

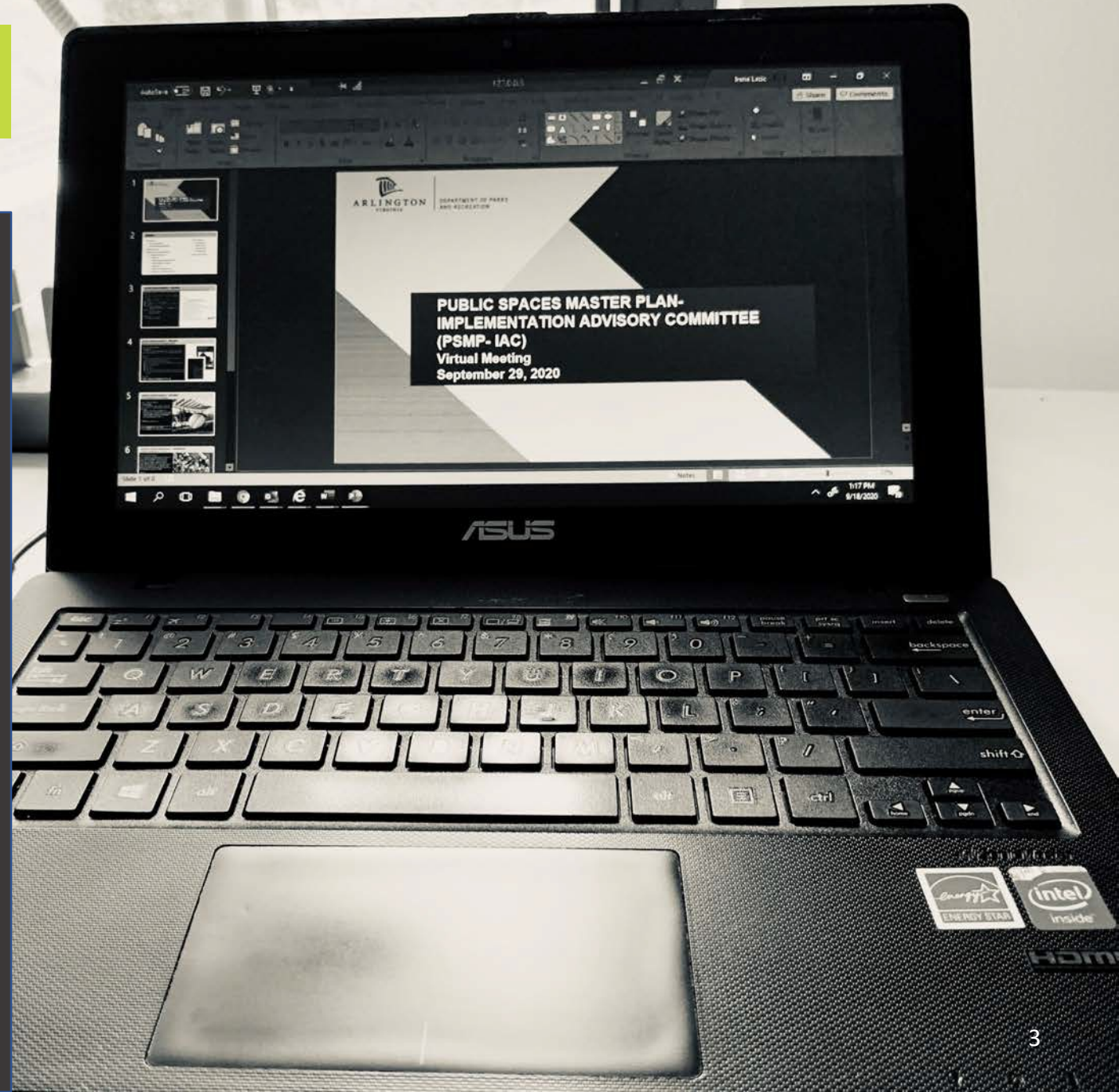
**PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN-
IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(PSMP- IAC)
Virtual Meeting
October 18, 2021**

AGENDA

- Introduction:
 - PSMP-IAC Co-Chairs Updates
 - Virtual Meeting Ground Rules
- Public Comment
- Athletic Field Availability & Utilization
- Next Steps

VIRTUAL MEETING GROUND RULES

- Thank you for being here!
- This meeting is being recorded
- Public comments go first
- **For this meeting, please:**
 - Mute your microphone unless you are speaking
 - Raise your hand using the “raise hand” feature to ask questions
 - If you’re on a phone, dial “*6” to mute and unmute yourself
 - Use the “Chat” option for technical issues
 - Do not interrupt Committee’s discussion
 - Presentation and meeting recording will be posted on the PSMP-IAC website



PUBLIC COMMENT

Athletic Field Availability & Utilization



MEETING OVERVIEW

- Review Public Spaces Master Plan Priority Action #4
- Review Previous Materials Presented to PSMP-IAC
- Introduce Athletic Field Availability Draft Framework
- Introduce Athletic Field Utilization Examples
- Drop-In Update
- Next Steps

Priority Action 4:

1.2.5. Analyze athletic field utilization to improve data on the current use and assess future athletic field needs.

The County will work with the community to determine a set of use assumptions that will enable consistent evaluation of field utilization and capacity. This will be used in conjunction with the Level of Service recommendations (see 1.2.4.). (pg. 60)

1.2.4. Conduct a public space needs assessment, including a statistically valid survey and Level of Service analysis, on a 5-year cycle.

As the County needs, trends and population projections may change, conducting a needs assessment and reviewing and updating Level of Service analysis and methodology on a regular basis would allow the County to keep pace with these changes and adjust its recommendations accordingly. In addition, the County will periodically evaluate existing and gather new data on public space amenities, such as casual use spaces, natural lands, dog parks/runs, trails, athletic fields, community gardens, etc., to refine the Level of Service standards and approaches in the future.

