Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 26th, 2023

Virtual Meeting

Microsoft Teams
Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

• Approval of September, 28th 2023 Meeting Minutes

Other

- Use Permits for Public Spaces Design Processes by Irena Lazic, Nick Rogers & Walter Gonzalez (30 Mins)
- Athletic Field Use Presentation by John Sharkey
- APS/DPR MOA updates by Jennifer Fioretti & Greg Anselene

New Business

Old Business

- Arlington Little League Tournament Recap
- Arlington Babe Ruth Tournament Recap by Lisa Donnelly
- Liaison Role Conversation

Commission Member Reports

- Chair Updates
- PROMISE Working Group Update
- PSMP-IAC Update
- Communications Working Group Update

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

- November 16th, 2023 (In Person)
- December 21st, 2023 (Virtual)

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 28th, 2023 In Person Lubber Run Community Center Time: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Commission Members Present:

Chair, John MingusLizzy StellGeorge ThompsonKhal MonaroDeb DeFrancoJason Despain

Commission Members Absent:

Greg Gimenez David Lansing Deb Ryan Nancey Sharkey Bryan Eckle

County/APS Staff:

Greg Anselene, DPR Tyler Remerow, DPR

Guests:

Mark Lincoln

Start:

7:08pm

Public Comment:

None

Other:

- Arlington County Facility Updates DPR Presentation, Tyler Remerow
 - The Tent at Gunston Park opened 9/11/23
 - Enjoy Arlington Classes, Youth and Adult Indoor Soccer to be scheduled at The Tent
 - Williamsburg Middle School Synthetic Field replaces scheduled for Winter 2023
 - Washington Liberty Synthetic Field replacement scheduled for Winter 2023
 - Greenbrier Track replacement scheduled for Summer '24
 - Updated pickleball court lining includes Ft. Scott, Marcey Road, Hayes Park, VA Highlands (Hitting Walls)
 - Acoustic Fence added to aforementioned sites
- Use Permits for Public Spaces Designs Processes: Phase 2 Zoning Study

• Phase 2 of zoning study (PSMP) to focus on a use permit option for the County Board to consider case-by-case modifications of zoning laws for public space to enable more flexibility for reduced setback, increased height, parking and signage.

New Business:

- PROMISE Working Group Update
 - Youth leagues will be sent an email outlining the framework of the PROMISE Working Group in January.

Old Business:

- Tennis Ball Recycling Update
 - o No Update
- Liaison Role Conversation
 - Discussion tabled to October meeting

Commission Member Reports:

- Chair Updates
 - o No Update
- PSMP-IAC Update
 - o No Update
- Communications Working Group
 - o Reconnect with baseball groups regarding their summer tournaments

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings:

- November 16th, 2023 (Hybrid)
- December 21st, 2023 (Virtual)

Adjourn:

7:45pm

Use Permits for Public Spaces Design Processes

Nick Rogers – Principal Planner, CPHD Irena Lazic – Long Range Park Planning Section Supervisor, DPR Walter Gonzalez – Associate Planner, DPR

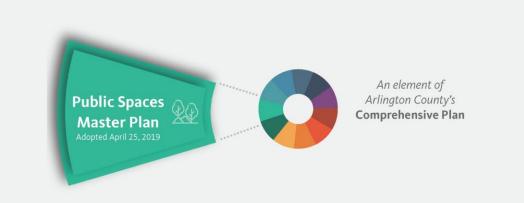
Sports Commission – Oct. 26, 2023





Purpose

- Enable the County Board to consider case-by-case modifications of Arlington's zoning laws to allow:
 - More flexibility for where amenities are located in public spaces
 - Avoidance of environmentally sensitive areas
 - Avoidance of additional parking when unnecessary or when alternatives are available
- Mechanism County Board use permit process
- 2019 <u>Public Spaces Master Plan</u>'s <u>Action Plan</u> recommends the County review and consider updating the zoning regulations related to parks and public spaces
- The PSMP recommends studying setbacks, athletic field, and other lighting, parking and parking options, dog parks and dog runs, signage, height, water features, fencing and temporary use of public and private property as public space.





PSMP & Zoning

PSMP Recommendation:

1.5.10. Review and consider updating the County's zoning regulations related to parks and public spaces in "S-3A" and "PS" districts, and other County codes as needed, related to setbacks, athletic field and other lighting, parking and parking options, dog parks and dog runs, signage, height, water features, fencing and temporary use of public and private property as public space.

