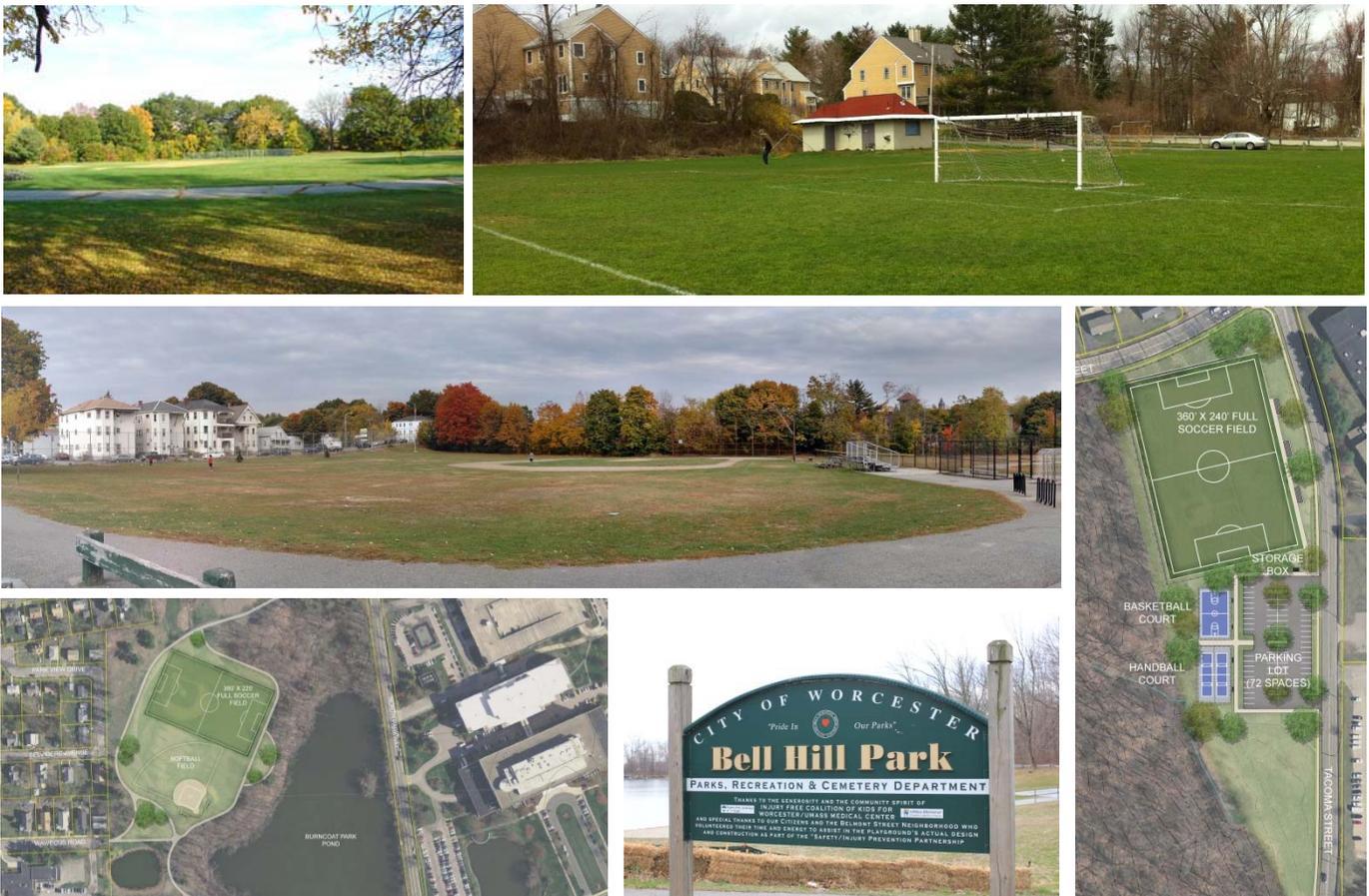




# RECTANGULAR SHAPED SPORTS FIELDS FEASIBILITY STUDY



2016

## Summary Report

Prepared for:  
**Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks**

Prepared by:  
**Weston & Sampson**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We recognize the residents of the City of Worcester, whose participation helped forge this feasibility study. The recommendations and priorities that are established within this document address the needs of the community and the needs of various other stakeholders that make use of the important recreational amenities located at the properties. Feasibility study solutions are intended to be pragmatic, and to recognize the basic fact that municipal governments like Worcester, must continue to provide a high level of service in a time of great financial uncertainty. To this end it becomes essential that residents who enjoy the benefits of these important parks and fields continue to advocate on their behalf and continue to be diligent custodians in a way that helps to encourage maximum appropriate use and in doing so discourages abuse by others.