(pg. 60)

ATHLETIC FIELD AVAILABILITY AND UTILIZATION AND THE PSMP-IAC

- **December 9, 2019** – The PSMP-IAC is introduced to the topic of Athletic Field Availability and Utilization.
- **February 10, 2020** – The PSMP-IAC provides feedback on the First Engagement materials for Athletic Field Availability and Utilization.
- **May 13, 2021** – DPR Staff provide overview of the feedback from the First Public Engagement.
- **October 18, 2021** – Staff provide draft framework for Athletic Field Utilization & overview of second and final engagement opportunity.

What is Athletic Field Allocation?

- Potential total amount of hours allocated per field, per season.

What are Field Scheduling Variables?

- Activity start & end times in the spring & fall seasons
- Inclement weather cancelations
- Capturing non-reserved or community use
- Arlington Public Schools use
- Field Density

What is Drop-In?

- Unscheduled use of athletic field space for community activities

What is Athletic Field Availability?

- Agreed upon hours athletic fields are available, incorporating field scheduling variables.

What Does This Mean for Field Utilization?

- Athletic Field Availability must be defined before understanding utilization.

FIRST ENGAGEMENT REVIEW

- After receiving input from the PSMP-IAC, the first engagement opportunity for Athletic Field Availability was released in late-January 2021.
- The engagement opportunity focused on three areas:
 - 1) Drop-In Field Use
 - 2) Activity Start-Times on Athletic Fields
 - 3) Activity End-Times on Athletic Fields
- The feedback tool was available in English and Spanish from January 25, 2021 – February 28, 2021
- In spring 2021, DPR staff attended a community event led by Gates of Ballston community leader, Bellarmino.

To view the full results of the first engagement, click [here](#).

ATHLETIC FIELD AVAILABILITY DRAFT FRAMEWORK

- Based on feedback from the PSMP-IAC and the first Public Engagement, a draft framework has been developed for Athletic Field Availability.
- The draft framework includes criteria and field scheduling variables that help to define Athletic Field Availability.
- The criteria and field scheduling variables creates a total number of hours that fields are available for use per season in the spring and fall.

ATHLETIC FIELD AVAILABILITY DRAFT FRAMEWORK

Athletic Field Availability Draft Definition

The agreed upon hours that athletic fields are available, incorporating field scheduling variables.

The variables included in the Athletic Field Availability draft framework are:

- Participant Age
- Field Size
- Field Amenities (Lights)
- Weekday Start Times
- Saturday Start Times
- Sunday Start Times
- Total Weeks Per Season
- Activity End Times on Lighted Fields
- Activity End Times on Unlit Fields

Athletic Field Availability Framework Variables Definitions

- **Participant Age**

- The age of participants that play on a field due to the size, shape, and amenities on that field.

- **Field Size**

- The dimensions of a field that determine the participant age, and type of activities that take place.

- **Field Amenities**

- Features of a field including fencing, lighting, and goals that determine who plays on that field.

Athletic Field Availability Framework Variables Definitions

- **Weekday Activity Start Times**
 - The agreed upon start times for weekday activities on athletic fields based on input from the PSMP-IAC and the first public engagement.
- **Saturday Activity Start Times**
 - The agreed upon start times for Saturday activities in the spring and fall seasons based on input from the PSMP-IAC and the first public engagement.
- **Sunday Activity Start Times**
 - The agreed upon start times for Sunday activities in the spring and fall seasons based on input from the PSMP-IAC and the first public engagement.

Athletic Field Availability Framework Variables Definitions

- **Total Weeks Per Season**
 - The number of weeks that DPR provides field permits to partner sports organizations in the spring and fall.
- **Activity End Times – Lighted Fields**
 - The agreed upon end times for activities based on feedback from the PSMP-IAC and the first public engagement.
- **Activity End Times – Non-Lighted Fields**
 - The latest sunset time per month, based on feedback from the first public engagement.

ATHLETIC FIELD AVAILABILITY DRAFT FRAMEWORK – SEASONS

- Organized sports in Arlington operate in two primary seasons. Spring and fall.
- The Athletic Field Availability Framework includes the seasons below.

Seasons

Season	Number of Weeks
Spring	13
Fall	11

Spring Season - mid-March through mid-June

Fall Season - September through mid-November.

NOTE: Most youth league seasons are based on a national governing body and can't be changed or altered.

ATHLETIC FIELD AVAILABILITY DRAFT FRAMEWORK –START TIMES

Based on feedback from the PSMP-IAC and the first public engagement the following start times are used to create the Athletic Field Availability Framework.

Activity Start Times

Day of Week	Start Time
Weekday	5:00 pm
Saturday	8:00 am
Sunday	9:00 am

NOTE: Activity Start Times do not change based on season or age.

ATHLETIC FIELD AVAILABILITY DRAFT FRAMEWORK – END TIMES LIGHTED FIELDS

Based on feedback from the PSMP-IAC and the first public engagement the following end times are used to create the Athletic Field Availability Framework.

Activity End Times – Lighted Fields

Age	End Time
14u	9:00 pm
18u	10:00 pm
Adults	11:00 pm

NOTE: End times on fields with lights do not change based on season.

ATHLETIC FIELD AVAILABILITY DRAFT FRAMEWORK – END TIMES UNLIT FIELDS

Based on feedback from the PSMP-IAC and the first public engagement the following end times are used to create the Athletic Field Availability Framework for unlit fields.

Spring and Fall Activity End Times – Unlit Fields

Month	End Time
March	7:30 pm
April	8:00 pm
May	8:30 pm
June	8:30 pm
September	6:30 pm
October	6:00 pm
November	6:00 pm

NOTE: End times are based on the latest sunset of each month.

ATHLETIC FIELD AVAILABILITY AND UTILIZATION

What Does This Mean For Athletic Field Utilization?

- Now that we have created a draft framework for Athletic Field Availability, we can work towards a definition for Field Utilization.
- A beginning definition for Field Utilization could be:
 - **The Comparison of Athletic Field Reservations to the Athletic Field Availability Framework.**
- The following slides are examples of Field Utilization that incorporate the draft Athletic Field Availability Framework.