Progress Completed to Date:

Phase 1 completed in March 2023, focused on:

- Stormwater management
- Placement
- Setbacks
- Maximum height for fence & walls

Current Step:

- Phase 2, schedule for Fall/Winter 2023:
 - County Board authority to approve increased height, reduced setbacks, and reduced parking amounts on a caseby-case basis (Use Permit req.)
- Phase 3, targeted timing to be commenced in 2024 :
 - Comprehensive study, with possible support from consultant team
 - Identify best practices for flexible zoning standards for public spaces
 - Topics to evaluate include definitions/terms, new standards for height/setbacks, sign regulations, and by-right parks outside S-3A district

Public Involvement with Public Space Planning

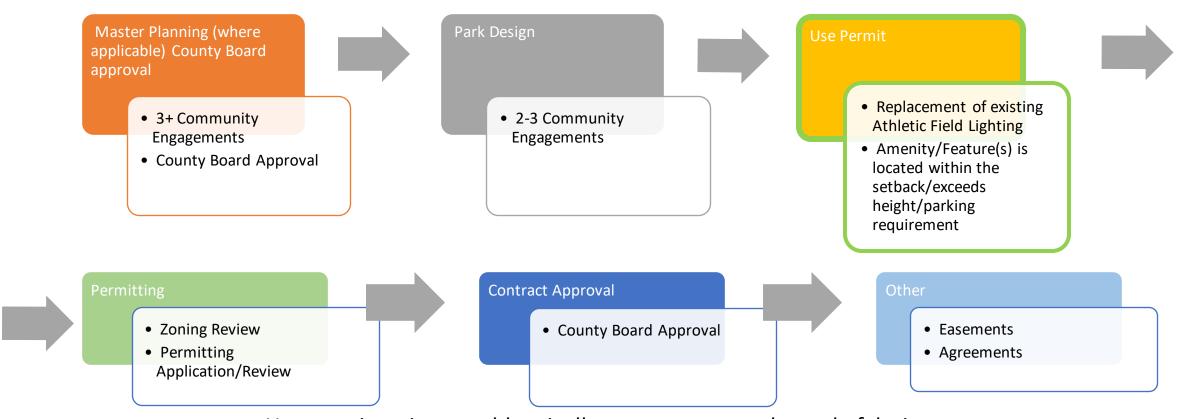
- Park projects follow the County's Six-Step Public Engagement Guide
- Typically consist of 2-3 engagements or more depending on complexity
- Include a variety of engagement tools
- 1st Engagement Visioning work with community to solicit feedback on proposed amenities or uses
- 2nd Engagement Concept(s) developed and shared back out to the public for feedback
 - Present to appropriate Commissions
- 3rd Engagement Present final concept







Integration of Use Permit into DPR Engagement Sample Timeline



- Use permit review would typically occur near or at the end of design
- Use permit review would coincide with any rezoning, before permitting

Precedent: APS construction projects

- ACZO amended in 2016 to permit County Board use permit approval of flexibility for schools
- Zoning standards which can be modified:
 - Maximum height
 - Minimum setbacks
 - Maximum density
 - Minimum parking



Use Permits

- County Board approval, typically on consent agenda
 - Land use which may have adverse impacts in certain locations
 - Uses (child care centers, live entertainment, bikeshare stations)
 - Modifications (# of seats in an outdoor café)





igure 5 West Aerial View (VMDO Architects)



igure 6 South Aerial View (VMDO Architects)



Figure 7 Northeast Aerial View (VMDO Architects)

- Schools use permits
 - Modifications permitted for parking, setbacks, lot area, lot width, maximum height

Policy considerations

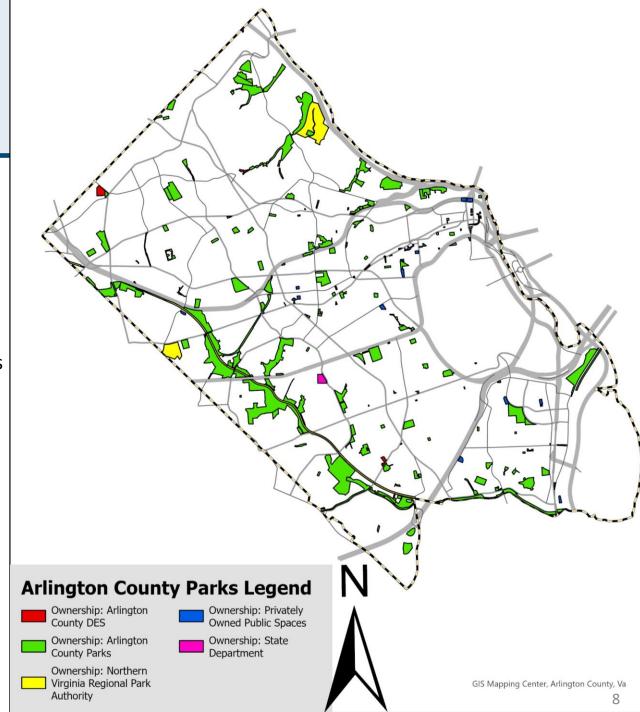
Flexibility for creative & efficient use of limited public land

Background:

