

**PUBLIC SPACES MASTER PLAN-  
IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
(PSMP- IAC)**

**Virtual Meeting**

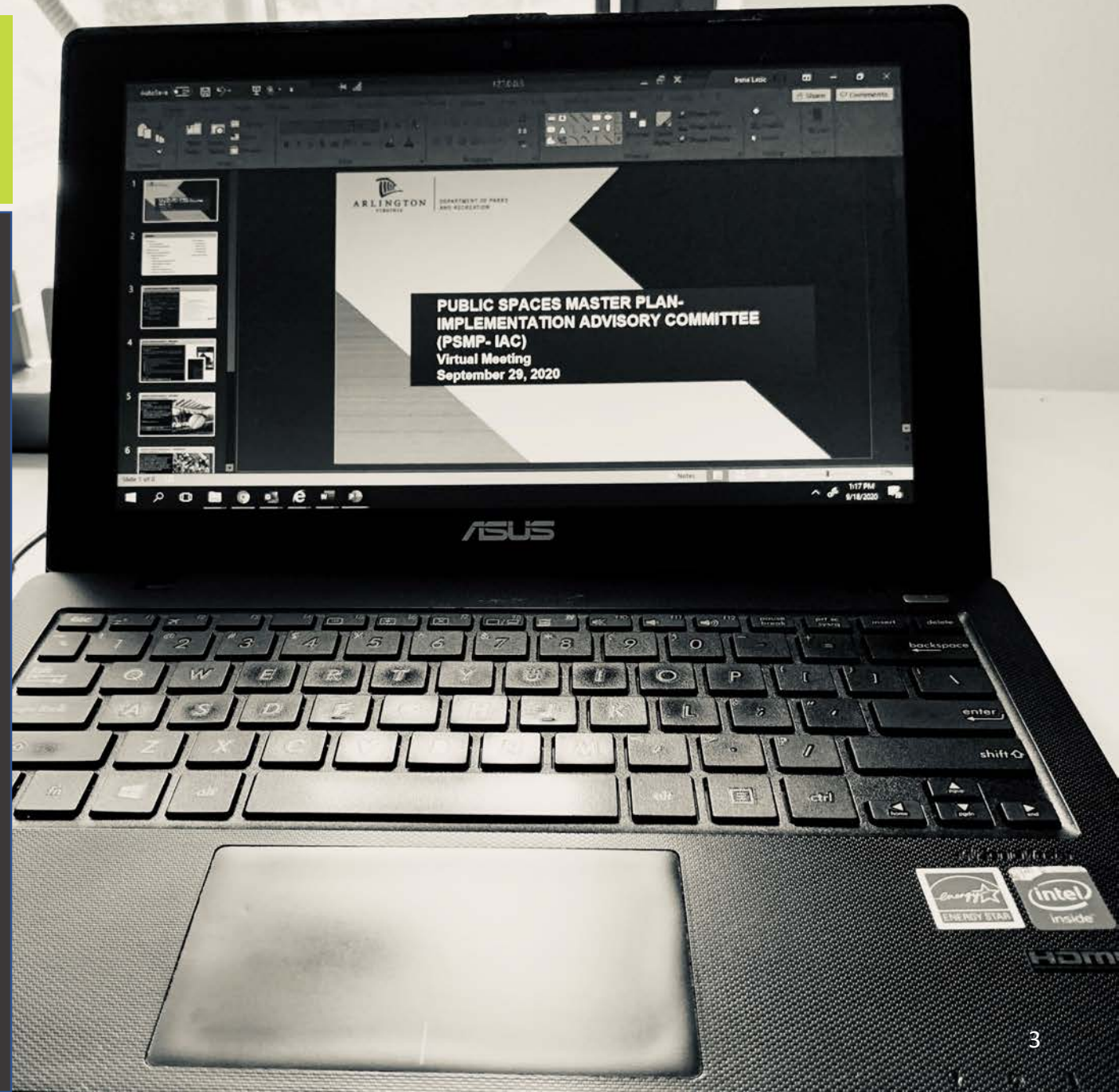
**May 13, 2021**

# AGENDA

- Introduction:
  - PSMP-IAC Co-Chairs Updates
  - Virtual Meeting Ground Rules
- Public Comment
- Athletic Field Availability & Utilization: First Engagement Feedback
- Natural Surface Trails Planning, Mountain Biking, and Bike Parks
- PSMP Implementation Next Steps

# 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

## First Engagement Feedback



# MEETING OVERVIEW

- Public Spaces Master Plan – Priority Action #4
- Review
  - What is Athletic Field Allocation?
  - What are Field Scheduling Variables?
  - What is Drop-In Use?
  - What is Athletic Field Availability?
  - How do they inform Athletic Field Utilization?
- First Engagement Feedback
- Introduce Athletic Field Utilization Draft Framework
- 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)

## 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 cancellations
- Capturing non-reserved or drop-in use
- Arlington Public Schools use
- Field Density

## What is Drop-In Use?

- Unscheduled use of athletic field space for community activities
- This is a working definition that will be refined throughout this process



