets the middle ground in terms of materials investment (\$6,000), this equates to approximately \$220,000 in materials per year. And if it is assumed that the 250 labor hours per year / per field (at \$25 per hour) for thirty-seven (37) fields, this equates to \$231,250 in labor per year. The annual maintenance cost for Hingham would be \$425,000, excluding mowing.

INDUSTRY STANDARDS

- **Beginning of Season Conditions:** The town should make every effort to begin each playing seasons with 100% turf coverage on the fields and well-groomed infields.
- **Soil Testing:** Perform at least once every three to five years to determine nutrient deficiencies. This allows fertilization and other amendments to be tailored to each field's individual needs.
- **Fertilization:** As a rule of thumb, fertilizers should be applied mid-spring, early June, mid-September, late October, and mid-to-late December.
- **Aeration:** Perform in late March to early April, after school is out in June, and in late August before fall school sports begin.



Haley Field

Aeration reduces ground hardness and compaction of soil, allowing roots to breathe and grow more easily, and making turf more resilient for falling players. This is the single most important maintenance element. Without it, all others are futile.

- ♦ **Mowing:** Perform twice a week March through October and as needed from October to November. Turf maintenance professionals emphasize that mowing schedules should not be reduced when fields are resting or otherwise inactive, as regular mowing helps to ensure thick and vigorous turf growth.
- ♦ **Irrigation:** 1 inch per week.
- ♦ **Lime:** As needed to maintain a pH of 6.0-6.7
- ♦ **Seeding:** Weather conditions make August to mid-September the preferred time of year to seed field areas. The method of

seeding (slice seeding, hand seeding, hydroseeding) can be determined to fit the condition and size of the field being restored.

- ♦ **Field Lining:** Before each game or as otherwise needed.
- ♦ **Pest Control:** Any pest problems that are detected should be resolved using cultural practices. It is important to note that fields treated with pesticides must be taken out of play to avoid contact with players and children. This requires extra fields to accommodate relocated play. To avoid loss of field use, an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program should be developed.
- ♦ **Excess Thatch Removal:** Performed in June when soil is dry.



- ♦ **Rolling:** Perform three times per year when the ground is soft. This will help to keep playing surfaces from becoming inconsistent, uneven and lumpy, and improve player safety.

The standards need to be codified into a written plan to govern maintenance operations that all field maintenance personnel use and reference.

All synthetic turf manufacturers have recommended maintenance practices. This includes sweeping, dragging, loosening and redistributing of infill and cleaning. Cleaning may involve watering and the use of special solvents and cleansers. Depending upon use and weather conditions, a sand-rubber mix may need to be added annually to help restore the field's resiliency. The sports turf manager will also need special knowledge in troubleshooting and minor repairs, such as seam repair and snow removal. The installer can provide this information per the manufacturer's guidelines.

The following chart indicates the potential maintenance tasks along with their respective occurrence and suggested equipment needed. This type of chart should be established for each facility and can be

used as a checklist to assure the completion of tasks and for budgeting purposed. Some of the tasks could be sub-contracted out if necessary. In the following Action Plan and Summary of High Priority Initiatives section we have provided an estimated annual maintenance costs for each initiative, using this chart as a basic guide.

GENERAL FIELD AND PARK AREAS

ESTIMATED MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

TASKS

Mowing	Twice per week for athletic fields
Surface for infields	Annual Allowance
Garbage pick up	Twice per week
Landscape maintenance	Weekly
Blowing/sweeping/litter	Weekly
Drainage	Clean out once per year
Misc paint touch up	Once per Year
Misc apparatus repair (i.e., batting cage, soccer goal, dugout, etc.)	Four times per year
Misc apparatus parts	Evaluate twice a year
Stone dust path maintenance	Three times a year
Snow removal	As needed
Irrigation startup/shut down	Twice a year
Irrigation maintenance/repair	Ad hoc, but usually ongoing
Mulching	Once a year, 3-inch depth
Pruning	Once a year

FIELD MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Deep Tine Aeration	Twice per year
Fertilization	5 Applications- averaged
Top dressing	Twice per year
Core Aeration	Twice per year
Slice Seeding	Once per year
Seal coating allowance	Per year for amortizing, every 8 years

LIST OF EQUIPMENT

Using guidelines from The Sports Turf Manager's Association (STMA) as a base, we suggest the following list of equipment for maintaining the proposed facilities. When maintenance is centralized under SSCC's superintendent, he/she should develop a capital budget, replacement schedule, and a utilization schedule to optimize the use of all equipment and accessories. Care should be taken to utilize all equipment per the manufacturer's instructions.

The town should allow for approximately 3,200 square feet of storage area for this equipment. This may be provided in a central location or distributed among the sites.

Synthetic Turf

- ♦ Grooming equipment: typically, some type of broom, brush or tine that is dragged over the field to stand the synthetic fibers up and to distribute the crumb rubber
- ♦ Utility cart for grooming/cleaning equipment, pushing snow, or operating sprayer
- ♦ Spraying equipment: for the application of weed control, wetting agents to lessen the static charge to aid in drainage
- ♦ Sweepers/Blowers: to remove trash and other materials from the playing surface
- ♦ Vacuum: to remove small items, such as sunflower shells and peanut shells
- ♦ Top dressing equipment: to periodically re-dress areas that have lost crumb rubber
- ♦ Spiking equipment: for de-compaction and/or to help with redistribution of crumb rubber
- ♦ Irrigation system and/or quick connect for wetting/washing down the field
- ♦ Painters for adding additional lines and mechanical scrubbers for cleaning painted lines on the synthetic turf
- ♦ Special rubber blade snowplow

Natural Turfgrass

- ♦ Dedicated rotary mower for athletic fields
- ♦ Dedicated rotary mower for all other grass areas
- ♦ Small mower for intricate areas
- ♦ Line trimmers
- ♦ Irrigation system
- ♦ Aerator: core or plug type, typically pulled behind a tractor or utility vehicle.
- ♦ Roller
- ♦ Seed/Fertilizer spreader
- ♦ Weed and pest control application equipment
- ♦ Line painter: available in walk-behind or riding configurations
- ♦ Infield groomer
- ♦ Infield drag
- ♦ Infield rakes
- ♦ Tractor or utility vehicle with low ground pressure tires to pull equipment
- ♦ Gator for transporting supplies, personnel and equipment
- ♦ Blower and / or sweeper: for debris / litter management
- ♦ Deep tine aerator
- ♦ De-thatching equipment: typically pulled behind a tractor
- ♦ Groove or slit seeder
- ♦ Top Dresser