- Arlington's first Zoning Ordinance adopted in 1930
- 46% of County owned parks are less than 2 acres
- More will need to be asked of from smaller spaces
 - o natural vegetation, casual use spaces, recreation opportunities
 - o stormwater management, environmental sensitivity, utilities
 - demand will continue for land use compatibility

Other factors for zoning evaluation:

- historical park development
- environmental constraints
- equity
- population growth
- emerging trends in park design



Phase 2 Approach

Examine how County Board could use the use permit approval process to allow the following in public spaces:

- Increased Height
- Reduced Setbacks
- Parking Modifications

Increased Height

Maximum height req. applies to:

- Buildings (ex. community center, nature center)
- Accessory buildings (ex. storage sheds)
- Field lighting where lights already exist
- Play equipment
- Sports field features (ex. Court or field fencing/netting, dugout/backstop)
- Temporary enclosures to enable yearround use (ex. bubble/dome on courts/fields)
- Any park improvements affixed to the ground



Public (P) Districts Zoning	Maximum Height (feet)	Maximum Height (feet) + Flagpole (23 feet)
S-3A	45'	68'
P-S	75'	98'

Athletic Field Lighting

Lighting technology has significantly improved by utilizing higher poles to get proper aiming angles to angle the lighting more accurately, helping to avoid overspill and glare.

This amendment will only be applicable to <u>existing</u> lighted athletic facilities.

Any future projects including athletic field lighting will go through the appropriate engagement process.



Case Study: Jennie Dean Park

SITE PLAN





Example: Jennie Dean Park was rezoned from the M-1/S-3A districts to the P-S district to facilitate the installation of athletic field lighting

S-3A: Max Height – 68' P-S: Max Height – 98'



LEGEND

- (A) YOUTH DIAMOND FIELD
- (B) ADULT DIAMOND FIELD
- (C) MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD
- (D) DUG OUT TYPICAL
- (E) BLEACHERS TYPICAL
- (F) BULLPEN
- (G) PLAZA
- (H) BASKETBALL COURT
- (I) TENNIS COURT
- (J) LARGE PAVILION
- (K) PUBLIC ART/ SMALL PAVILION
- (L) RESTROOMS
- (M)PLAYGROUND
- (N)OVERLOOK
- (O) PARKING
- (P) DROP-OFF PARKING
- @BIORETENTION TYPICAL
- (R)SOFT TRAIL
- (S) WAYFINDING
- (T)PICNIC TABLES
- (U) CUSTOM SEATING
- (V) EXISTING WALL TO REMAIN
- (W) FUTURE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE ?
- (X) INFORMATIONAL KIOSK/



Reduced Setbacks

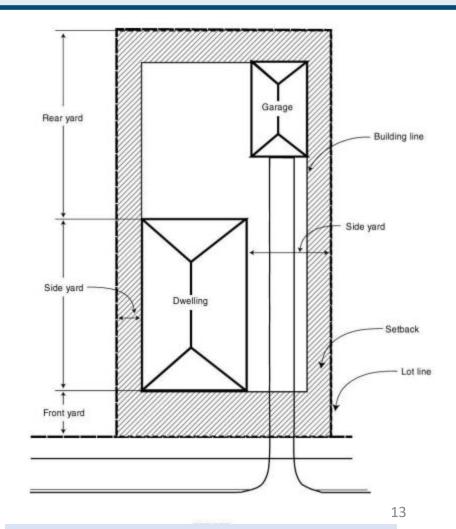
Constraints which influence park master planning:

- Limited availability of land
- Providing/preserving natural resource access in public spaces
- Existing property boundaries
- Adjacent roads
- Environmentally sensitive areas (ex. RPA)

Must adhere to setbacks

- Buildings (ex. community centers, nature centers)
- Temporary bubble/dome enclosures
- Lighting along walking trails that exceeds 15' in height
- Athletic field/court lighting (existing)
- Fencing which exceeds the maximum height of 8 feet

Setbacks from any street in S-3A: The larger of either **50 feet from said centerline of any street, or **25 feet** from any street right-of-way line.



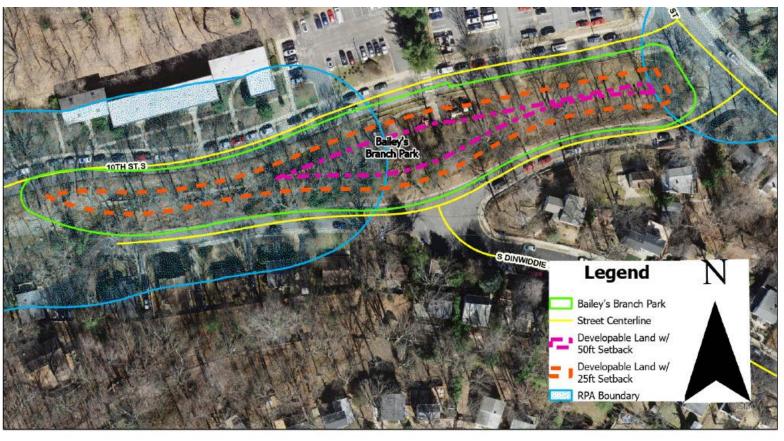
Case Study: Bailey's Branch Park

Location: 990 S Columbus St

<u>Constraints</u>: Narrow/linear, Resource Protection Area, topographical challenges, heavily forested. Current S-3A setbacks would hinder future improvements.