## What is Athletic Field Availability?

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

## What Does This Mean For Field Utilization?

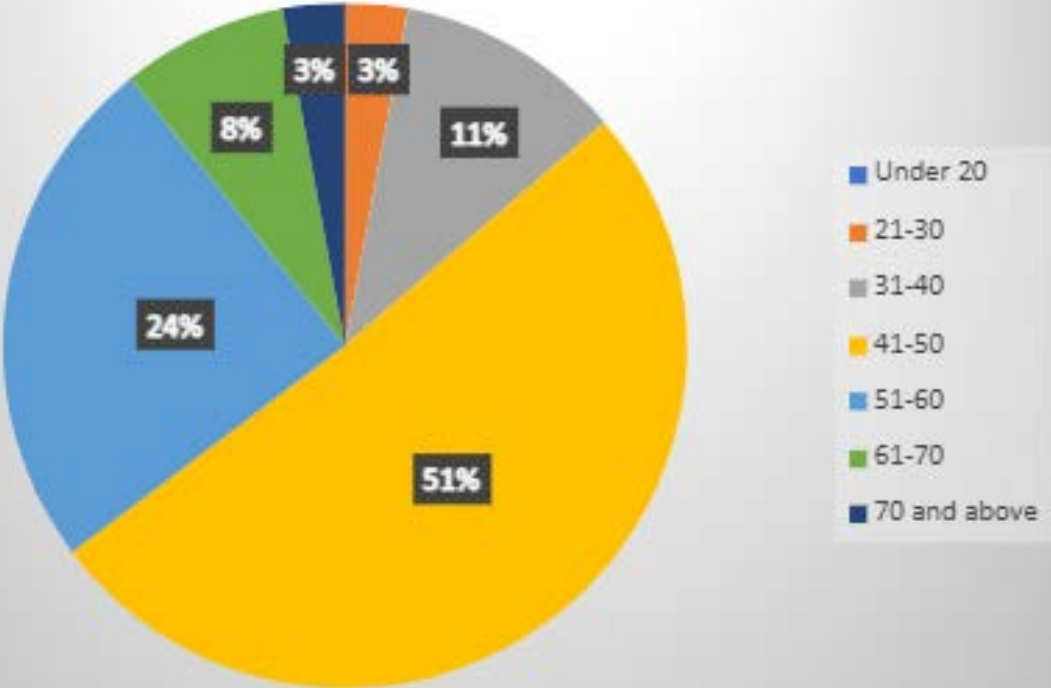
- Athletic Field Availability must be defined before understanding utilization.
- Are field users honoring field allocations?

# ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

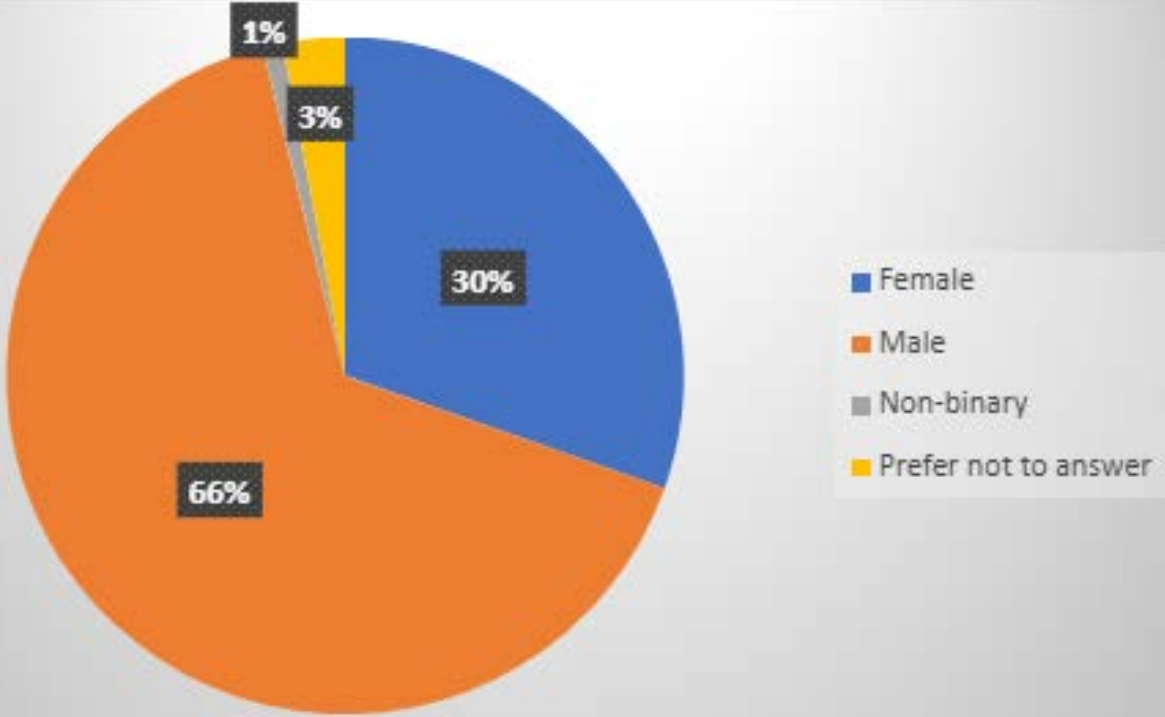
- After receiving input from the PSMP-IAC, the first engagement opportunity for Athletic Field Availability was released in late-January, 2021.
- The engagement opportunity focused on three areas:
  - Drop-In Field Use
  - Activity Start-Times on Athletic Fields
  - Activity End Times on Athletic Fields
- 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 .

# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK - DEMOGRAPHICS

Age Range



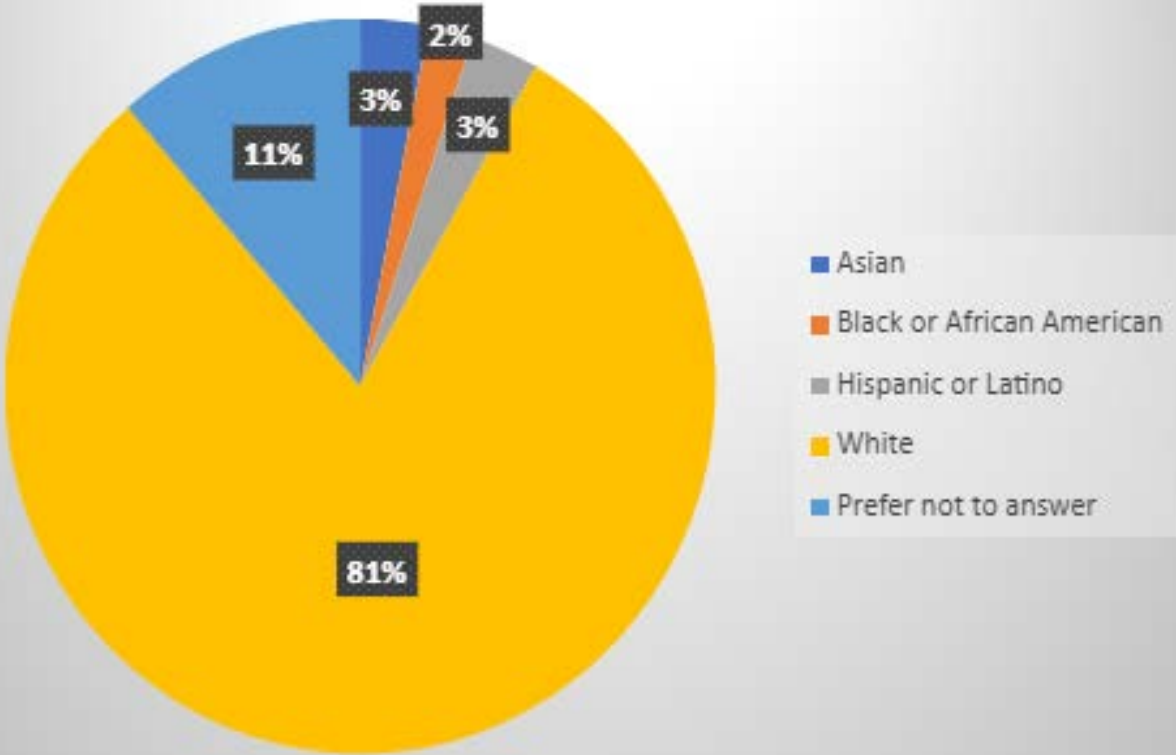
Gender



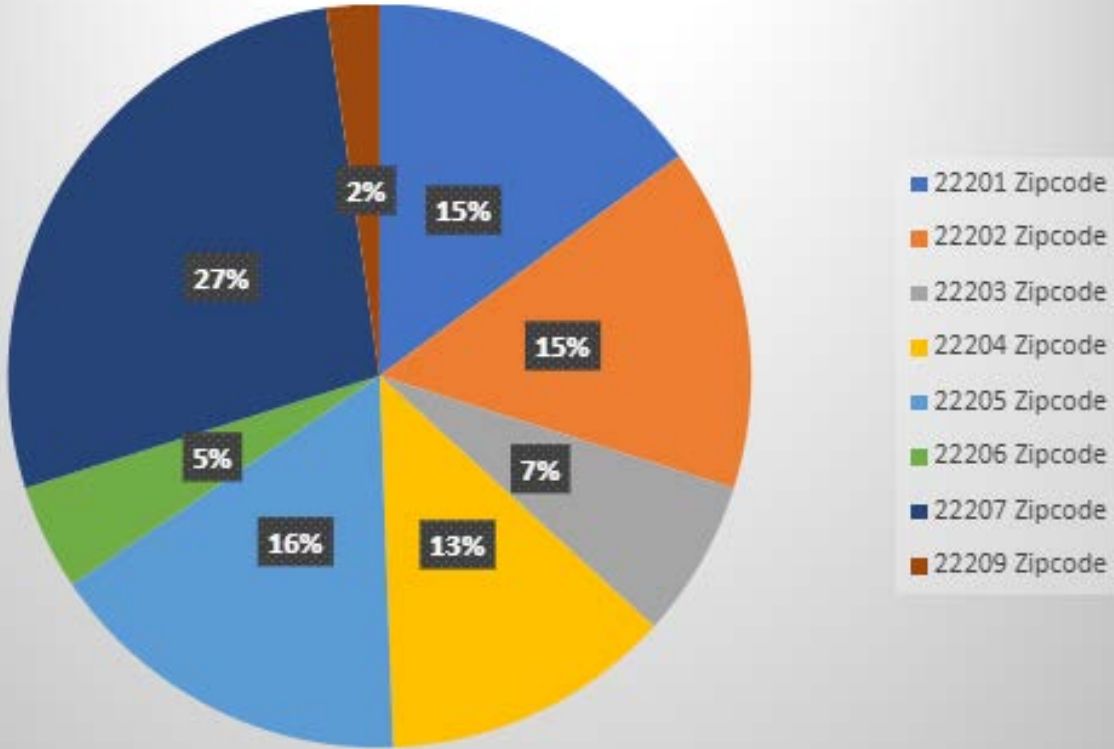
Total Engagement Responses: 102

# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK - DEMOGRAPHICS

### Race or Ethnicity



### Zip Code



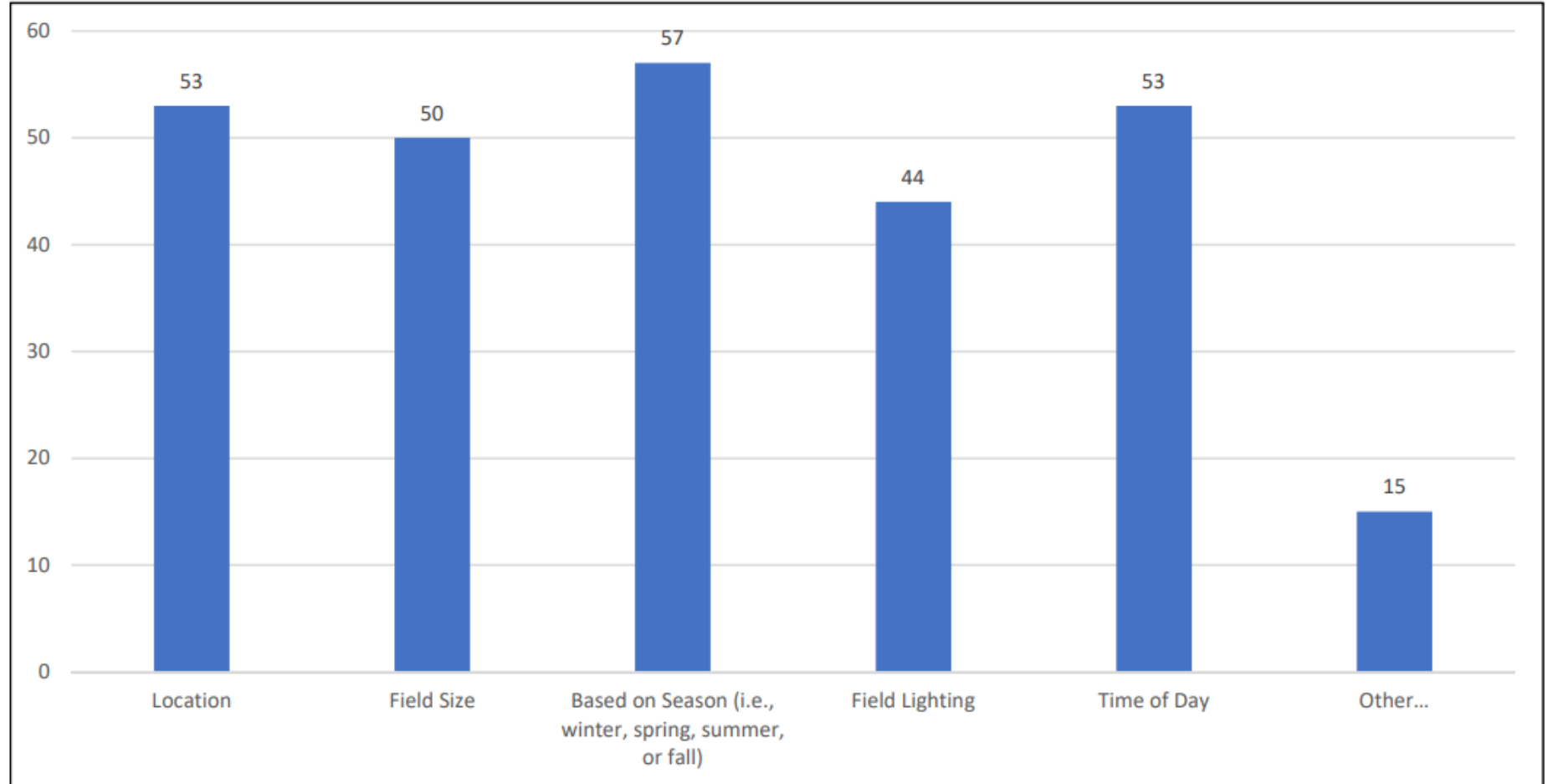
Total Engagement Responses 102

# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK – DROP-IN FIELD SCHEDULING

Question: How should drop-in use be scheduled on athletic fields?

## Feedback Summary

- Season – 57
- Time of Day – 53
- Location – 53
- Field Size – 50
- Field Lighting – 44
- Other - 15



To read the full results of the first engagement click [here](#)

# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK THEMES – DROP-IN FIELD SCHEDULING

**Question: What factors should be taken in to consideration when scheduling drop-in use on Athletic Fields?**

## **1) Field Lighting**

- Drop in should be scheduled on fields with lights to accommodate play in the evenings.

## **2) Allow for drop-in time at similar times as permitted/scheduled activities**

## **3) Youth & Adult Field Use**

- Instead of a “youth-only” field designation, consider a “youth takes priority” designation, to allow for more use.