MANAGING SPECIAL EVENTS

Special requirements to host non-sports events for synthetic turf and natural turfgrass would include:

- ♦ Concerts
- ♦ Graduations
- ♦ Fireworks
- ♦ Overflow parking - Care must be taken to protect each type of field surface

Typically, a sports turf manager will place a protective covering over the turf and will develop a plan to safeguard the turf during the event. Types of materials that should be considered to protect the field surfaces for staging and roadways are:

- ♦ ¾ inch plywood (may require multiple layers)
- ♦ Pre-manufactured road mat; and
- ♦ Geo-textile blanket
- ♦ Possible consideration of fiber reinforced turf for events that can handle tractor trailer loads without damaging soil structure.

Other materials are available for flooring protection under the staging and for the seating areas. These products should be investigated to find the one that best suits the event situation. The use of these additional materials to host such events should be taken into consideration and incorporated into the overall cost to produce the event.

Synthetic Turf

Concerns related to damage caused by the hosting of special events include:

- ♦ burns from fireworks, cigars and cigarettes
- ♦ surface contamination (debris)
- ♦ security
- ♦ weight of materials (staging) if not properly designed and planned for may result in damage to the grade
- ♦ Specifying appropriate shock pad to withstand intended loading

Flooring that is more specialized for seating may be necessary for certain events (graduation and concerts). Warranties should be reviewed prior to holding special events at a synthetic turf field venue.

Natural Turfgrass

Preventive fungicide applications may be necessary based on the climate conditions and the duration of a special event. Surface contamination (debris), weight of materials (staging) are concerns that should be addressed during planning. Turf cover and field grading may be adversely affected by the weight, length, and type of event, which could result in major grade repair and/or sod replacement. When planning for an event, the field's normal schedule must be able to accommodate the additional time necessary following the event to repair the turf and to allow for recovery. If the length of the event has caused irreparable damage to the turfgrass, time and resources must be allocated to replace it. Warranties still in effect should be reviewed prior to any special event.

CHAPTER 8 Funding Approach and Opportunities

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CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

There are many potential sources of funding from both public and private entities that could help to pay for potential improvements to facilities in Hingham. Donations, both large and small, can be lumped together to create the financing needed to undertake meaningful improvements. The Town of Hingham may aggressively pursue a variety of funding and implementation strategies that could include:

- ♦ **In-house Services:** Implement improvements making use of town labor forces, materials and equipment. This method is typically appropriate for projects that are limited in scope, such as the construction of a parking area, driveway or sidewalk, refurbishment of a baseball infield or sections of a soccer field (goal mouths, center field areas etc.). As funding, materials, equipment and human resources permit, other minor improvement efforts can be planned and undertaken. The removal of dead/diseased trees and the pruning of healthy trees around a field perimeter, the installation of player's benches, small bleacher systems, trash receptacles, limited fencing runs and signage are examples of the types of minor enhancements that can be provided using town forces and materials.
- ♦ **Donations/Corporate Sponsorships/Community Build:** Implement improvements for projects through a variety of means that might include construction of a field or ancillary facility with funding generated through linkage or mitigation arrangements (often originating from the approval of a large in-town development). In certain cases, improvements can also be undertaken by contractors looking to donate services, equipment or materials.
- ♦ **Traditional Public Bidding:** Develop plans, specifications and estimates for the desired improvements, publicly advertise, receive bids and award a construction contract to the lowest qualified bidder. Projects typically range from small

(approximately \$50,000 minimum) to very large (multi-million dollars).

Partnerships

Partnerships can also play an important role in the overall strategy to improve, manage and maintain sports and recreation properties. As an example, in many surrounding towns there are numerous privately managed sports leagues with impressive track records for supporting certain maintenance and capital improvement initiatives for numerous facilities. Communities are increasingly relying on public/private partnerships to build facilities and maintain the desired playing conditions needed to support sports programming.

As companies look to expand and reach a greater percentage of youths in the region, there may be the opportunity to partner on field amenities and improvements. Although this model would be new to Hingham, such an approach could accelerate improvements while



Carlson Complex

offering patrons a local alternative over traveling to other sites in nearby communities.

Funding Alternatives

Governmental sources allocate millions of dollars per year for parks, open space and athletic facility improvement programs, but competition is intense. The actual improvements are then implemented through a public design, bid and construction process. Funding sources include:

- ♦ **Commonwealth of Massachusetts - Division of Conservation Services (DCS):** DCS has funded hundreds of park, open space, and recreation projects throughout Massachusetts over the past several decades. In June/July, the agency receives applications from municipalities for improvements to parks, playgrounds, and athletic facilities or for assistance in acquiring an open space property to help support community



open space and recreation goals. DCS administers several programs, including the Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities (PARC) program, which generally funds acquisitions of parkland, as well as the construction of new parks and renovation of existing parks to a maximum of \$400,000. Funds tend to be earmarked to communities with greater than 35,000 residents that have fewer outlets for recreation. Demographics play a role in the grant award process, though. Communities that are more urban in nature with high percentages of low-income residents tend to fare better in the decision-making process compared to smaller communities with fewer low-income residents. For projects in smaller communities like Hingham, the PARC funding application would need to make a solid case that the sought-after funding is for a project of regional significance. Larger field complexes, with the ability to host regional events, would likely meet this criteria.

DCS also receives federal Land & Water Conservation Funds for distribution to communities that are considering park improvements or land acquisitions as described above. The allocation for Massachusetts varies from year to year and the funds, when available, may be used to supplement funding from the PARC program.

- ♦ **Community Preservation Act Funding:** The Community Preservation Act (Massachusetts General Laws chapter 44B) ("CPA") is a local option statute enacted by the State Legislature in 2000 and adopted by the town in 2001. It enables towns to collect and expend funds (including matching funds from the Commonwealth) to maintain their character by supporting open space, affordable housing, recreation lands, and historic preservation initiatives specifically defined by the

CPA. The current Hingham CPA surcharge rate is 1.5% of real property taxes.