DRAFT UTILIZATION EXAMPLE – BARCROFT PARK FIELD #1

BARCROFT FIELD #1

4200 S. Four Mile Run Dr.



- Permit Only
- Primarily used for Baseball
- Preferred for youth aged 12 and younger
- Practice, Game, and Tournament Field

YOUTH ONLY



ONLY



NATURAL



2019
UTILIZATION

83%

HOURS

SPRING 2019

Mar. 16- June 16 (13 weeks)

800

610 AVAILABLE HOURS

600

588

SCHEDULED HOURS

400

200

100

50

96%

FALL 2019

Sept. 2 - Nov. 17 (11 weeks)

483 AVAILABLE HOURS

317

SCHEDULED HOURS

66%

DRAFT UTILIZATION EXAMPLE – BOEING FIELD #3 AT LONG BRIDGE PARK

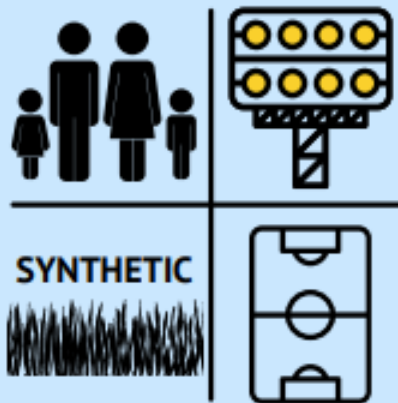
BOEING FIELD #3

AT LONG BRIDGE PARK

475 Long Bridge Drive



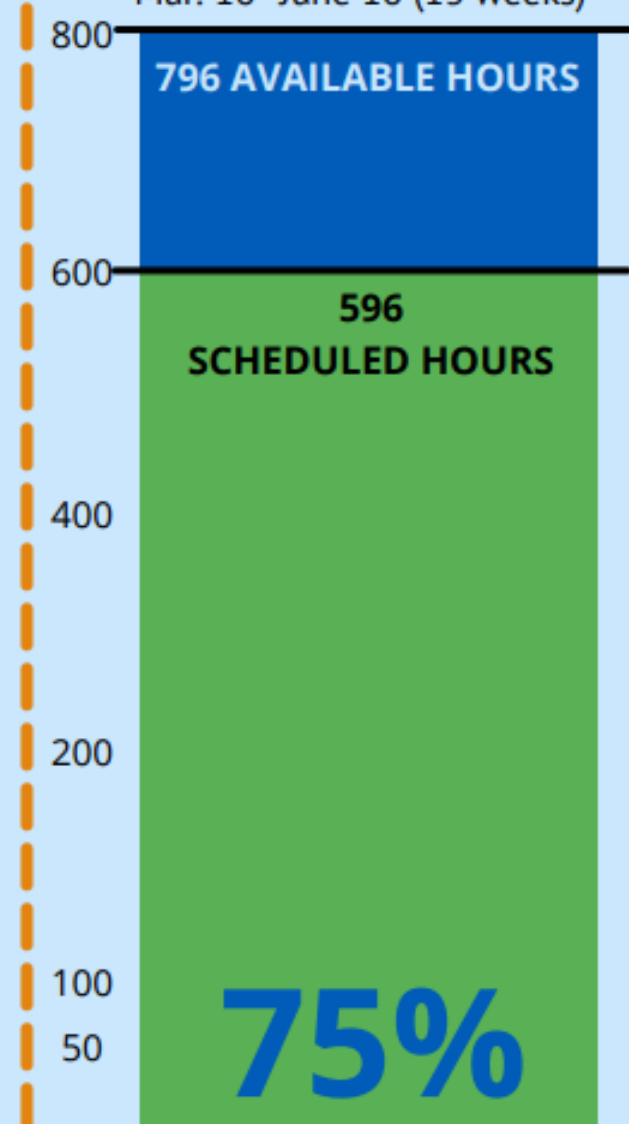
- Permit Takes Priority
- Primarily used for soccer, ultimate, and lacrosse
- Preferred by youth and adults ages 9 and older
- Practice, Game, Event and Tournament Space



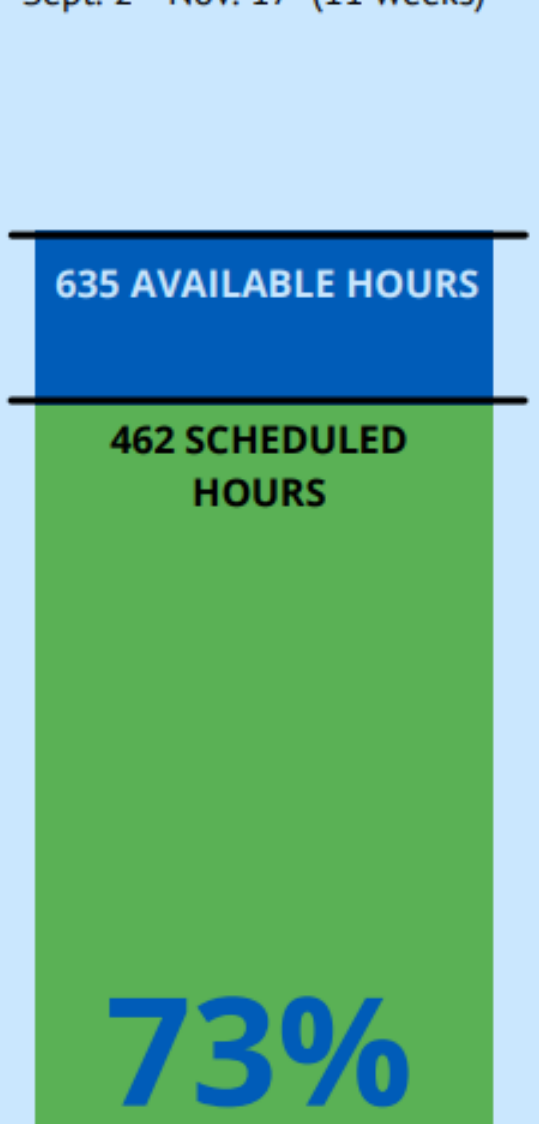
2019
UTILIZATION
74%

HOURS

SPRING 2019
Mar. 16- June 16 (13 weeks)