Rectangular athletic fields are an important asset to the sports and recreation community. This feasibility study intends to strike the right balance by identifying and recommending renovated or new rectangular fields to meet the needs of the City of Worcester.

When implemented, the improvements identified within the feasibility study will provide enhanced opportunities for public use and enjoyment. Rectangular shaped sports fields will be more accessible and readily available to the city sports leagues, recreational leagues and residents of the city.

We also wish to express our appreciation to members of,

**Worcester City Council:**

Joseph M. Petty, Mayor

Morris A. Bergman  
Anthony J. Economou  
Michael T. Gaffney  
Khrystian E. King  
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Meg Mulhern, Chairperson

Scott Cashman  
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Edward M. Augustus, Jr., City Manager

Paul J. Moosey, P.E., Commissioner of Public Works and Parks

Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., CPRP, Assistant Commissioner of Public Works and Parks

Worcester Statehouse Delegation, Worcester City Manager's Office, and other committed public and private servants who contributed to the development of this feasibility study.

Thank you,

The Weston & Sampson Project Team



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Working on behalf of the Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks; Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Division, Weston & Sampson explored options for renovating existing and establishing additional rectangular shaped sports fields (field types other than baseball, softball and Little League) at strategic locations throughout the city. This effort served as an outgrowth of the recently completed Open Space and Recreation Plan process, and particularly addresses the Action Plan's Objective 3 Section d "Construct New Recreation Facilities and/or Convert Underused Facilities or Areas".

The following study provides a comprehensive inventory and analysis of all existing conditions and a series of recommendations for improving, or adding new, rectangular shaped field venues throughout the City of Worcester. We have looked specifically at the rectangular fields that the City Department of Public Works and Parks owns, operates, and manages while considering the identification of open space properties under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission, Greater Worcester Land Trust, Worcester Public Schools, DCR and private schools and colleges for potential field developments.

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

- There are insufficient playing venues to meet increasing demands of the Worcester community. Refer to Appendix A – Study Facilities for field use data and the Needs Assessment on page 14 for more information.
- Turf conditions are stressed at many locations due to heavy and excessive use during all types of weather year round.
- The city should look for opportunities to create new playing venues at alternate properties. Without new venues, the much needed improved playing conditions will never be attained because the existing venues will continue to be overused at an ever increasing rate, further deteriorating conditions.
- The city should set aside funds to renovate existing facilities as new venues come online. Improvements can be accomplished through a traditional public design, bid, and construct process or through other creative means that provide cost benefits. We have described these other means in Funding Options.
- The city should aggressively pursue other traditional state and federal funding sources for proposed renovations to reduce the financial burden on residents. The city should also use local funding authorizations to leverage other funds from both public and private sources.

Surrounding towns have moved aggressively to expand their field-based playing venues due to dramatically increased rates of participation in traditional (baseball, football, soccer) and emerging (lacrosse, field hockey) sports and the expanding participation rate of women and girls in general. Worcester sees expansion in the number of programs offered and the number of individuals participating. Recent improvements to Knights of Columbus Field and Greenwood Park represent an

important beginning, but conditions at other facilities are not likely to improve without recognizing the need to adopt many of the basic recommendations identified within this Executive Summary and throughout this feasibility study report.