The Community Preservation Act requires that at least 10% of each year's Community Preservation revenues be spent or set aside for each of the three Community Preservation categories. The remaining 70% is available for spending on any one or more of the categories as the Working Group and Town Meeting see fit.

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) reviews applications submitted by town bodies and citizens at large for funding projects involving the acquisition of open space/recreation, preservation of historic resources, and the support of low and moderate income housing, and makes recommendations to Town Meeting regarding the use of the town's Community Preservation Fund for those purposes. That fund is composed of a 1.5% surtax on town real estate taxes and state matching grants payable each Fall based on the surtax revenues for the fiscal year ending the prior June 30th, and interest on the accumulated funds.

Under the Community Preservation Act, funds are granted through two steps:

1. The CPC recommends an amount of funding for a project.
2. The Annual Town Meeting votes to appropriate up to the recommended amount of funding.

The CPC may not appropriate funds directly, but the legislature may not appropriate CPA funds without a CPC recommendation.

- ♦ **U.S. Soccer Foundation:** The U.S. Soccer Foundation has awarded grants to over 600 non-profit organizations since 1995. They support soccer programs and field building



initiatives in the U.S. with a goal of promoting more active, healthier, and safer communities. Two types of grants are awarded each year. The first grant is called Safe Places to Play which assists the grantees with synthetic turf fields, lighting, irrigation, and sports courts. The second is called a Program Grant which assists with equipment and operating costs.

<https://ussoccerfoundation.org/programs/>

- ♦ **Land & Water Conservation Fund:** In the past 40 years, LWCF has approved over 40,000 grants to states and localities, with over 26,000 of them awarded for development of recreation facilities. LWCF grants could cover up to 50% of the total project-related costs for public outdoor recreation and for fulfilling the program's planning requirements.
<http://www.nps.gov/lwcf/index>
- ♦ **The Baseball Tomorrow Fund:** BTF awards an average of 55 grants per year averaging more than \$1.8 million annually. Their mission is to promote and enhance youth participation in baseball and softball. They fund programs, renovations and



construction of baseball and softball fields, equipment and other selected program expenses.

<https://www.mlb.com/mlb-community/healthy-relationships-community-grants>

- ♦ **United States Tennis Association:** USTA's mission is to promote and develop the growth of tennis. In order to follow this mission, they have developed a USTA Facility Assistance program. They assist grantees with anywhere from tennis court repairs to new construction.
<https://www.usta.com/en/home/organize/grants-and-assistance/national/about-usta-facility-assistance.html>
- ♦ **Dedicated Sales Tax:** A dedicated sales tax on food and beverages sold in the town could be dedicated to the new sports complexes. This could also be considered for hotel stays since the town is looking to use the facility for tournaments.
- ♦ **Naming Rights:** Private fundraising could be developed to fund a portion or all of it through naming rights for the site and through individual naming rights. A complex such as the track and field complex could raise 20% to 30% of the development costs from naming rights.

OPERATIONAL AND MAINTENANCE

The athletic facilities have numerous revenue sources to draw from to support operational, management, maintenance and bond payments that could also include long term capital replacement costs. The following is a sampling of various funding options, some of which are already being utilized, to consider for operation of the sites:

- ♦ **User Fees:** User fees to access or use the athletic facilities outside of regular School or regularly scheduled town activities. Fees can be based on an hourly rate (which is the current practice) or range from \$35 dollars for the maintenance cost per player to \$200 to \$400 per team in a sports league. Although the user fees can help offset maintenance costs, they typically do not cover the full amount needed.
- ♦ **Field Permits:** The town can issue field permits for practice, scrimmages or games. Permits should cover the operational cost of each field and management costs, but it is important to note they are not intended to cover all maintenance costs. If a private operator desires to rent the site for a sporting

tournament for private gain, the town should provide a permit fee plus a percentage of gross from the event.

- ♦ **Admission Fees:** An admission fee to an event can be utilized. Athletic facilities similar to this include an admission fee and a parking fee for major sports tournaments. High School sports games or tournaments typically include an admission fee. Student fees could be waived, or tickets could be provided.
- ♦ **Tournament Fees:** Tournament fees for events can be assessed for each team who enters a tournament and can range from \$150 to \$400 a team and can vary based on the number of games guaranteed.
- ♦ **Official Drink, Food and Equipment Sponsors:** Official drink and food sponsors can be utilized for the complex. Each official drink and food sponsor pays back to the site a set percentage of gross. Typically, this is 5% to 10% of costs for being the official product and receiving exclusive pouring and food rights to the complex. Likewise, official equipment sponsors work well for trucks, mowers, and tractors.
- ♦ **Official Product Sponsors:** Official product sponsors for balls, shoes, hats, gloves, etc. can be used for the site. The sponsor prices can vary by how much exposure is received and the amount of sales created.
- ♦ **Advertising Revenue:** Advertising revenue can come from the sale of ads on banners in the park. The advertising could include sports fields, score boards, dugouts, and sun umbrellas over picnic tables, and in restrooms.
- ♦ **Program Fees:** Program Fees to support existing programs at each attraction can be employed in the form of lessons, clinics, camps, life skill programs, and wellness and fitness. These types of program fees would help support the operations of each facility and the other sites within the parks or school system.
- ♦ **Capital Improvement Fee:** A Capital Improvement Fee on all programs and events can be added. These athletic facilities will require an on-going maintenance endowment to keep

them updated and positioned for the future. A capital asset fee of \$2 to \$3 on each person who participates in a class, event, or program can be incorporated into the cost of the program or event.

- ♦ **Volunteerism:** The revenue source is an indirect revenue source in that persons donate time to assist the facilities in providing a product or service on an hourly basis. This reduces the town's cost in providing the service plus it builds advocacy into the complex.
- ♦ **Special Fundraisers:** Many agencies hold special fundraisers on an annual basis to help cover specific programs and capital projects to be dedicated to the athletic facilities.

Outlined below is the suggested action plan or implementation strategy list for facilities, in priority order, as developed during the planning process. The level of implementation and identification of each effort will greatly depend on available funding, the requirements of the funding source, and the most urgent needs of the community. All proposed improvements should be in accordance with the preferred master plan for each site. All other improvements identified are lower priority and could be added as budget allows, added if dedicated donor funds become available or folded into future phases. The priority and potential timelines identified below can be flexible. The elements in each item can be adjusted in the best interest of the town's future needs.

IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION

By implementing the line items below immediately, the town will be positioned for success when pursuing the following capital projects.

1. Centralize Permitting and Scheduling

2. Centralize All Field and Court Maintenance

3. Increase Annual Maintenance Budget (+/- \$480,000)

A sufficient capital budget for maintenance will allow the town to immediately begin improving conditions of existing fields in advance of capital improvements. Additionally, an enhanced budget will protect anticipated capital investments in newly renovated fields by enabling appropriate maintenance.

4. Implement and Enforce Field Use Policy

SMALLER CAPITAL PROJECTS PRIORITY

1. Hersey Field (+/- \$370,000)

Improvements to the entry drive and parking lot will allow for consistent use of this site which increasingly impacted by weather.

2. Middle School (+/- \$45,000)

Expanding the rectangular field footprint will allow this location to handle more hours of use and lessen pressures on other heavily used natural grass field footprints.

3. Haley Field (+/- \$480,000)

The site's accessibility will be improved by paving the entry drive and parking lot and by adding paved pathways. The pathway improvements will also enhance the pedestrian connection to the Cronin Complex to the north. Improving the surfacing around the memorial bench will ease maintenance challenges currently present.

4. Kress Field (+/- \$280,000)

Reconstructing the infield to convert it into a softball skinned infield is in line with primary use by the Hingham Women's Softball group. Improvements to the parking lot and the introduction of pathways will enhance accessibility, ease maintenance challenges, provide additional parking spaces that are needed.

5. Margetts Field (+/- \$925,000)

The drainage improvements (\$100,000) are the most critical at this site and can be completed independently of the parking lot. Improvements to the parking lot will enhance accessibility, ease maintenance challenges, and provide an opportunity for green infrastructure. A perimeter pathway will encourage multi-generational use.

6. Plymouth River School (+/- \$550,000 including tennis courts)

Improvements include changing the layout of the field to softball with a skinned infield, moderate grading and drainage improvements, and a new outfield fence with a warning track. In approximately seven (7) to eight (8) years, the tennis courts will need full-depth replacement and new black vinyl chain link fencing.

7. Powers Field (+/- \$40,000)

Improvements include changing the layout of the field to softball with a skinned infield.

8. South Elementary School (+/- \$60,000)

Improvements include changing the layout of the field to softball with a skinned infield, a new backstop and team benches, and an accessible pathway to the field.

LARGER CAPITAL PROJECTS PRIORITY

9. Carlson Complex (+/- \$4,220,000)

The construction of synthetic turf fields at Carlson will allow significantly increased hours of use while simultaneously improving playability regardless of weather conditions. It will also alleviate pressures on other heavily used natural grass field footprints to help improve conditions at those locations. Sports lighting is recommended to maximize the hours of use. It is important to note that this would be the first venue with synthetic turf outside of a school-owned property and as such it would better serve town-based sports and recreation leagues.

10. Hingham High School (+/- \$4,450,000)

A second synthetic turf field footprint at the high school campus will extend seasonal usage earlier in the spring and later in the fall, a critical timeframe for high school athletics. It

is difficult for the high school to start the season in mid-April since it is so close to the end of the school year. Additionally, this will augment the existing synthetic turf field and allow for more flexibility in scheduling practices and games, necessitated by increasing numbers of student-athletes. Renovating the tennis courts will improve player safety and playability.

11. Lynch Field (+/- \$2,200,000)

Relocating one baseball field to the southeast, in addition to improving the site's overall grading, would enable both baseball fields to be used simultaneously without player safety concerns. The shift in field location also provides sufficient space for two full-size football fields. New sports lighting of appropriate height would improve playability and reduce glare at adjacent properties.

12. Cronin Complex (+/- \$2,100,000)

An improved pedestrian circulation system will enhance accessibility and encourage multi-generational use. Renovating the basketball and hockey courts will improve playability and player safety. The topographical surroundings of the tennis courts provide an opportunity to install sports lighting with a reduced impact on surrounding neighbors. Lights are beneficial particularly in the summer season when cooler temperatures prevail after the sun begins to set. Lights enable play during this cooler timeframe. The only lit tennis courts in town are at Foster Elementary and they are in poor working condition. Converting the cinder track to a paved walkway will expand the accessible pedestrian circulation system and provide additional space to maximize the footprint of the rectangular field. Paving the entry drive and parking lot at the auxiliary barn will alleviate maintenance challenges for town staff.