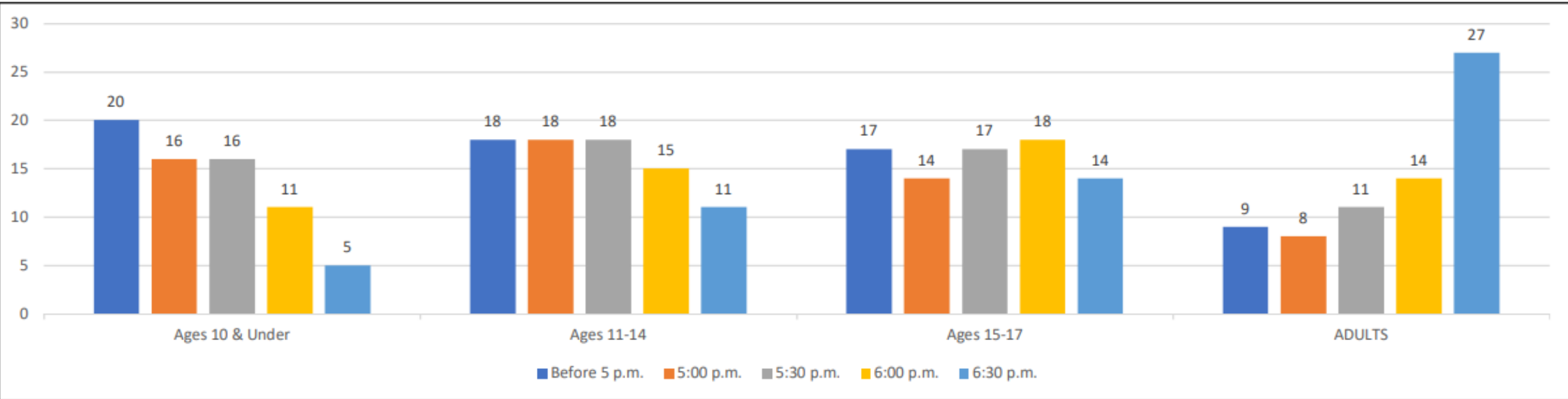
## **4) Field/Park Amenities**

- Lights, restrooms, and opportunities for children to play are amenities that are attractive to drop-in field users.

To read the full results of the first engagement click [here](#)

# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK – WEEKDAY START TIMES

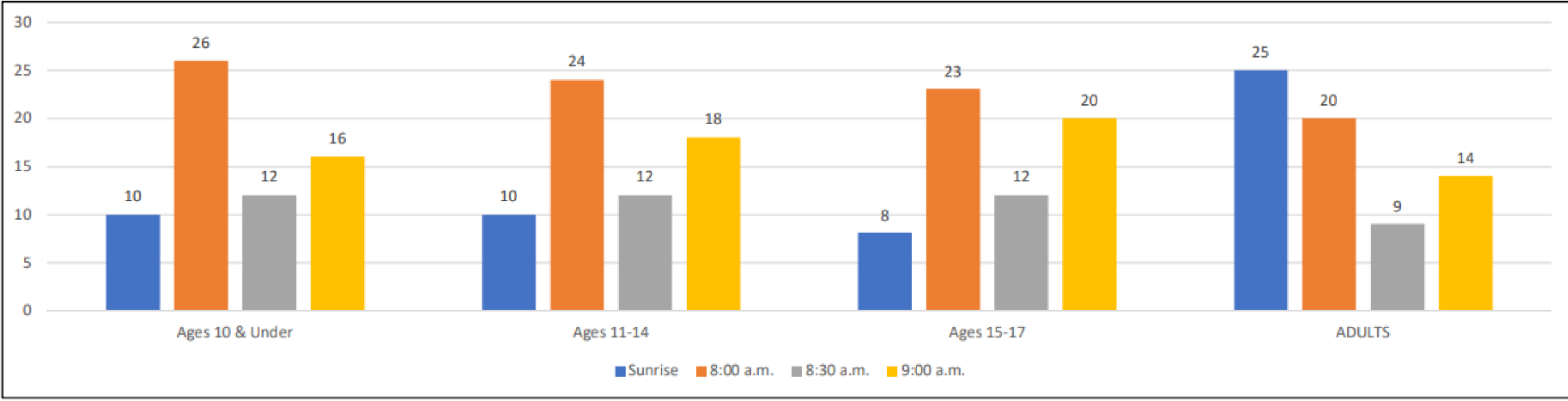
Question: What, in your opinion, are feasible START TIMES for athletic fields on weekdays?



To read the full results of the first engagement click [here](#)

# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK – SATURDAY START TIMES

Question: What, in your opinion, are feasible START TIMES for athletic fields on Saturday?

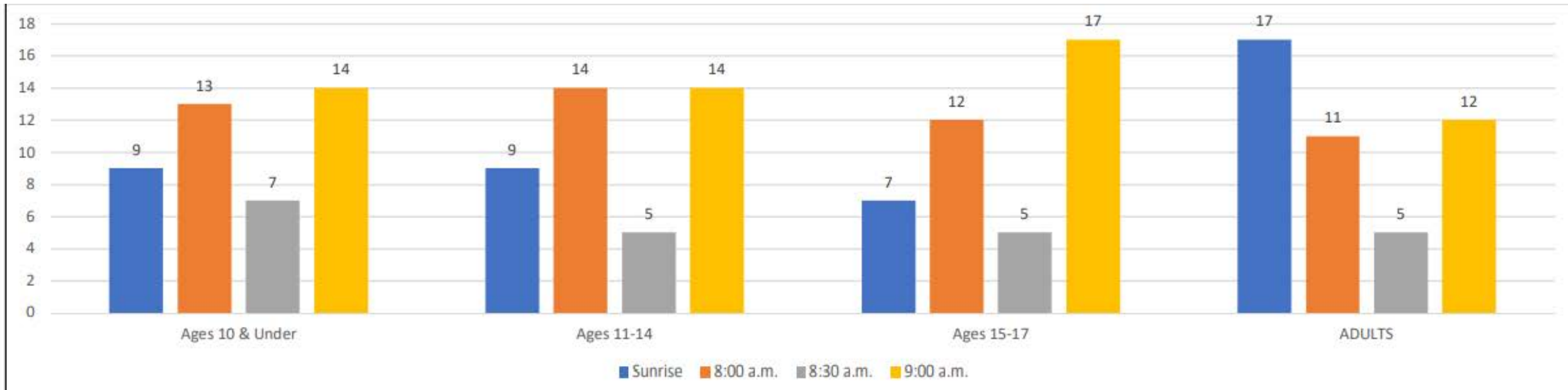


To read the full results of the first engagement click [here](#)



# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK – SUNDAY START TIMES

**Question: What, in your opinion are feasible start times on Athletic Fields on Sunday?**



To read the full results of the first engagement click [here](#)

# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK THEMES – WEEKDAY START TIMES

Question: What, in your opinion, are feasible START TIMES for athletic fields on **Weekdays**

## 1) Player & Coach Availability

- Consider travel to fields after work/school/other activities on weeknights when defining activity start times.