Programming: Casual Use & Playground



View from S. Columbus St.

Reduced Setbacks

Example: Upper Bluemont Park – Proposed courts are closer to the street



1 Existing Sign to Remain

(2) Bioretention Area

(3) Bicycle Rack/Repair Station

(4) ADA Access

(5) Casual Open Space

(6) Practice Wall

(7) Emergency Egress

(8) Existing Ballfield (No Changes)

(9) Viewing Terrace

(10) Seating Area

New Auxiliary Building

New Native Plant Material to Stabilize Slopes

13 Specimen Tree in Excellent Condition

(14) Shade Structure

15 Maintenance Vehicle Access

RPA Reforestation Area

17 In-ground Tennis Ball Play Element

(18) Change - Entrance Shifted; Parallel Parking Removed

Change - Hardscape and Play Element Adjusted

Change - Pedestrian Access Shifted;
Maintenance Access Added

21) Change - Pedestrian Access Shifted

120'x50' Practice Court (1-2, 6-9)

120'x60' Event Court (3-5)

11 Trees to Be Removed

Edge of Existing Parking Lot and Tennis Court

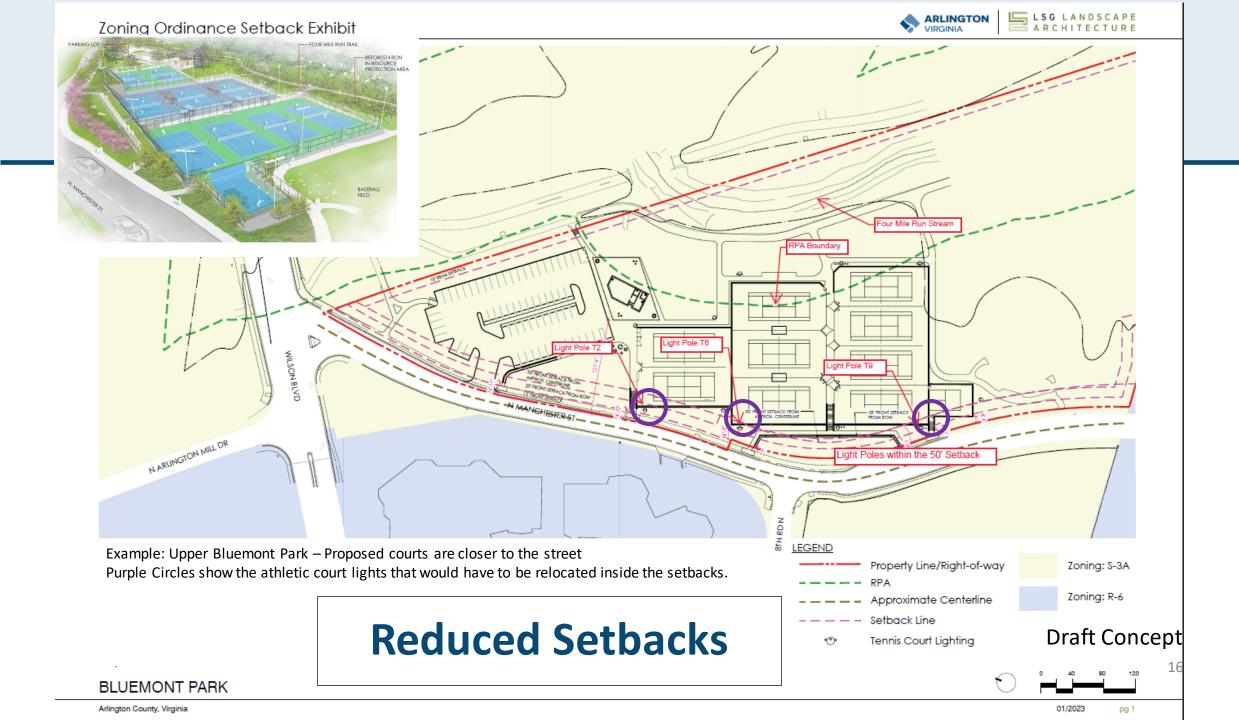
Permeable Paving

--- RPA Line

Changes since 2nd community engagement



Draft Concept



Flexibility for Parking



14.3.7 Required parking and standing space				
Use Types	Minimum Parking Requirement (spaces)			
Community swimming pools	1 per each 40 sq. ft. of pool area			
Athletic or health clubs	1 space per 50 sq. ft. of gross floor area			
Indoor or outdoor recreation	1 space per 300 sq. ft. of indoor floor area or outdoor area			
Tennis, racquet and handball courts	3 spaces per court			
Community centers	1 space per 3 seats			