Hingham High School

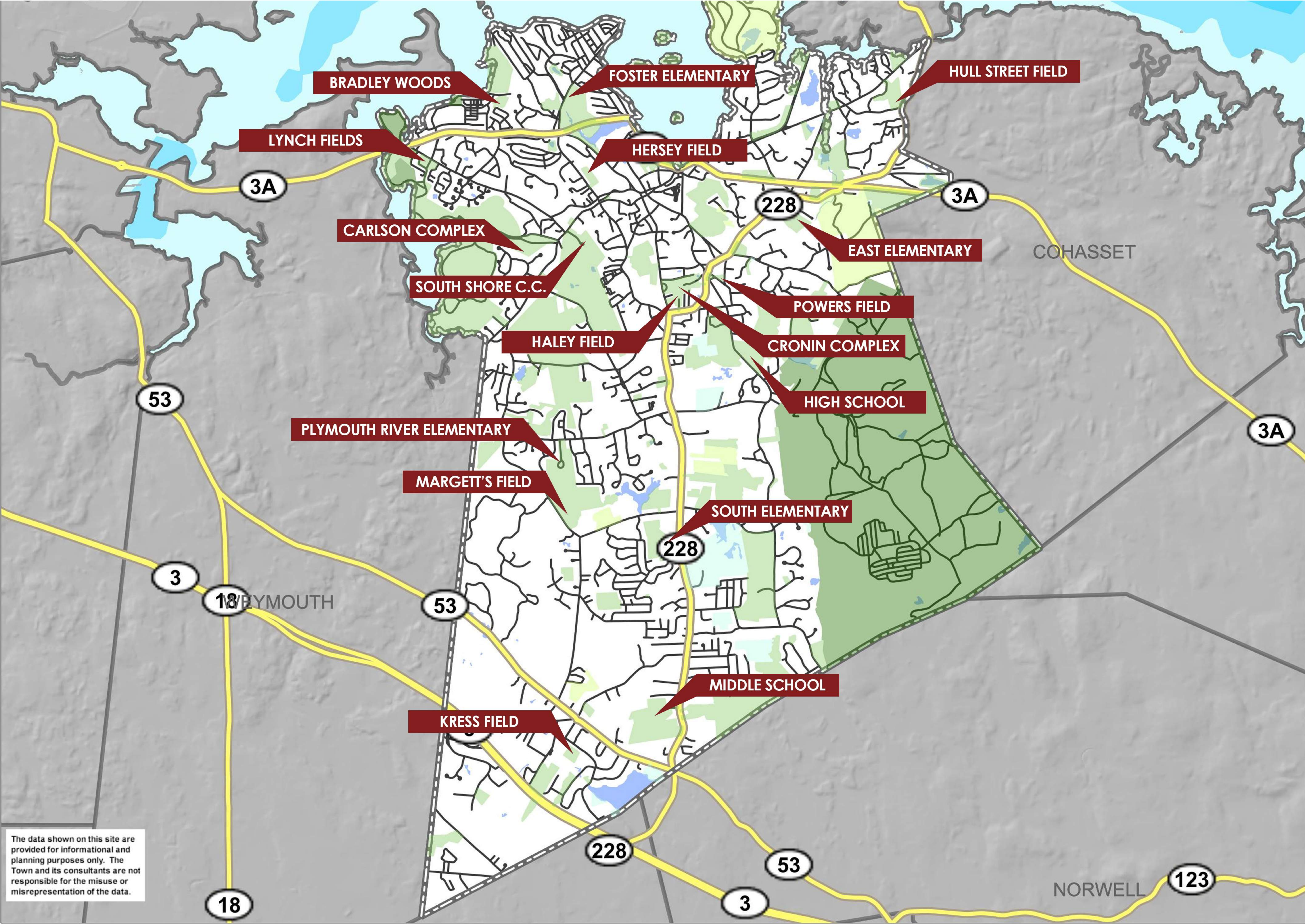
APPENDIX A Facilities Inventory Matrix

PARK / FACILITY	FIELD	MANAGES MAINTENANCE	MOWING	IRRIGATION MAINTENANCE	TURF MAINTENANCE	WEED WHACKING MAINTENANCE	INFIELD MAINTENANCE	FIELD SIZE	COURTS	OTHER
BOARD OF SELECTMEN										
Carlson Complex	Rect. Field A	Recreation	DPW	Outside Contractor & SSCC	Outside Contractor & SSCC	DPW	SSCC	360' x 220'	(2) Basketball Courts	Skate Park
	Rect. Field B							360' x 220'		
	LL Baseball							60' bases, 215' outfield		
	Softball Field							60' bases, 185' outfield		
Lynch Fields	LL Baseball Field	South Shore Country Club (SSCC)	DPW	Outside Contractor & SSCC	Outside Contractor & SSCC	DPW	SSCC	60' bases, 185' outfield		Batting Cage, Support Building
	LL Baseball Field							60' bases, 180' outfield		
	Rect. Field 1 (Football)*							360' x 160'		
	Rect. Field 2 (Football)*							360' x 120'		
Margett's Field 2	Rect. Field (Lacrosse)	Recreation	DPW	Outside Contractor & SSCC	Outside Contractor & SSCC	-	N/A	300' x 180'		
Powers Field	LL Baseball / Softball Field	Recreation	DPW	N/A	Outside Contractor & SSCC	DPW	SSCC	60' bases, 180' outfield		
South Shore Country Club	Informal Rect. Field (entry drive)	SSCC	DPW	N/A	SSCC	-	N/A	N/A	(3) Tennis Courts	
High School	Golf Driving Range	-	DPW	N/A	-	DPW	N/A	N/A		
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT										
High School	A - Softball Field	School Facilities	DPW	School Facilities	Outside Contractor & School Facilities	High School Custodians & School Facilities	School Facilities	60' bases, 200' outfield	(6) Tennis Courts	(2) Batting Cages
	B - Synthetic Turf Field		School Facilities					360' x 210'		
	C - Track and Field		School Facilities					360' x 160'		
	D - Shot Put Area		School Facilities					-		
	E - Baseball Field		DPW					90' bases, 320' outfield		
	F - Varsity Field Hockey*							300' x 180'		
	G - Regulation Soccer Field							360' x 225'		
	H - Freshman Lacrosse							330' x 180'		
	I - J.V. Lacrosse							330' x 180'		
	J - Informal Rect. Field							240' x 150'		
	K - Informal Field Space							-		
	L - Softball Field							60' bases, 200' outfield		
	M - Small Soccer Field*							240' x 150'		
	N - Regulation Soccer Field*							315' x 185'		
	O - Baseball Field							90' bases, 320' outfield		
	P - Small Soccer Field*							240' x 150'		
	Q - Regulation Soccer Field*							360' x 225'		
Middle School	Baseball Field	School Facilities	DPW & School Facilities	Outside Contractor & School Facilities	Outside Contractor & School Facilities	Middle School Custodians	School Facilities	70'-90' bases, 270' outfield	(4) Tennis Courts	
	Rect. Field 1							300' x 180'		
	Rect. Field 2							300' x 180'		
East Elementary	Rect. Field 1	School Facilities	DPW	PTO Contractor	Outside Contractor & School Facilities	East Custodians & School Facilities	N/A	125' x 110'	Informal Basketball	Playground
	Rect. Field 2							210' x 100'		
Foster Elementary	LL Baseball / Softball Field	School Facilities	DPW & School Facilities	N/A	Outside Contractor & School Facilities	Foster Custodians & School Facilities	School Facilities	60' bases, 180' outfield	(3) Basketball Courts	Playground
	Rect. Field (Soccer)*		DPW			N/A		160' x 100'	(3) Tennis Courts (maintained by DPW)	
Plymouth River Elementary	LL Baseball / Softball Field	School Facilities	School Facilities	N/A	Outside Contractor & School Facilities	School Facilities	School Facilities	60' bases, 180' outfield	(1) Basketball Court Tennis Courts	(6) Playground
	Rect. Field		DPW				N/A	125' x 60'		
South Elementary	LL Baseball Field	School Facilities	DPW	N/A	Outside Contractor & School Facilitieis	School Facilities	School Facilities	60' bases, 200' outfield	(1) Basketball Court	Playground
	Upper Field		School Facilities				PTO Contractor	N/A		
	Rect. Field		DPW				N/A	N/A		