2) Most volunteer coaches arrive to weeknight activities after work or other activities.

3) Carpools and traffic considerations should inform start times.

To read the full results of the first engagement click [here](#)

# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK THEMES– WEEKEND START TIMES

What, in your opinion, are feasible START TIMES for athletic fields on **Saturdays/Sundays**

## 1) Saturday Start Times

- Start times between 8:00 am – 10:00 am are most popular

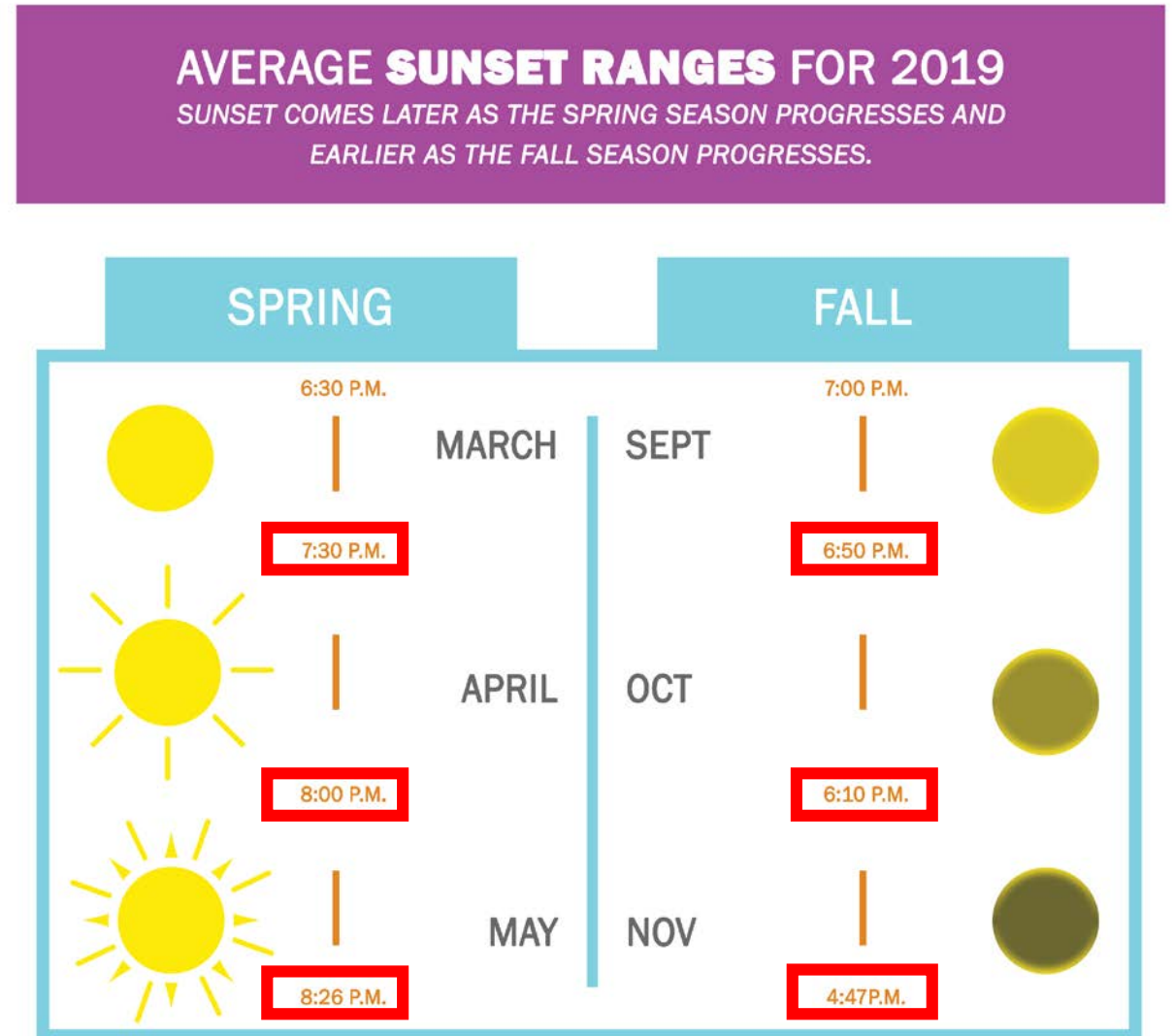
## 2) Sunday Start Times

- Noon start times for groups 10 and under.
- Consider Noon start to allow for drop-in.
- Consider other non-sports activities on Sunday mornings.