There are high levels of risks involved with continuing to operate some of the facilities in their current condition. Many facilities exhibit safety issues that include compacted turf, uneven playing surfaces, sharp protrusions on fencing and trip hazards. It is important to protect our users, specifically children, but it is also important to protect the city from liability implications. Recent litigation has resulted in settlements of several hundred thousand dollars to injured athletes making use of public sports and recreation facilities

The most important goal of this study is to help the city get to the point of maintaining and operating the safest possible playing facilities regardless of the level of play. Across the country, we are experiencing a heightened focus on athlete and child safety; this increased awareness has resulted in increased scrutiny of all potential contributors to injury. People using athletic fields, courts and playgrounds are inherently exposed to some risk of injury; however, the risk of head injuries is a major concern. Most concussions are the result of athlete-to-athlete collisions, but approximately 10-15% of concussions in sports are caused by head-to-surface contact. When a player falls on a field, the impact is absorbed by the playing surface and the player's body. The "harder" the surface, the greater the amount of impact that is absorbed by the player's body and this situation increases the probability that a fall will result in serious injury. Reduction or elimination of trip hazards and hard turf playing surfaces can greatly reduce the risk of injury. We support the premise that a properly constructed and properly maintained field can help reduce injury risk.

Here are some sobering facts, as outlined in a presentation by John C. Sorochan, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor, Turfgrass Science, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture:

- Nearly 60% of high school students in the United States participate in organized sports – Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2002
- Across high school sports, 250,000 concussions were reported in 2009 – National Research Council, 2013
- 3.5 million children under age 14 receive medical treatment for sports related injuries – Safe Kids, 2007
- 50% of these injuries are preventable – Brenner, 2007; Safe Kids, 2007

We invite you to review the larger document that follows and to actively participate in an endeavor to provide improved field-based recreational and athletic opportunities to all residents of Worcester.

## INTRODUCTION

Weston & Sampson was retained by the City of Worcester to perform site investigations, record results and present the highlights of all findings in a clear and concise manner within a technical report.

This introduction explains the primary *purpose* of the initiative, and explains the *process and approach* by which the study was conducted.

As part of our approach to this study, we thoroughly analyzed the completed open space and recreation plan along with other master plans and information the city had compiled for various properties. At the earliest stage of project planning, we revisited each project site to inspect and record all existing facilities and conditions. With our partners from the DPW&P, we hosted a series of public outreach sessions to garner additional opinions and information about the project sites.

After concluding the initial investigations, we prepared concept plans and/or improvement strategies that show meaningful solutions and recommendations for maintaining and upgrading each site in a way that improves performance and serves all constituents at a high level.

This study will serve as a guide for the future upkeep and esthetics of Worcester's fields, as well as a tool to secure funding from various private and public sources.

### Purpose of Feasibility Study

At present, there are not enough dedicated rectangular shaped sports fields to accommodate the number of programs desiring the use of such facilities. This includes programs and activities offered through the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division of the Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks, and through dozens of other non-profit community and neighborhood sports leagues and groups. Rectangular shaped sports fields accommodate a wide range of activities serving adults, seniors and youth; men, women, girls and boys that include:

- Football
- Soccer
- Lacrosse
- Field Hockey
- Rugby
- Various other sports and activities

The lack of dedicated rectangular shaped sports fields for these activities creates pressure on the parks, open space system, sports league officials and participants in many ways, including:

- Lack of venues causing loss of games and practices
- Frequent if not continuous scheduling conflicts

- Pressure to use fields even during inclement weather
- Deteriorating field conditions caused by overuse
- Programming inefficiencies at multi-use field venues (for instance, where a baseball game and a soccer game can't be played at the same time)

At a time when there is a great need to provide the means for residents to stay active and to maintain healthier lifestyles, the establishment of a strategic plan focused on creating additional rectangular shaped sports field venues to support the myriad of programming requirements is of critical importance.