FALL 2019
Sept. 2 - Nov. 17 (11 weeks)

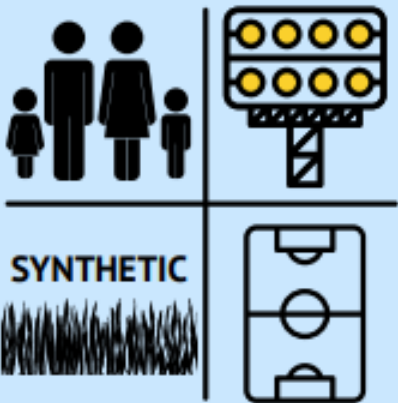


DRAFT UTILIZATION EXAMPLE – STADIUM FIELD AT WASHINGTON LIBERTY

STADIUM AT WASHINGTON-LIBERTY HS 1301 N. Stafford St.



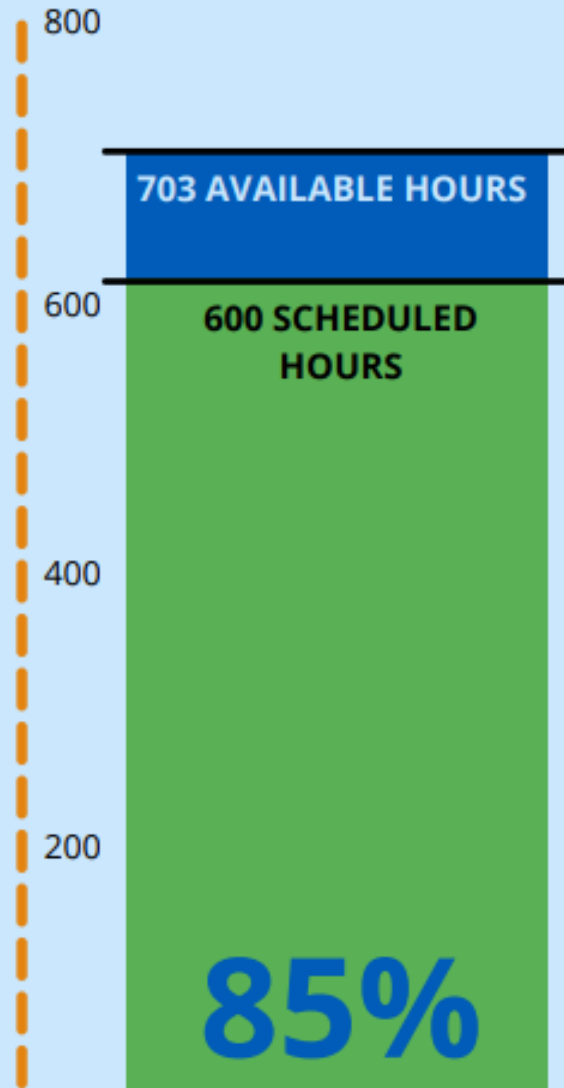
- Permit Takes Priority
- Primarily used for soccer, football, and field hockey
- Preferred by youth and adults ages 10 & older
- Practice, Game, Event and Tournament Space