PARK / FACILITY	FIELD	MANAGES MAINTENANCE	MOWING	IRRIGATION MAINTENANCE	TURF MAINTENANCE	WEED WHACKING MAINTENANCE	INFIELD MAINTENANCE	FIELD SIZE	COURTS	OTHER
RECREATION COMMISSION										
Bradley Woods	Rect. Field	Recreation	DPW	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	-	(1) Basketball Court	Playground
Cronin Complex	Baseball Field	Recreation	DPW	Outside Contractor & SSCC	Outside Contractor & SSCC	DPW	SSCC	90' bases, 330' outfield	(1) Basketball Court	Running / Walking Track, Volleyball, and Playground
									(6) Tennis Courts (maintained by DPW)	
	Rect. Field (Soccer)							330' x 180'	(1) Street Hockey Court	
Haley Field	LL Baseball Field	Recreation	DPW	Outside Contractor & SSCC	Outside Contractor & SSCC	DPW	SSCC	60' bases, 180' outfield		
Hersey Field	LL Baseball Field	Recreation	DPW	N/A	Outside Contractor & SSCC	DPW	SSCC	60' bases, 170' outfield		Playground
Hull Street Field	Rect. Field	Recreation	DPW	N/A	N/A	-	-	-		Playground
Kress Field	LL Baseball / Softball Field	Recreation	DPW	N/A	Outside Contractor & SSCC	-	SSCC	60' bases, 180' outfield	(1) Basketball Court	Playground
Margett's Field 1	Rect. Field (Lacrosse)	Recreation	DPW	Outside Contractor & SSCC	Outside Contractor & SSCC	-	SSCC	300' x 180'		Lacrosse Wall
Plymouth River Elementary		Recreation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	(6) Tennis Courts	

* Overlapping outfield with rectangular field.

APPENDIX B Facilities Inventory Map



APPENDIX C Facilities Use Matrix

FALL

Park / Facility	Field	Sports Played On Field	Team / Activity	Practices Per Week	Hours Per Practice	# Of Games Per Week	Hours Per Game	Total Hours In Use Per Week	# Of Weeks In Season	Total Hours In Use Per Season Per Team	Total Hours Per Field Per Season	
BOARD OF SELECTMEN												
Carlson Complex	Rect. Field 1	Soccer	Youth Soccer	4	1.25	12	1.25	20	9	180	194	
		Field Hockey	Youth Girls Field Hockey	1	2	-	-	2	7	14		
	Rect. Field 2	Soccer	Youth Soccer	4	1.25	12	1.25	20	9	180	194	
		Field Hockey	Youth Girls Field Hockey	1	2	-	-	2	7	14		
		LL Baseball	Baseball	LL Baseball	-	-	2	3	6	6	36	36
	Softball Field	Softball	Youth Girls Softball	6	1.5	4	3	14.5	6	87	87	
Lynch Fields	LL Baseball Field 1										0	
	LL Baseball Field 2										0	
	Rect. Field 1 (Football)*	Football	Flag Football	-	-	-	-	7	9	63	257	
		Football	Youth Football	-	-	-	-	-	-	194		
	Rect. Field 2 (Football)*	Football	Flag Football	-	-	-	-	7	9	63	257	
Football		Youth Football	-	-	-	-	-	-	194			
Margett's Field 2	Rect. Field (Lacrosse)	Lacrosse	Youth Girls Lax	-	-	-	-	3	7	21	45	
		Lacrosse	Scoops Lax	-	-	-	-	2	6	12		
		Lacrosse	Youth Boys Lax	1	2	-	-	2	6	12		
Powers Field	LL Baseball										0	
South Shore Country Club											0	
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT												
High School	A - Softball Field	Football	Youth Football	-	-	-	-	-	-	41.5	0	
		Football	HS Varsity Football	-	-	0.5	2	1	15	15		
	B - Synthetic Turf Field	Football	HS JV Football	-	-	0.5	2	1	14	14	670.5	
		Football	HS Freshman Football	-	-	0.5	2	1	14	14		
		Field Hockey	HS Varsity Field Hockey	5	2	1	2	12	12	144		
		Field Hockey	HS JV Field Hockey	5	2	1	1.5	11.5	12	138		
		Soccer	HS Boys Varsity Soccer	5	2	1	2	12	12	144		
		Soccer	HS Girls Varsity Soccer	5	2	1	2	12	12	144		
		Soccer	Youth Soccer	-	-	-	-	-	-	16		
		Football	Youth Football	-	-	-	-	-	-	18		
	C - Track and Field	Football	HS Varsity Football	5	2	-	-	10	15	150	324	
		Football	HS JV Football	5	2	-	-	10	14	140		
		Football	Snap Flag Football	-	-	-	-	-	-	16		
		D - Shot Put Area	Football	HS Freshman Football	4	2	-	-	8	14		112
	E - Baseball Field										0	
	F - Varsity Field Hockey*	Field Hockey	HS Freshman Field Hockey	4	1.5	2	1.5	9	11	99	148.5	
		Field Hockey	Youth Field Hockey	3	1	1	1.5	4.5	11	49.5		
	G - Regulation Soccer Field	Soccer	Youth Soccer	7	1	12	1.5	25	10	250	394	
		Soccer	HS JV Boys Soccer	5	2	1	2	12	12	144		
	H - Freshman Lacrosse	Soccer	HS Freshman Soccer	4	2	1	2	10	12	120	120	
	I - J.V. Lacrosse	Soccer	HS Freshman Girls Soccer	4	2	1	2	10	12	120	120	
	J - Informal Rect. Field	Football	Flag Football	3	2	1	2	8	6	48	96	
		Soccer	Snap Soccer	3	2	1	2	8	6	48		
	K - Informal Field Space											0
	L - Softball Field											0
	M - Small Soccer Field*											0
	N - Regulation Soccer Field*											0
	O - Baseball Field											0
	P - Small Soccer Field*	Soccer	Youth Soccer	9	1	30	1.5	54	10	540	540	
Q - Regulation Soccer Field*	Soccer	Youth Soccer	11	1	30	1.5	56	10	560	560		
Middle School	Baseball Field										0	
	Rect. Field 1	Soccer	Youth Soccer	6	1	-	-	6	10	60	60	
	Rect. Field 2										0	
East Elementary	Rect. Field 1										0	
	Rect. Field 2										0	
Foster Elementary	LL Baseball	Softball	Youth Girls Softball	-	-	2	3	6	8	48	48	
	Rect. Field (Soccer)*										0	
Plymouth River Elementary	LL Baseball										0	
	Rect. Field										0	
South Elementary	Softball Field										0	
	Rect. Field										0	