*Chandler Magnet School Field*



*Green Hill Park Field*



*Harry Sherry Field*

## Basic Project Needs & Goals

As an outgrowth of the recently completed Worcester Open Space and Recreation Plan, the primary purpose of this feasibility study was to make use of city-wide mapping, other relevant data and knowledge gained during the open space process to identify options and opportunities for creating new, dedicated rectangular playing fields at sites throughout the city. Initial options considered include:

- Improvements to existing fields, including sports lights, that might be underused, underperforming or undersized at city park and open space properties
- Construction of new facilities, including sports lights, at park and open space properties that possess undeveloped areas suitable for field development
- Improvements to existing fields, including sports lights, that might be underused, underperforming or undersized at city public school properties
- Conversion of high-demand facilities from natural turf to synthetic turf, including renovating/ introducing sports lighting.
- Identification of other suitable properties that might be privately held (to purchase or lease) for field development

## RECTANGULAR SHAPED SPORTS FIELDS FEASIBILITY STUDY

- Identification of environmentally challenged sites or brownfields that might be remediated and improved through a field development initiative
- Identification of open space properties under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission, Greater Worcester Land Trust, DCR and private schools and colleges for potential field developments or use agreements

As opportunities were explored, it was also important to consider geographic relevance. To this end, the Open Space and Recreation Plan categorizes rectangular shaped sports field facilities by geographic region within the city and identifies area that appear underserved were given appropriate attention when applicable.

Large-scale colored plans were used to communicate recommendations and concept diagrams for each of the properties. Feedback on the concept plans was generally constructive and positive with most participants expressing keen interest in achieving dramatic improvements to sports fields in order to provide enhanced conditions for all users.

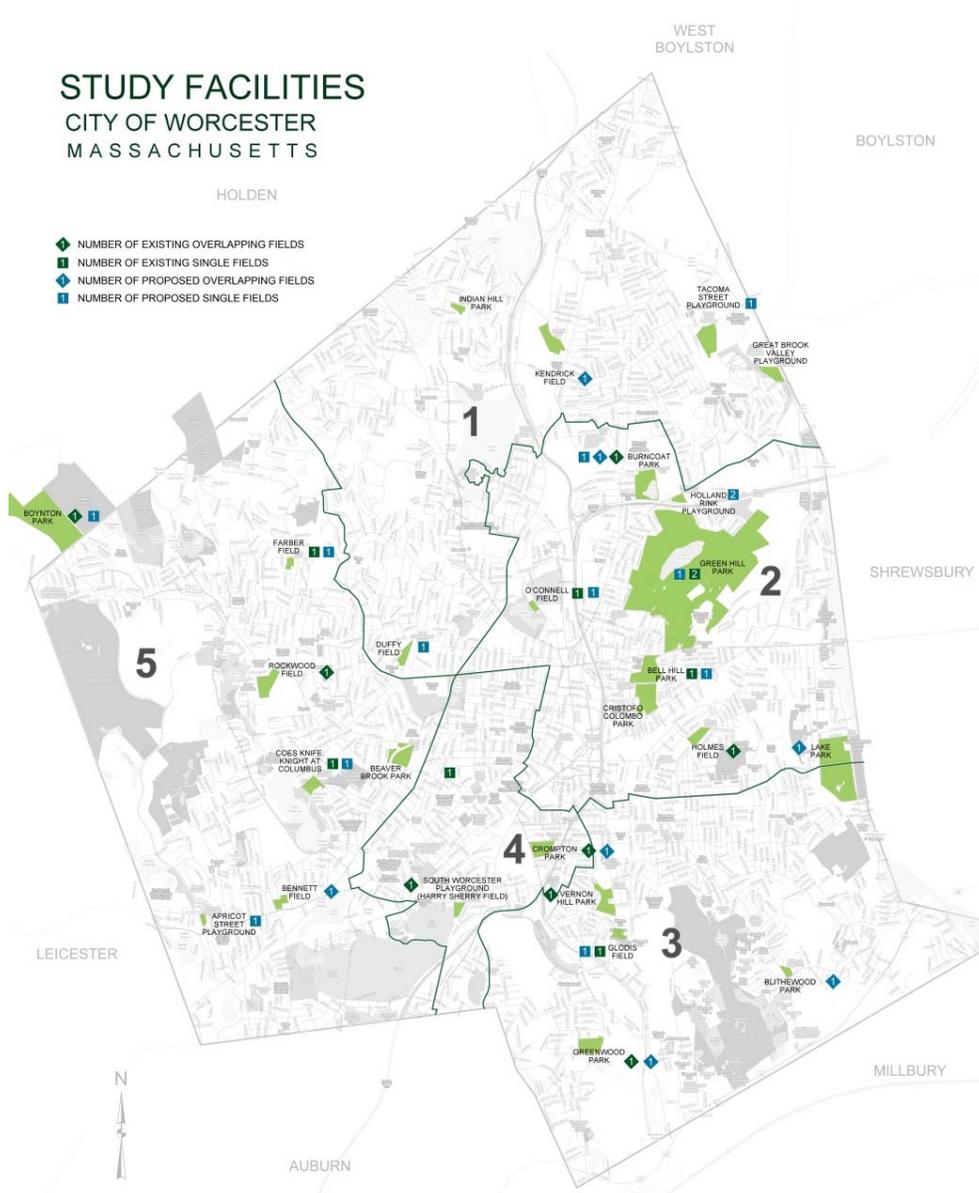
The sizes of rectangular fields vary depending on the sport and the level of play. For example junior lacrosse and different levels of soccer can play on a smaller field than the higher levels of the same sport. Also, 5 on 5 adult soccer is becoming wildly popular and is played on a smaller field footprint. Therefore a larger field could be divided up into several smaller fields for youth play, or if space is limited a smaller field could be constructed for the dedicated use of youth sports or “5 on 5” adult soccer. The graphics below show examples of the different size fields.