To read the full results of the first engagement click [here](#)

# REVIEW – SUNSET & ACTIVITY END TIMES

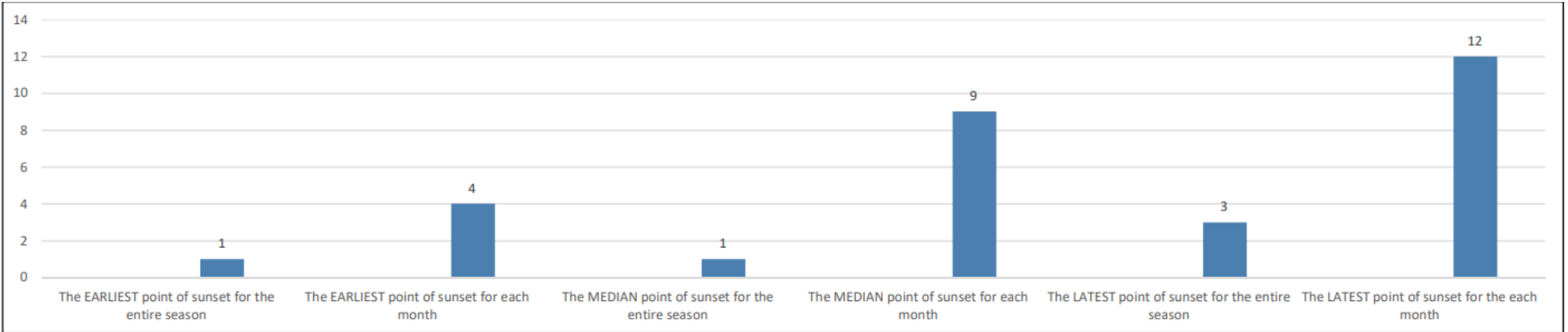
- The chart on this slide indicates the latest sunset times in the spring and fall seasons.
- These times will inform the framework for end times on fields without athletic field lighting.



To read the full results of the first engagement click [here](#)

# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK – ACTIVITY END TIMES

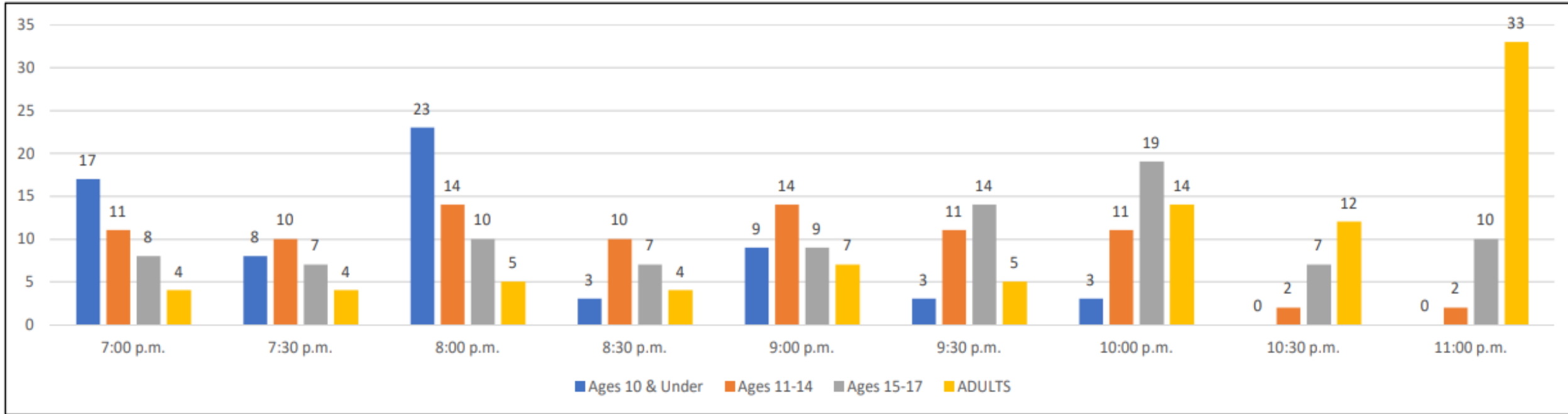
Question: How should sunset be used to determine activity end time on fields without lights?



To read the full results of the first engagement click [here](#)

# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK – ACTIVITY END TIMES

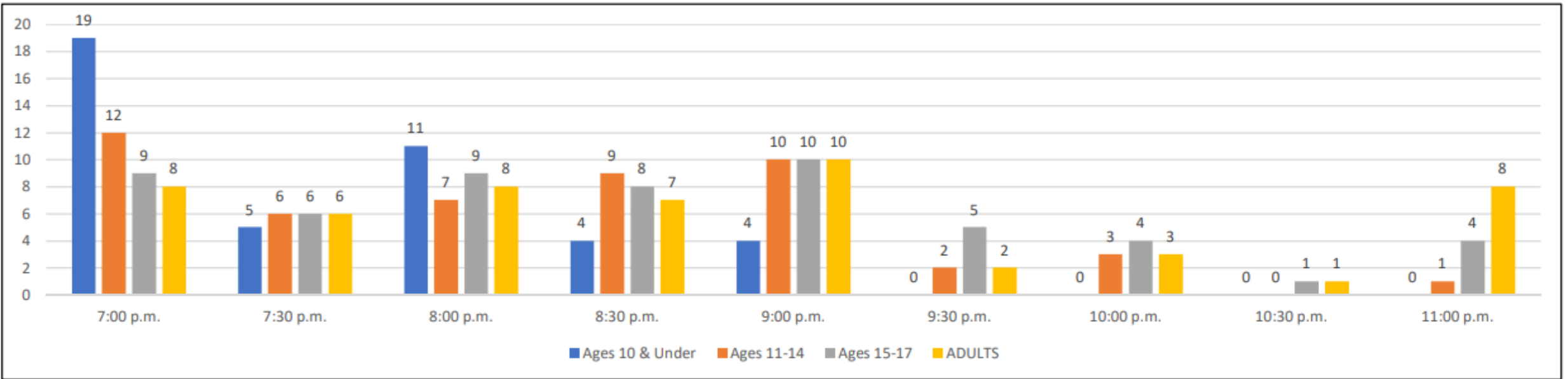
Question: What, in your opinion, are feasible end times for athletic fields with lights?