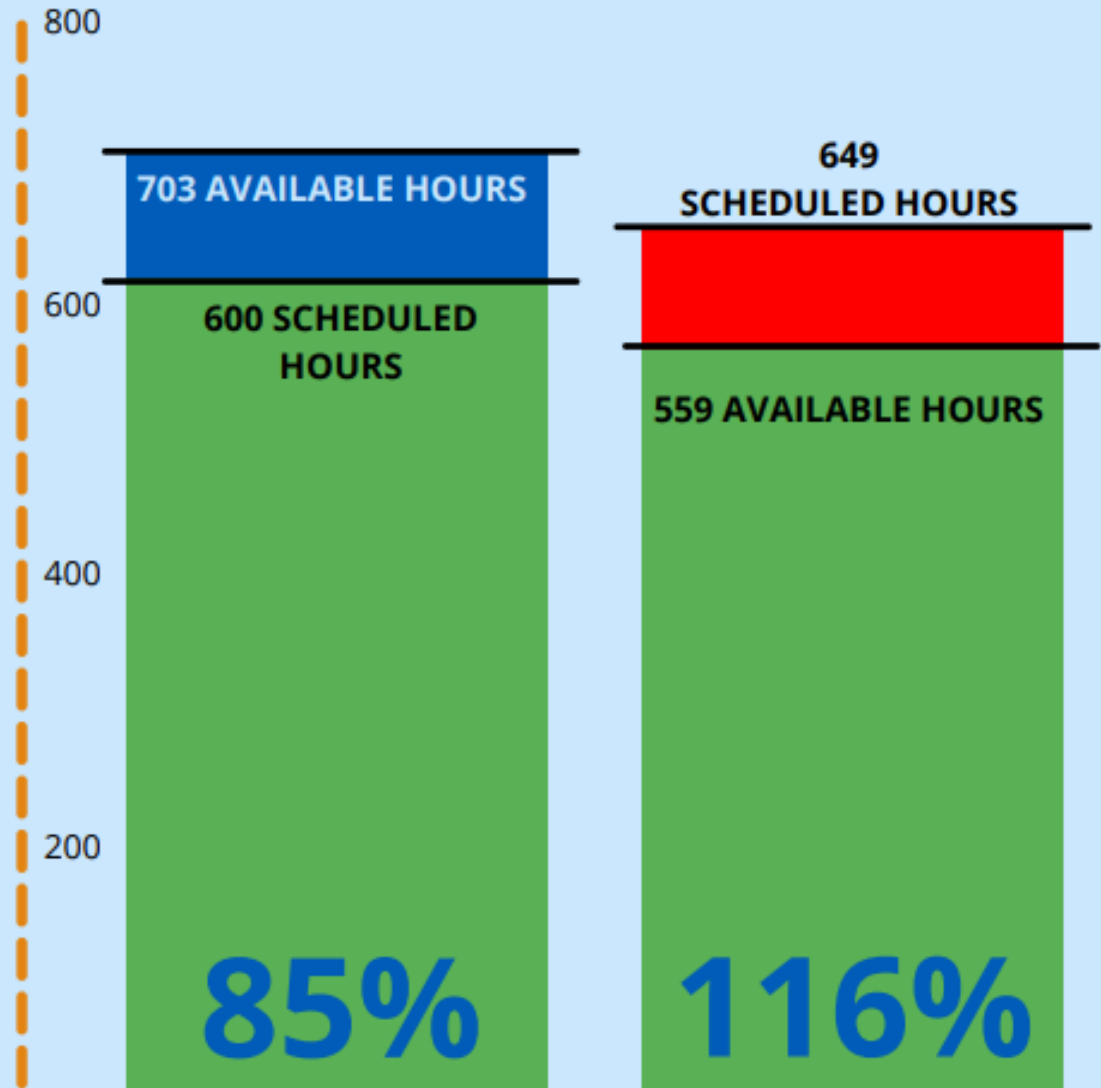
2019
UTILIZATION
99%

HOURS

SPRING 2019
Mar. 16- June 16 (13 weeks)



FALL 2019
Sept. 2 - Nov. 17 (11 weeks)



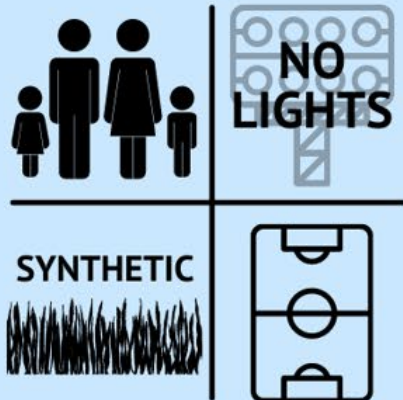
DRAFT UTILIZATION EXAMPLE – WILLIAMSBURG FIELD #1

WILLIAMSBURG #1

3600 N. Harrison St.

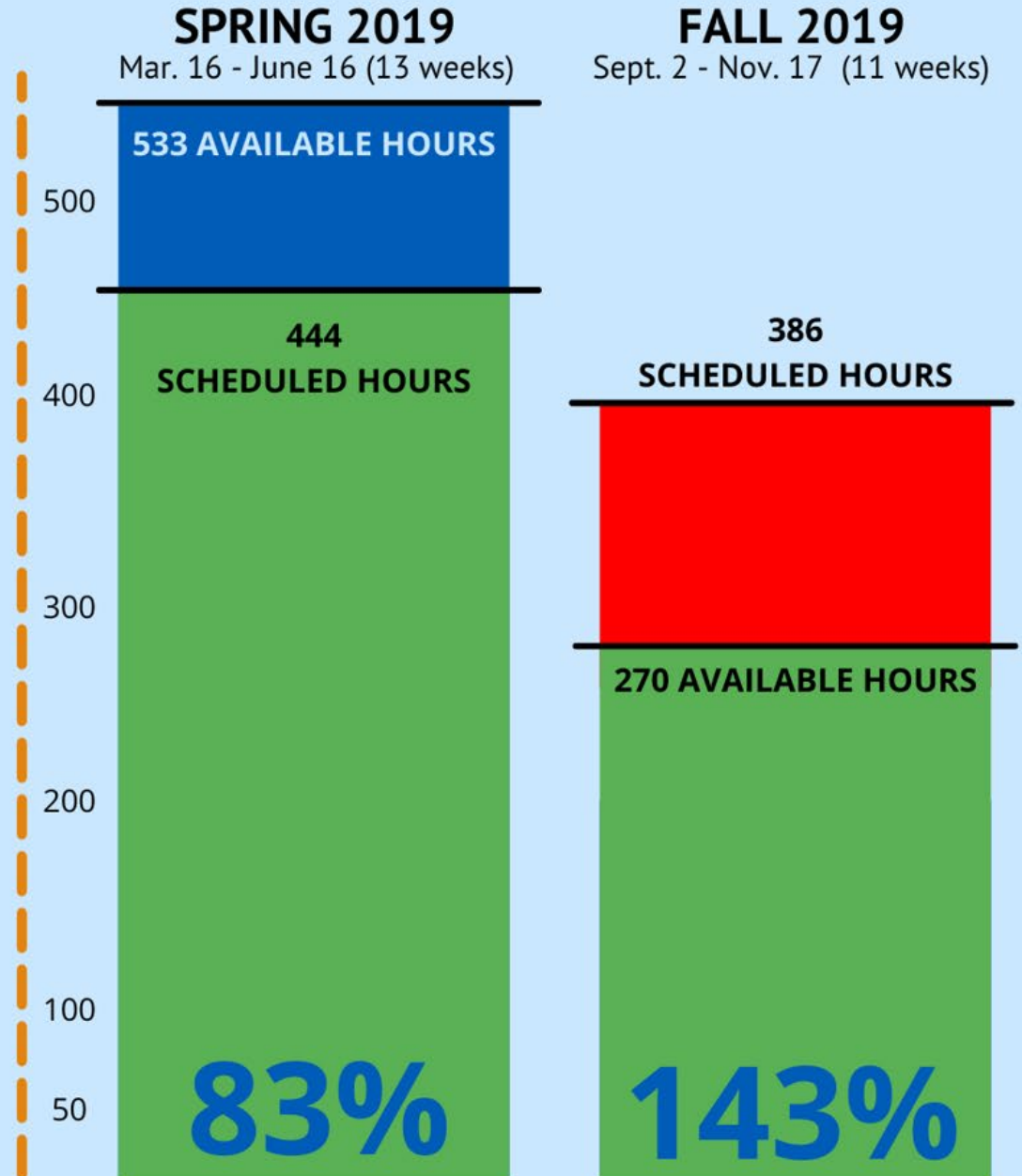


- Permit Takes Priority
- Primarily used for soccer, lacrosse, and ultimate
- Preferred for youth aged 8 and younger
- Practice and Game Field