APPENDIX C Facilities Use Matrix

RECREATION COMMISSION											
Bradley Woods	Rect. Field										0
Cronin Complex	Baseball Field	Field Hockey	Youth Girls Field Hockey	4	2	3	1.5	12.5	8	100	135
		Baseball	HH Babe Ruth	-	-	-	-	5	7	35	
	Rect. Field (Soccer)	Soccer	United Soccer Club	-	-	-	-	2	7	14	158
		Soccer	Youth Soccer	-	-	-	-	16	9	144	
Haley Field	LL Baseball Field										0
Hersey Field	LL Baseball Field										0
Hull Street Field	Rect. Field										0
Kress Field	LL Baseball	Baseball	South Shore Baseball Club	-	-	-	-	14	4	56	56
Margett's Field 1	Rect. Field (Lacrosse)	Lacrosse	Youth Boys Lax	1	2	-	-	2	6	12	12
Plymouth River Elementary											0

* Overlapping outfield with rectangular field.

APPENDIX C Facilities Use Matrix

SPRING

Park / Facility	Field	Sports Played On Field	Team / Activity	Practices Per Week	Hours Per Practice	# Of Games Per Week	Hours Per Game	Total Hours In Use Per Week	# Of Weeks In Season	Total Hours In Use Per Season Per Team	Total Hours Per Field Per Season
BOARD OF SELECTMEN											
Carlson Complex	Rect. Field 1	Lacrosse	Youth Boys Lax	3	2	2	1	8	12	96	498
		Lacrosse	Youth Girls Lax	2.5	1.5	16	1.5	27.75	8	222	
	Rect. Field 2	Soccer	Youth Soccer	4	1.25	12	1.25	20	9	180	180
		Soccer	Youth Soccer	4	1.25	12	1.25	20	9	180	
	LL Baseball	Baseball (spring)	LL Baseball	7	1.5	11	3	43.5	7	304.5	430.5
		Baseball (summer)	LL Baseball	-	-	7	3	21	6	126	
	Softball Field	Softball (spring)	Youth Girls Softball	6	1.5	4	3	21	8	168	294
Softball (summer)		Youth Girls Softball	6	1.5	4	3	21	6	126		
Lynch Fields	LL Baseball Field 1	Baseball (spring)	LL Baseball	7	1.5	11	3	43.5	7	304.5	326.5
		Baseball (summer)	LL Baseball	-	-	2	2	4	5.5	22	
	LL Baseball Field 2	Baseball (spring)	LL Baseball	7	1.5	11	3	43.5	7	304.5	326.5
		Baseball (summer)	LL Baseball	-	-	2	2	4	5.5	22	
	Rect. Field 1 (Football)*										0
	Rect. Field 2 (Football)*										0
Margett's Field 2	Rect. Field (Lacrosse)	Lacrosse	Youth Boys Lax	3	2	2	2	10	12	120	120
Powers Field	LL Baseball	Softball	Women's Softball	2	1.5	3	1.5	7.5	11	82.5	82.5
South Shore Country Club											0
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT											
High School	A - Softball Field	Softball	Youth Girls Softball	5	2.5	2	2	16.5	30	495	605
		Softball	HS JV Girls Softball	3	2	2	2	10	11	110	
	B - Synthetic Turf Field	Lacrosse	Youth Boys Lax	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	335.5
		Lacrosse	Youth Girls Lax	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	
		Lacrosse	HS Girls Varsity Lax	6	1.5	2.5	1.5	12.75	10	127.5	
		Lacrosse	HS Boys Varsity Lax	5	2	1	2	12	12	144	
	C - Track and Field	Lacrosse	HS Girls Lax	-	-	2.5	1.5	3.75	10	37.5	37.5
	D - Shot Put Area										0
	E - Baseball Field	Baseball	HS Varsity Baseball	4	2	2	2	12	13	156	246
		Baseball	Babe Ruth Baseball	3	2	-	-	6	15	90	
	F - Varsity Field Hockey*										0
	G - Regulation Soccer Field	Lacrosse	HS JV Girls Lax	4	2	1	2	10	12	120	240
		Lacrosse	HS Freshman Girls Lax	4	2	1	2	10	12	120	
	H - Freshman Lacrosse	Lacrosse	Youth Boys Lax	2	2	2	2	8	12	96	216
		Lacrosse	HS JV Boys Lax	4	2	1	2	10	12	120	
	I - J.V. Lacrosse	Lacrosse	HS Freshman Boys Lax	4	2	1	2	10	12	120	216
		Lacrosse	Youth Boys Lax	2	2	2	2	8	12	96	
	J - Informal Rect. Field	Frisbee	Utilmate Frisbee	3	2	1	2	8	6	48	48
	K - Informal Field Space	Lacrosse	Youth Girls Lax	3	1.5	4	1.5	10.5	8	84	84
	L - Softball Field	Softball	HS Varsity Softball	4	2	2	2	12	13	156	366
		Softball	Youth Girls Softball	4	2.5	2	2	14	15	210	
	M - Small Soccer Field*										0
	N - Regulation Soccer Field*										0
	O - Baseball Field	Baseball	HS Freshman Baseball	3	2	2	2	10	13	130	130
P - Small Soccer Field*	Soccer	Youth Soccer	9	1	30	1.5	54	10	540	540	
Q - Regulation Soccer Field*	Soccer	Youth Soccer	11	1	30	1.5	56	10	560	560	
Middle School	Baseball Field										0
	Rect. Field 1	Soccer	Youth Soccer	6	1	-	-	6	10	60	60
	Rect. Field 2										0
East Elementary	Rect. Field 1										0
	Rect. Field 2										0
Foster Elementary	LL Baseball	Softball	Youth Girls Softball	2	1.5	4	3	15	8	120	708
		Softball	HHS Softball	-	-	-	-	21	28	588	
	Rect. Field (Soccer)*										0
Plymouth River Elementary	LL Baseball	Softball	Youth Girls Softball	4	1.5	4	3	13	8	104	209
		Softball	HHS Softball	-	-	-	-	15	7	105	
	Rect. Field										0
South Elementary	Softball Field	Softball (spring)	Youth Girls Softball	4	1.5	2	3	12	8	96	711
		Softball (summer)	Youth Girls Softball	3	1.5	-	-	4.5	6	27	
		Softball	HHS Softball	-	-	-	-	21	28	588	
	Rect. Field										0