To read the full results of the first engagement click [here](#)

# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK – ACTIVITY END TIMES

Question: What, in your opinion, are feasible end times for athletic fields WITHOUT lights.



To read the full results of the first engagement click [here](#)

# ONLINE ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK THEMES– END TIMES

**Question: What, in your opinion, are feasible end times for athletic fields with/without lights?**

- 1) Neighborhood effects such as noise and lighting should be considered when determining end times.**
- 2) Field lighting should be maximized to increase the total amount of available play.**
- 3) End times should be set according to sunset times.**

To read the full results of the first engagement click [here](#)



# CONSIDERATIONS FOR NEXT STEPS

## Drop-In Field Considerations

Results of this engagement indicate that drop-in field use is desired:

- 1) On weeknights, and on Saturday/Sunday
- 2) On fields with athletic field lighting
- 3) 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 will be refined throughout this process.

# CONSIDERATIONS FOR NEXT STEPS

## Current Examples of Drop-in Opportunities

- Winter Fields Pilot
  - In winter 2020-2021 DPR opened 11 natural grass fields for drop-in use
  - Fields were geographically distributed throughout the County
  - Little to no damage to these fields during the pilot.
- DPR collaboration with Civic Associations to enable specific time for drop-in activities or programming
  - Aurora Highlands Civic Association
  - Yorktown Civic Association



# CONSIDERATIONS FOR NEXT STEPS

## Drop-In Field Considerations

Understanding that there are competing needs for use of field space, next steps on determining drop-in use will utilize the County's Equity Framework as a guide:

- Who benefits?
  - Who is burdened?
  - Who is missing?
  - How do we know?
- 
- What segment of availability hours are for “drop-in.”
  - Should drop-in be entered as a reservation?

## NEXT STEPS

**Summer 2021:** Using feedback from the first engagement and the PSMP-IAC, staff will develop a draft Athletic Field Availability framework to include:

- 1) Activity Start Times
- 2) Activity End Times
- 3) Equitable Drop-In Distribution
- 4) Examples of how different fields types will be utilized using the draft framework

**Fall 2021:** Second Engagement opportunity to solicit feedback on the draft Athletic Field Availability framework.

**Winter 2021/2022:** Final framework presented and next steps on implementation developed.


# NEXT STEPS

## **Field Utilization Examples**

- After receiving feedback from the second engagement, staff will develop Field Utilization Examples.
- Field Utilization Examples will apply the Athletic Field Availability criteria using feedback from the first, and second engagement opportunities.

## **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.



# **Natural Surface Trails Planning, Mountain Biking, and Bike Parks**

# PLANNING CONTEXT

## PSMP Recommendations:

**2.1.7. Explore opportunities to provide space for pump tracks and cyclocross on a temporary or permanent basis, while balancing potential impacts on natural resources and trees.**

- Interest was also expressed in mountain biking, however, prior to exploring potential locations for mountain biking, the community would need to have a more robust and broad conversation to understand the needs of the users and impacts on the natural environment.

**2.4. Provide or make better connections to hiking trails.**



# PURPOSE AND NEED

- Public Input during the PSMP and FNRP
- Increased Usage and Impacts
- Physical Sustainability and Maintenance Concerns
- Ongoing Asks





# PROGRESS TO DATE

**Literature Review:** Recreation ecology, best management practices for natural surface trails, pump tracks, bike parks.

**Preliminary Trail Assessment:** Spot assessments of existing trails and parks with increased use, new social trail development, or user-created bike features

**Benchmarking:** Informal benchmarking interviews with sister jurisdictions with strong trail and/or mountain bike programs facing similar challenges



Trail Slope Alignment (TSA)	Degradation Potential	Trail Profile
<i>Fall-aligned Trails</i>		
0-22° 	Very High – tread drainage rarely possible; erosion, widening, & muddiness probable	
23-45° 	High – tread drainage is often difficult; erosion, widening, & muddiness are likely	
<i>Side-hill Trails</i>		
46-68° 	Low – tread drainage is possible; low potential for problems	
69-90° 	Very Low – tread drainage is easy; very low potential for problems	

# APPROACH

## Public Engagement

- The PSMP-IAC will be the public forum
- Anticipated Timeline: 9-10 Months
- Existing Conditions Survey and Analysis
- Online Public Workshops/Surveys
  1. Needs Assessment
  2. Results and Best Practices
  3. Presentation of Findings and Recommendations
  4. Finalization of Recommendations

## Inventory and Assessment

- Inventory of existing trails
- Assessment of trail condition
- GIS database to aid maintenance and management



# APPROACH

## Anticipated Outcomes:

- Inventory and assessment of the natural surface trail system
- Engagement-informed recommendations for:
  - Trail Management Policies
  - BMPs/Resource Protection Measures
  - Maintenance Priorities
  - Future Trail Improvements
  - Possible pilot projects



# QUESTIONS

- **Overall, does this seem like a sound approach?**
- **What stakeholders should be included in our engagement efforts?**
- **Any other feedback or comments?**

# NEXT STEPS

- **Finalize draft approach and engagement outline**
- **Continue staff research into best management practices for trails and mountain bike infrastructure**
- **Finalize scope of work for the proposed inventory and assessment**
- **Initiate public engagement (likely in late summer/early fall of 2021)**

# PSMP IMPLEMENTATION NEXT STEPS

- Present the Annual PSMP Progress Update to the County Board  
(anticipated in June)
- Next PSMP-IAC Meeting on June 14

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**Virtual Meeting**

**May 13, 2021**