2019
UTILIZATION
103%

HOURS



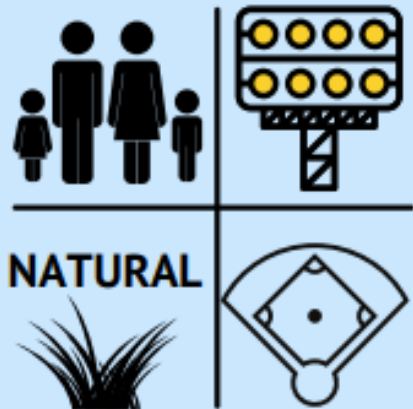
DRAFT UTILIZATION EXAMPLE – VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS FIELD #3

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS #3

1600 S. Hayes St.



- Permit Takes Priority
- Primarily used for softball and community use
- Preferred by youth and adults ages 10 & older
- Practice, Game, Event and Tournament Space

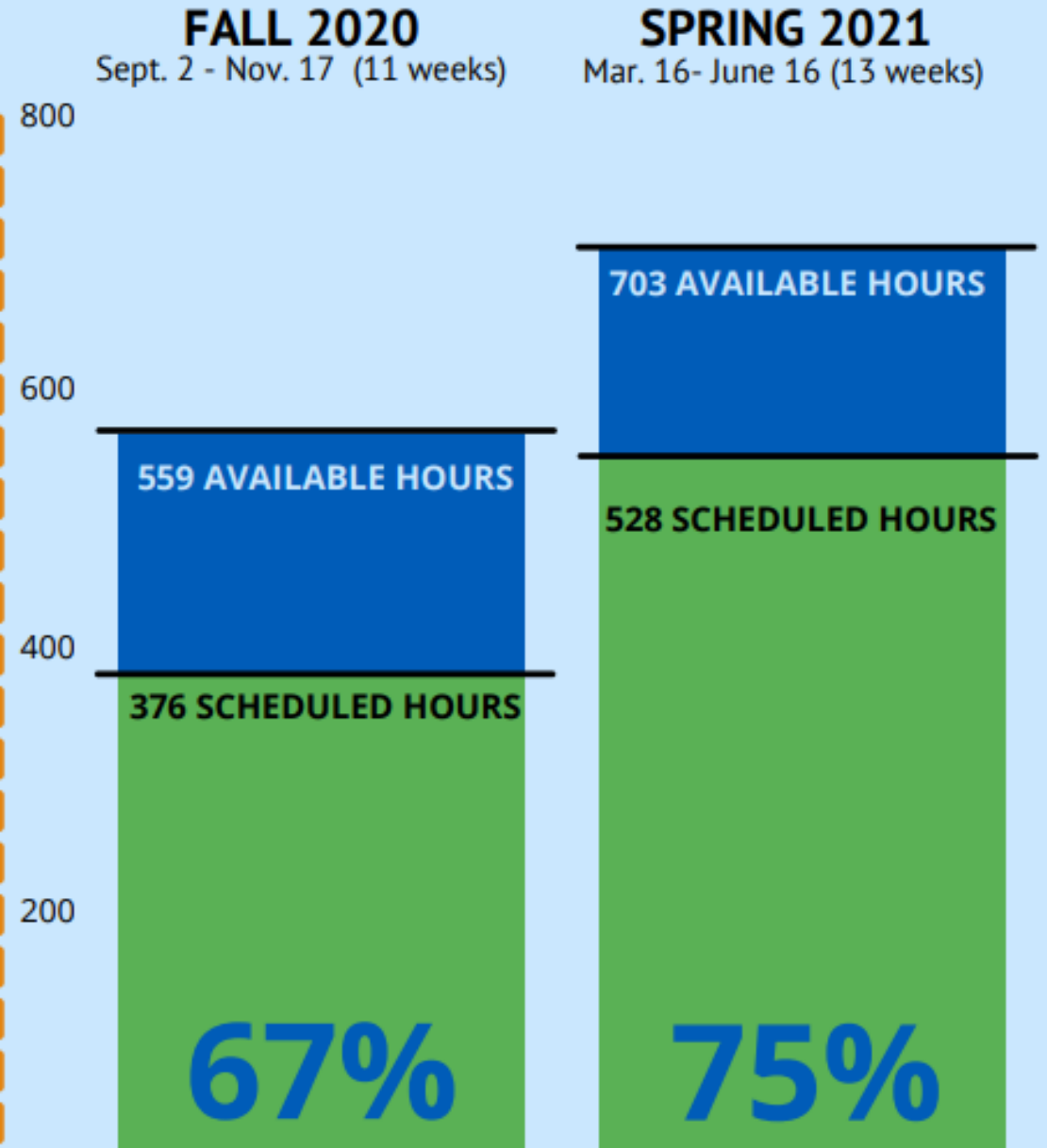


NATURAL

2020-21
UTILIZATION

72%

HOURS



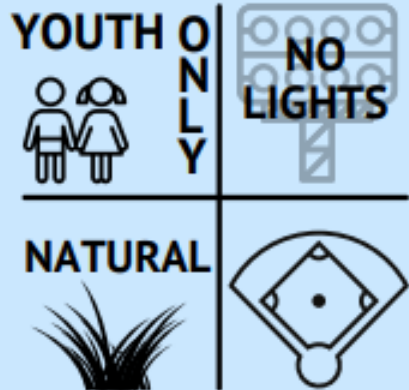
DRAFT UTILIZATION EXAMPLE – ALCOVA HEIGHTS