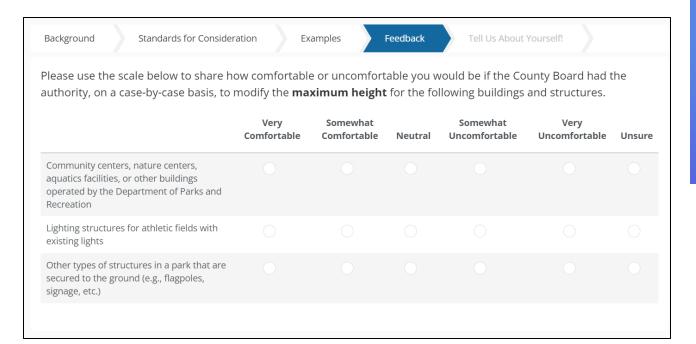
Flexibility for Certain Signs in Public Spaces

- Flag signs
 - Flag pole must be located within 30' of the principal entrance to the main building
- Freestanding signs
 - Limited to 1 freestanding sign per "entrance"
 - Minimum setback required of either 5' from property lines or 10' feet from back of sidewalk
- **Preliminary approach**: removal/exclusion of limiting zoning language in lieu of use permit modification



Public Engagement to Date

- Website with Reference Materials
- 9/19: Presentation to Park and Recreation Commission (PRC)
- 10/3: Virtual Q&A with Staff for members of the public
- 9/19 10/8: Online feedback form to collect public input
 - 242 participants, 275 comments
- October 10: Zoning Committee (ZOCO) briefing







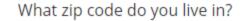


To learn more and sign up for updates, visit Arlingtonva.us and search "Use Permits for Public Space Design Processes"



Online Feedback Form Summary

- 242 participants
- 275 total comments
- Background information provided:
 - Study's goals and objectives
 - Overview of current zoning regulations
 - Rationale for considering flexibility
 - Examples of applicable projects
- Majority of participants were somewhat or very uncomfortable with County Board authority to modify zoning for public spaces





208 respondents

22207

22203

Online Feedback Form Summary

Please use the scale below to share how comfortable or uncomfortable you would be if the County Board had the authority, on a case-by-case basis, to modify the **maximum height** for the following buildings and structures.

	Very Comfortable	Somewhat Comfortable	Neutral	Somewhat Uncomfortable	Very Uncomfortable	Unsure
Community centers, nature centers, aquatics facilities, or other buildings operated by the Department of Parks and Recreation	17% Very Comfortable	10% Somewhat Comfortable	3% Neutral	10% Somewhat Uncomfortable	59% Very Uncomfortable	2% Unsure
Lighting structures for athletic fields with existing lights	17% Very Comfortable	11% Somewhat Comfortable	9% Neutral	13% Somewhat Uncomfortable	49% Very Uncomfortable	2% Unsure
Other types of structures in a park that are secured to the ground (e.g., flagpoles, signage, etc.)	17% Very Comfortable	8% Somewhat Comfortable	14% Neutral	14% Somewhat Uncomfortable	46% Very Uncomfortable	1% Unsure

Please use the scale below to share how comfortable or uncomfortable you would be if the County Board had the authority, on a case-by-case basis, to modify the **minimum requirements**for parking in the following ways.

	Very Comfortable	Somewhat Comfortable	Neutral	Somewhat Uncomfortable	Very Uncomfortable	Unsure
Reductions to the total required parking	15% Very Comfortable	6% Somewhat Comfortable	3% Neutral	8% Somewhat Uncomfortable	66% Very Uncomfortable	1% Unsure
Adjustments to the surface materials, dimensional standards, or other requirements for parking spaces	17% Very Comfortable	8% Somewhat Comfortable	6% Neutral	15% Somewhat Uncomfortable	53% Very Uncomfortable	2% Unsure

239 respondents

241 respondents

Key Themes from Online Feedback Form Comments

- Planning processes need awareness/transparency; outreach to and coordination with community is essential
- Intrusive glare from lighting into neighborhoods should not be allowed
- Overdevelopment of parks; reductions in open space
 - Standards should be added to prohibit net losses in green space
- Parking is in short supply, and essential (ex. sports teams, persons with mobility needs)
- Setback/height standards are essential for maintaining open space and separation from adjacent homes



Anticipated Schedule

November 2: Public Spaces Master Plan-IAC

November 11/14: County Board to authorize Request to

Advertise (RTA)

December 4/6: Planning Commission public hearing and recommendation

December 16/19: County Board public hearing and

action



Field Usage in Arlington: A Yorktown High School Senior Experience Project

John Sharkey

Why I did the research

- Senior experience project for Yorktown, mentored by Kathy Evans, Arlington Little League executive board member
- Diamond field usage has been an issue in the county recently
- County is encouraging multi-use fields, and removing fences
- It has been my experience and the experience of many ball players that diamond fields are often misused
- Fields are often damaged