APPENDIX C Facilities Use Matrix

RECREATION COMMISSION											
Bradley Woods	Rect. Field										0
Cronin Complex	Baseball Field	Baseball (summer)	South Shore Baseball Club	-	-	-	-	10	3	30	1044
		Informal (summer)	Summer Program	-	-	-	-	30	10	300	
		Baseball	JV HHS Baseball	4	2	2	2	12	13	156	
		Baseball (spring)	HHS Baseball	-	-	-	-	12	10	120	
		Baseball (summer)	HHS Baseball	-	-	-	-	8	4	32	
		Baseball (summer)	HH Babe Ruth	-	-	-	-	29	14	406	
	Rect. Field (Soccer)	Soccer	Youth Soccer	-	-	22	1.25	27.5	9	247.5	247.5
Haley Field	LL Baseball Field	Baseball (spring)	LL Baseball	7	1.5	11	3	43.5	7	304.5	430.5
		Baseball (summer)	LL Baseball	-	-	7	3	21	6	126	
Hersey Field	LL Baseball Field	Baseball (spring)	LL Baseball	7	1.5	11	3	43.5	7	304.5	430.5
		Baseball (summer)	LL Baseball	-	-	7	3	21	6	126	
Hull Street Field	Rect. Field										0
Kress Field	LL Baseball	Baseball	South Shore Baseball Club	-	-	-	-	14	8	112	194.5
		Softball	Women's Softball	2	1.5	3	1.5	7.5	11	82.5	
Margett's Field 1	Rect. Field (Lacrosse)	Lacrosse	Youth Boys Lax	3	2	2	2	10	12	120	120
Plymouth River Elementary											0

* Overlapping outfield with rectangular field.

APPENDIX C Facilities Use Matrix

ANNUAL

PARK / FACILITY	FIELD	TOTAL HOURS PER FIELD	RECOMMENDED ANNUAL HOURS OF USE
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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Carlson Complex	Rect. Field 1	692	500
	Rect. Field 2	374	500
	LL Baseball	466.5	500
	Softball Field	381	500
Lynch Fields	LL Baseball Field 1	326.5	500
	LL Baseball Field 2	326.5	500
	Rect. Field 1 (Football)*	257	500
	Rect. Field 2 (Football)*	257	500
Margett's Field 2	Rect. Field (Lacrosse)	165	500
Powers Field	LL Baseball / Softball Field	82.5	500
South Shore Country Club	-	-	-

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

High School	A - Softball Field	605	500
	B - Synthetic Turf Field	1006	N/A
	C - Track and Field	361.5	500
	D - Shot Put Area	112	500
	E - Baseball Field	246	500
	F - Varsity Field Hockey*	148.5	500
	G - Regulation Soccer Field	634	500
	H - Freshman Lacrosse	336	500
	I - J.V. Lacrosse	336	500
	J - Informal Rect. Field	144	500
	K - Informal Field Space	84	500
	L - Softball Field	366	500
	M - Small Soccer Field*	0	500
	N - Regulation Soccer Field*	0	500
	O - Baseball Field	130	500
	P - Small Soccer Field*	1080	500
	Q - Regulation Soccer Field*	1120	500
Middle School	Baseball Field	0	500
	Rect. Field 1	120	500
	Rect. Field 2	0	50
East Elementary	Rect. Field 1	0	500
	Rect. Field 2	0	500
Foster Elementary	LL Baseball	756	500
	Rect. Field (Soccer)*	0	500
Plymouth River Elementary	LL Baseball	209	500
	Rect. Field	0	500
South Elementary	Softball Field	711	500
	Rect. Field	0	500

RECREATION COMMISSION

Bradley Woods	Rect. Field	0	500
Cronin Complex	Baseball Field	1179	500
	Rect. Field (Soccer)	405.5	500
Haley Field	LL Baseball Field	430.5	500
Hersey Field	LL Baseball Field	430.5	500
Hull Street Field	Rect. Field	0	500
Kress Field	LL Baseball	250.5	500
Margett's Field 1	Rect. Field (Lacrosse)	132	500
Plymouth River Elementary	-	-	-

** Does not include Men's Softball field use in Weymouth which equates to 126 hours of use
** Does not include the Little League's desire to have practices
** Flag football is turning players away due to insufficient number of fields
** Youth Soccer rents field space in Weymouth and Cohasset totalling approximately 135 hours of annual use in 2019/2020
** Boys Lacross rents field space in Cohasset if needed (winter tryouts)
** Field Hockey rents field space at South Shore Sports Center mostly for winter use





REPLACED 20' HT
BALL SAFETY
NETTING
RENOVATED
MEMORIAL

NEW DUGOUTS

BATTING
CAGE

PEDESTRIAN PATHWAY
LIGHTING

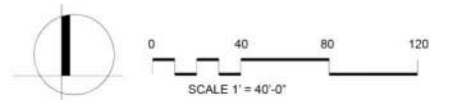
NEW HOCKEY COURT
FULL-DEPTH &
DASHERBOARD

NEW BASKETBALL COURT TOP
COURSE AND SEALCOAT

SPORTS LIGHTING
(4 TOTAL)



HALEY FIELD







DRAINAGE
IMPROVEMENTS

DRAINAGE
IMPROVEMENTS

180 x 330

(220x360)

210 x 360

FONTENBLEAU DRIVE