ALCOVA HEIGHTS

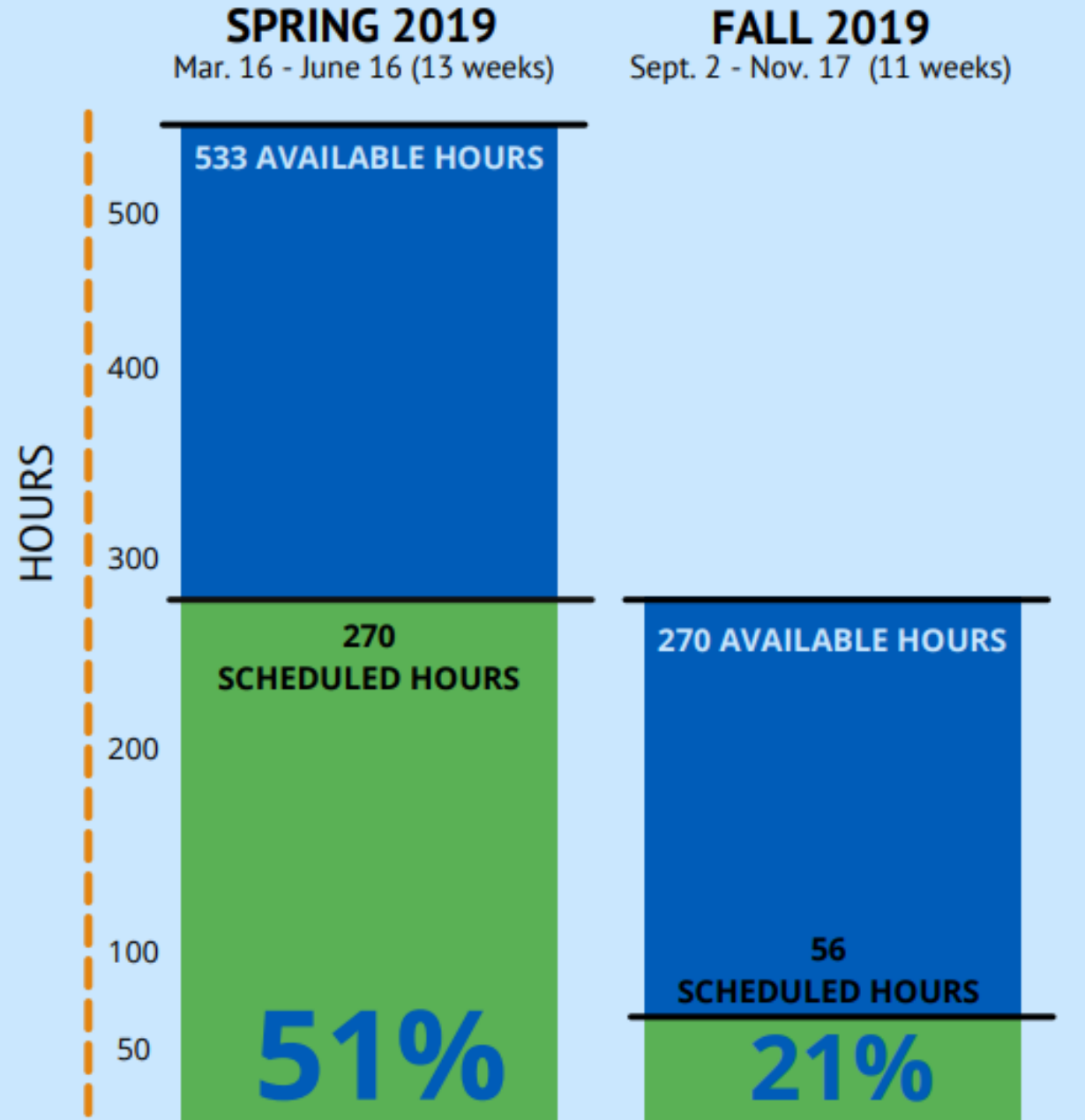
901 S George Mason Dr.



- Permit Takes Priority
- Primarily used for T-Ball and Softball
- Preferred for youth aged 8 and younger
- Practice and Game Field