The Process

- Observed 10 fields at 5 parks
 - 3 permit only
 - 7 permit takes priority
- 50 hours of observations
- Sat on a bench near fields and recorded activity at 15 minute intervals
- Observed throughout the day (7am-8pm)
- Data collection May 22 June 13
- Observed small number of hours when fields were closed (about 10%)

Findings

- For much of the time people were not on the fields
- There was much more activity on some fields than others
- There was almost daily misuse of fields
 - People playing on permit only fields
 - Dogs on fields
 - Furniture left on fields
 - People using fields when they were closed

Field misuse: Greenbrier, Quincy, and Virginia Highlands









Dogs: Quincy, Stratford











Conclusions

- Permit only designation is not a sufficient deterrent
- Field closures are not communicated/enforced sufficiently
- People regularly ignore rules and signs prohibiting dogs from being on fields
- People use permit takes priority fields for unintended purposes

Recommendations

- Increase field usage rules enforcement
- Increase and extend rover hours
 - Dogs and owners routinely on Stratford field between 7-8am
- Provide additional fencing around fields
- Make more explicit what permit takes priority means
- Better communication and increased monitoring when fields are closed
- County should authorize a more systematic audit of field usage to better allocate limited rover resources
- Consider raising dog licensing fee from \$30 lifetime to something more similar to what field users who are on teams are paying (\$10 or \$15 per player per season per sport) in order to pay for audit/rovers

Limits to the Study

- Limited number of fields and hours
- Conducted during school year and primarily during school day
- Fields were not evenly distributed throughout the county
- Possible that observing activity may have impacted activity on fields

Questions?

Thank You

johnrsharkey@icloud.com

(703) 473-9877

Operations and Cost Sharing of Outdoor Athletic Facilities at Arlington High Schools

Memorandum of Agreements between Arlington Public Schools and Arlington County

Jennifer Fioretti
Greg Anselene
Department of Parks and Recreation

10/26/2023



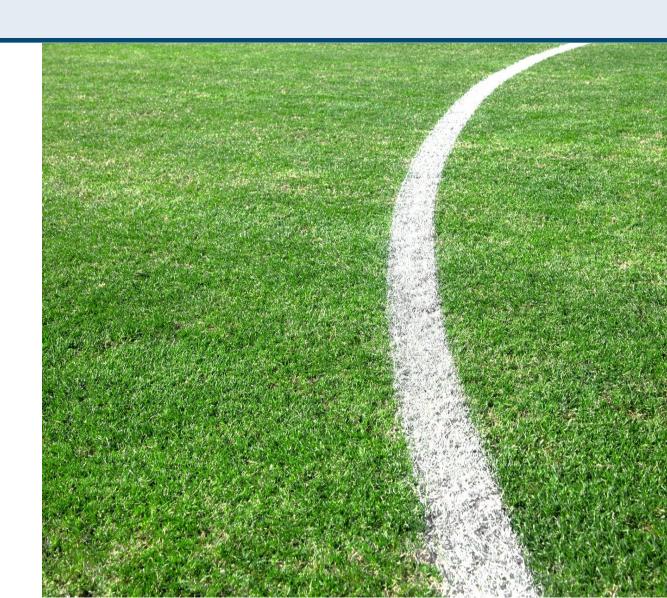


Background

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between APS and County regarding the operations and cost sharing of outdoor athletic facilities.
 - Wakefield (2013)
 - Washington-Liberty & Quincy Park (2012)
 - Yorktown (Greenbrier Park) (2008)

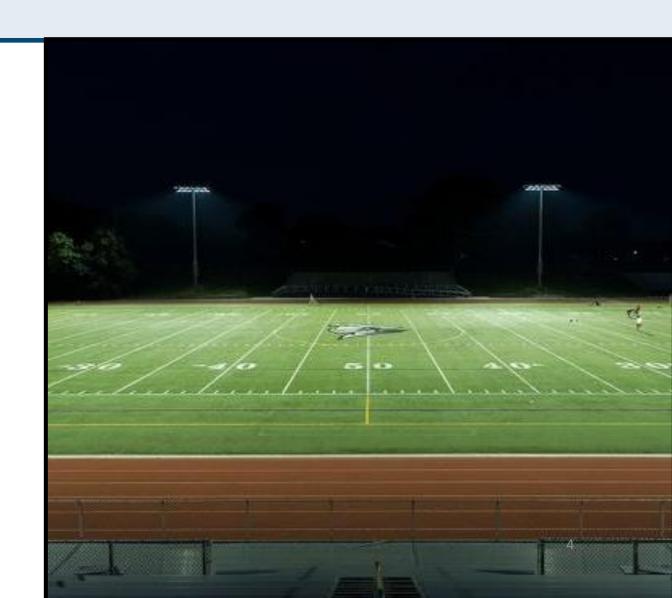
Why Update the MOUs?