2019
UTILIZATION
41%



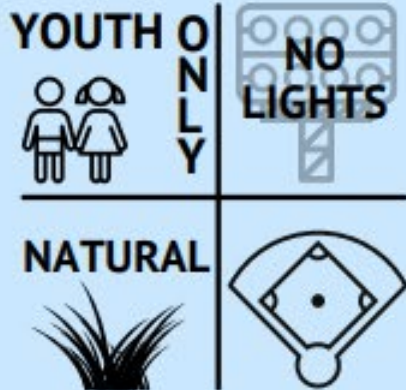
DRAFT UTILIZATION EXAMPLE – FORT SCOTT

FORT SCOTT

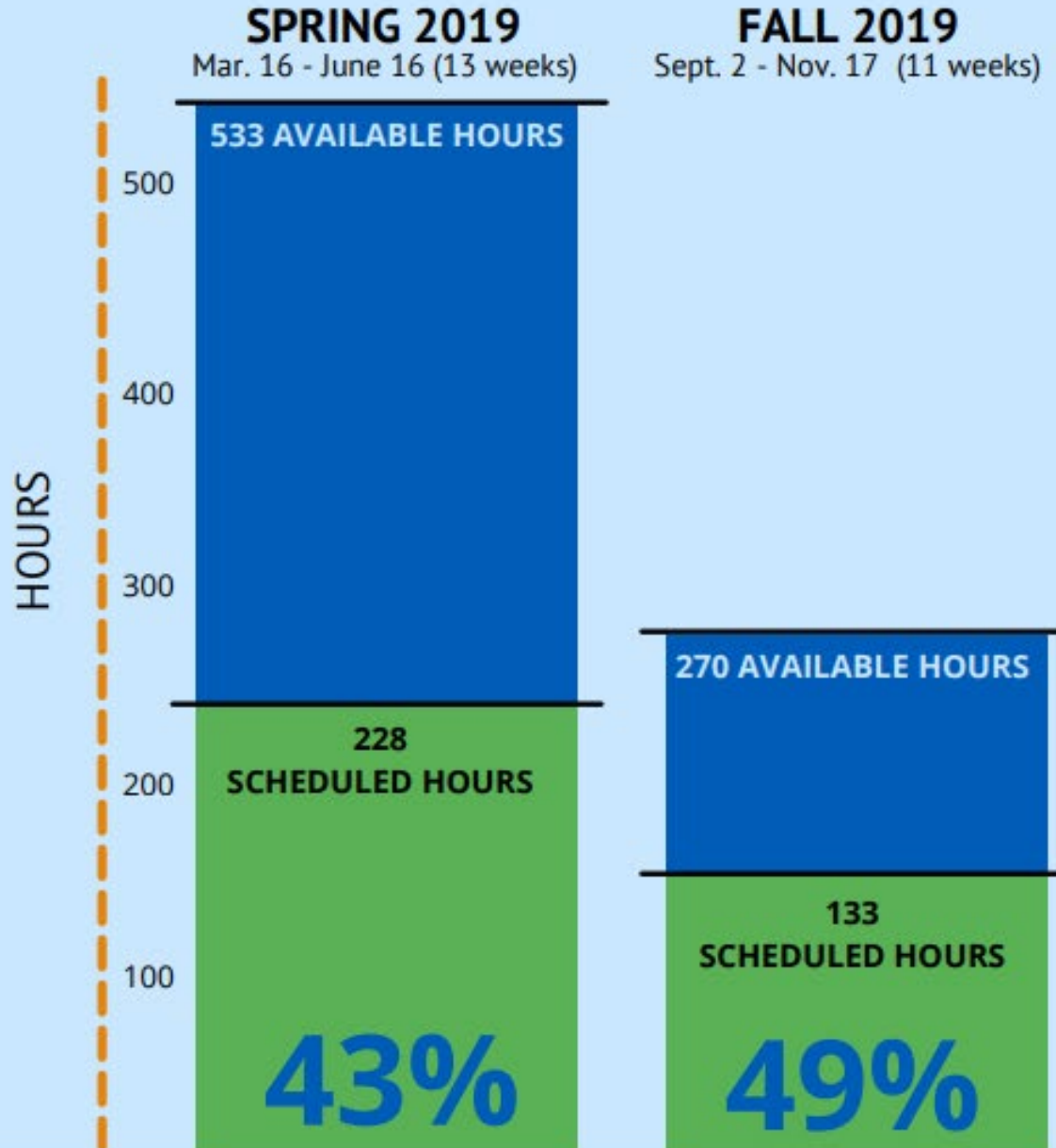
2800 Fort Scott Dr.



- Permit Takes Priority
- Primarily used for T-Ball and Softball
- Preferred for youth aged 8 and younger
- Practice and Game Field



2019
UTILIZATION
45%



ATHLETIC FIELD DROP-IN TIME

- One of the most common responses during the first engagement for Athletic Field Availability and Utilization was to create more drop-in opportunities for drop-in time.
- The themes of adding more drop-in were to:
 - 1) Add drop-in on weeknights and on weekends.**
 - 2) Add drop-in on fields with athletic field lighting.**
 - 3) Add drop-in opportunities in different geographic areas of the County.**

Draft Drop-In Use Definition

- Unscheduled use of athletic field space for community activities.
- This is a working definition that continues to be refined throughout the process.

CURRENT DROP-IN FIELD INVENTORY

Current Inventory of Drop-In Fields

- DPR has historically designated certain athletic fields as “Drop-In” fields.
- This means that some nights of the week are left unscheduled and remain open for community use.
- Due to demand for fields, these fields are sometimes scheduled for organized activities, causing confusion.
- The full inventory of currently designated drop-in fields are below.

- **Rocky Run**
- **Virginia Highlands #2**
- **Barcroft 5**
- **Westover**
- **TJ Lower**
- **Gunston #3**



A NEW APPROACH TO DROP-IN

- A different approach to drop-in or community use is to designate more times on fields in the County throughout the week.
- This removes the drop-in designation from the Athletic Field Inventory and provides more time for unstructured activities.
- Entering drop-in time as a reservation captures the amount of time DPR allocates towards unstructured use of athletic fields.



NEW DROP-IN OPPORTUNITIES

NEW Fall 2021 Drop-In Opportunities

- In response to the feedback in the first engagement regarding drop-in field use, DPR has created new drop-in play opportunities at the locations indicated on this slide.
- Drop-in opportunities are desired on:
 - Weeknights
 - Weekends
 - On fields with lights
 - Different Geographic Areas of the County

NEW Fall 2021 Drop-In Opportunities

- Quincy Auxiliary Field
- Wakefield Synthetic
- Washington-Liberty Stadium
- Virginia Highlands Park Field #3
- Greenbrier Park
- Gunston Park Synthetic Field
- Long Bridge #1
- Long Bridge #4

NEXT STEPS

Confirmation of Athletic Field Use

- Following the second engagement, staff will explore opportunities to confirm use of athletic fields once fields are allocated to users.
- Staff will explore technology solutions, and opportunities to partner with youth sports organizations to confirm field use.

Pilot Program

- In 2022, DPR will pilot a program where coaches and teams will check-in to their practice using an app, or other electronic form.

NEXT STEPS

- A second and final public engagement opportunity will be released before the end of the calendar year.
- The second engagement will ask for feedback regarding:
 - The Athletic Field Availability Framework;
 - Athletic Field Utilization Examples; and
 - Present the new approach to drop-in time on athletic fields.
- Following this engagement, staff will return with a full process read-out and final steps towards completion of this process in spring 2022.

PSMP-IAC NEXT STEPS

- **Fall/Winter Topics:**
 - Mountain biking
 - Casual use spaces
 - Zoning study
 - Forestry & Natural Resources Plan updates

**PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN-
IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(PSMP- IAC)
Virtual Meeting
October 18, 2021**