- Existing MOUs do not generally reflect current practices
- Improve coordination by memorializing current scheduling
- Inefficient capital cost sharing formula



Communication and Collaboration

- Established joint APS/DPR Staff working group
- Project timeline 2019 2023
 - Paused during pandemic



MOA Structure



Facilities Operations Team



Facility Use By APS and County



County and APS Responsibilities



Financial Agreement



Risk Management



Permission and License to Access APS and County property

Wakefield MOA Revision Highlights



Includes additional 399 hours annual use on Wakefield Stadium (schedule approved 2019).

In the Spring and Fall 1.5 additional hours per night M-F.

In the Fall 2.5 hours one night per week, 2.5 hours, 3 weeks of band camp in August.

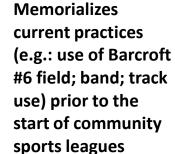
In the Fall DPR gets 2 hours per week on Chesterfield # 1 M-F

12, 2 hour green day practices.



facility

Establishes new capital cost sharing agreement





Reciprocal permission and license to access DPR and APS property for construction and maintenance.

around GW use).

Cost Share continues to exclude PE use of the



Washington & Liberty MOA Revision Highlights (includes Quincy Park)



Updated MOA and Appendices to reflect new school name Washington-Liberty.



Updated MOA
Appendices to
reflect additional
224 hours annual
use at W-L
Stadium. Establish
es new cost sharing
agreement (see
Attachment B of
the W-L
agreement)

In the spring and fall an additional 1.5 hrs per night M-F.

In the fall an additional 3.0 hours one night per week for band

Cost share does not include PE use of the facility



Memorializes
current practices in
the updated MOA
(e.g.: use of
Barcroft #6
synthetic diamond
field prior to the
start of community
sports leagues
around GW use;
band; track use;
etc.)



Permission and license to DPR to access APS property for construction and maintenance.



Yorktown (Greenbrier Park) MOA Revision Highlights

Legend

Facilities and Construction



Updated MOA format to match MOA template used for W-L and Wakefield that include a new Facility Use Grid and **Cost Sharing** Table.



Updated MOA Appendices to reflect additional 355.5 hours annual use at Greenbrier Stadium.



Establishes

new capital

cost sharing

agreement

current practices (e.g.: Use of Barcroft #6 field; maintenance responsibilities ; band use;

track use;

etc.)



Memorializes Permission and license to APS to access DPR property for construction and maintenance.



Access Addressed in MOA Arlington County Public School Property Yorktown High School

1.5 hours every weeknight during the spring and fall season; except

2 hours one day during fall seasons for band

12, 2 hour green day practices

Cost share does not include PE use of the facility

APS and County % Use of Outdoor Stadiums

High School	APS 5-year average % use	DPR 5-year average % use	APS revised % use	DPR revised % use	
Wakefield	41%	59%	55%	45%	
Washington-Liberty	44%	56%	51%	49%	
Yorktown	44%	56%	52%	48%	

Summary of Cost Sharing by Facility

Wakefield (Stadium, Grass rectangle field, 90' baseball and softball, tennis courts)

Amenities	APS	Percentage	County	Percentage
Press box, bleachers, restrooms, concessions, track, field hockey/lacrosse goals, fence, lacrosse netting, discus circle and netting, shot put circle, storage building	X	100%		
Goals, goal anchors, nets and corner flags (grass rectangle field)			Х	100%
Soccer nets & corner flags, synthetic field and light replacement and repairs, grass field, windscreens, bull pen, batting cages, scoreboard, dugouts, backstop, pitching rubbers, home plate, player benches, netting, ball net system, general field maintenance (i.e. irrigation, paint, mowing)	Х	50%	X	50%
Utilities (Eletric and water)	Prorate		Prorate	10

Summary of Cost Sharing by Facility

Washington & Liberty

(Stadium, aux rectangle field, baseball/rectangle field, softball/rectangle field, Quincy tennis courts)

Amenities	APS	Percentage	County	Percentage
Press box, bleachers, restrooms, concessions, track, field hockey/lacrosse goals, fence, lacrosse netting, storage building, high jump, name and logo on field, discus circle and netting, shot put circle, grandstand.	X	100%		
Signage (softball diamond/rectangular field)			X	100%
Goals, goal anchors, nets and corner flags, synthetic field and light replacement and repairs, signage, electrical repairs, grass field, windscreens, bull pen, batting cages, scoreboard, dugouts, backstop, pitching rubbers, home plate, player benches, netting, ball net system, public address system, general field maintenance (i.e. irrigation, paint, mowing), tennis court resurfacing & replacement, nets & standards.	X	50%	X	50%
Utilities (Eletric and water)	Prorate		Prorate	11

Summary of Cost Sharing by Facility

Yorktown (Greenbrier Park)

(Stadium, diamond fields, Greenbrier grass diamond field #2, Greenbrier tennis and basketball courts)

Amenities	APS	Percentage	County	Percentage
Press box, bleachers, concessions, field hockey/lacrosse goals, lacrosse netting, discus circle and netting, shot put circle, bleachers, stadium scoreboard	X	100%		
Greenbrier basketball court maintenance, stadium restrooms, track, fence			Х	100%
Soccer nets & corner flags, synthetic field and light replacement and repairs, grass field, windscreens, bull pen, batting cages, diamond scoreboard, storage building, dugouts, backstop, pitching rubbers, home plate, player benches, netting, ball net system, general field maintenance (i.e. irrigation, paint, mowing)	X	50%	X	50%
Utilities (Eletric and water)	Prorate		Prorate	12

Next Steps

- Sports Commission October 26
- APS Information Item October 27
- APS MOA Approval November
- County Board December 16





8 Teams competed for the chance to advance to the Babe Ruth World Series

- Virginia
- North Carolina
- Tennessee
- Florida







Teams gathered for opening ceremonies at Barcroft 6

- All-Teams Dinner
- Babe Ruth VIPs
- Skills Competition
- Visit From Screech









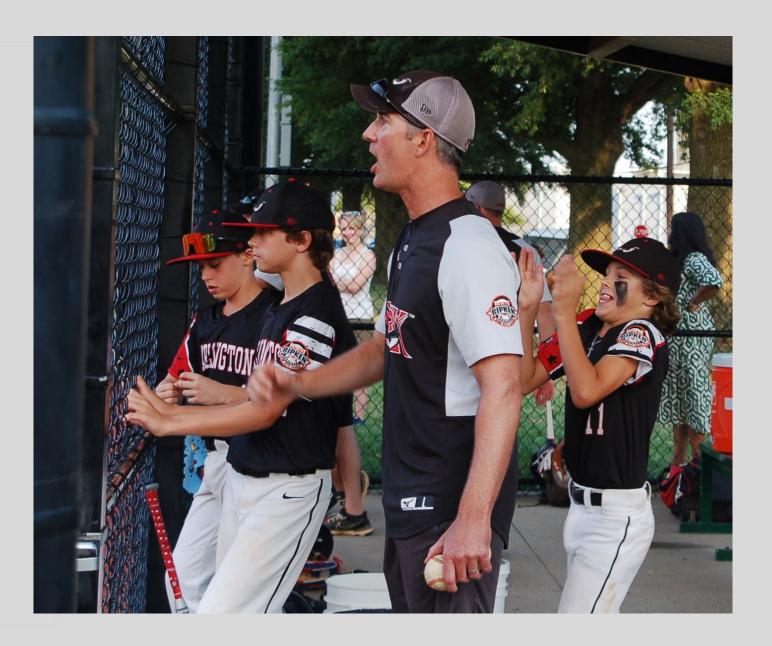




Gunston Pinch Hit











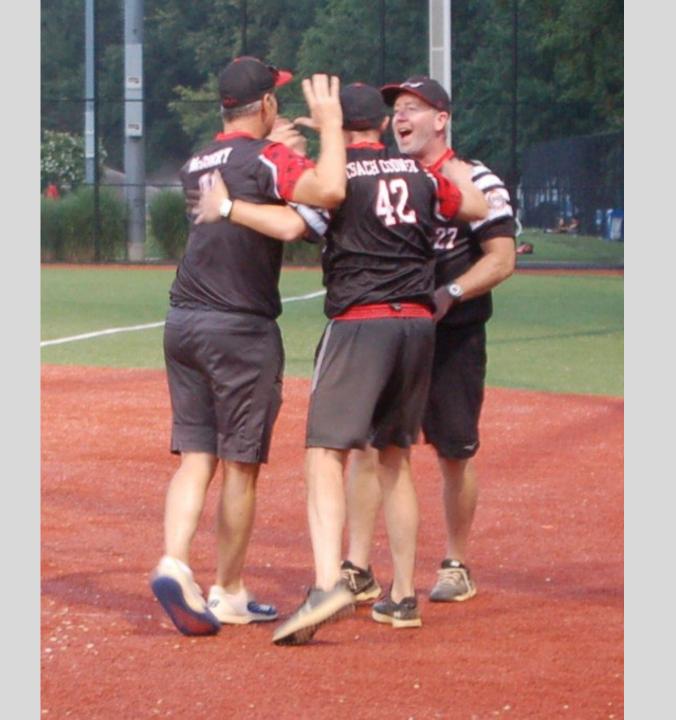
Tight Competition

- Many games won by 1 run, or walk-off
- Storm team was coached by former ABR president, J.P. Cooney, Mike Donnelly and John McCorry











Storm advanced to semi-finals

Congratulations to Lutz, FL Bananas, SER champions!







Many Volunteers! THANK YOU!