*The diagram on the left shows the comparison of rugby, football and soccer fields. The diagram on the right shows the comparison of lacrosse and field hockey fields and the overlay in the middle is an example of how a football field would compare to a 90' diamond baseball field and how it could be rotated to fit in the outfield of a softball field.*

## Description of Existing Field Facilities

All Worcester DPW & Parks properties that contain rectangular shaped fields were visited and inventoried for this study. Following is a narrative description of many of the city’s most prominent field sites. The City Parks system has been chronicled geographically by elected District map. There are five districts in the city as shown on the diagram below.



*(For a comprehensive listing of all open space assets located within the City of Worcester, refer to the Open Space and Recreation Plan.) (For a comprehensive inventory and conditions assessment of all 60 Worcester DPW & Parks properties refer to the individual Site Assessment Forms contained in **Appendix D** of the Open Space and Recreation Plan)*

For the purpose of the study we investigated four categories of properties as follows:

- **Parks Managed Properties** – These are properties own by the city and are managed under the Department of Public Works and Parks, – Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division. We have identified improvement opportunities at most of the Park Managed Properties that have the potential for improvement to, or addition of, rectangular shaped athletic fields.
- **Public School Properties** – These are properties owned by the city and are under the jurisdiction of Worcester Public Schools. In the study we have identified a representative sample of school fields that could be renovated in order to maximize use.
- **Private Properties** – These are properties owned by private schools, colleges and universities. These properties are only identified on the field matrix in the study in order to identify the potential for negotiation of use with the private entities.
- **Potential Sites** – These are properties not owned by the city, but seem to have potential for rectangular field construction. Some Potential sites are identified in the study but not thoroughly analyzed. Further investigation can be conducted as the potential for possible improvements is established.

### Parks Managed Properties

The focus of the study centered on the Parks Managed Properties. Worcester Department of Public Works & Parks properties are publically owned and managed. There are 60 parks in the system ranging in size from less than ½ an acre to nearly 500 acres. Uses are varied and site amenities accommodate both passive and recreational pursuits.

The narratives below are intended to be brief and to provide a quick glance at eight of the featured sites from the study with a focus on the rectangular athletic fields. They are not intended to convey detailed physical conditions of all natural and man-made features and facilities. These eight sites were selected due to their potential for improvement or the feasibility to add more rectangular fields. These parks are a representative sample and are indicative of numerous other properties in the system where a playing field complex has received few recent capital investments and as a result conditions appear worn and user experience is compromised. For a complete list all the facilities studied refer to Appendix A – Study Facilities.

### District 1:

**Kendrick Field– District 1:** This nearly 15 acre property provides a wide range of mostly active recreational facilities (including 4 major field complexes) that support local and city-wide sports programs and also neighborhood uses. The city has completed a master plan and multiple phases of park improvements, with additional work in the planning stages. Active citizen involvement at this site helps to maintain many of the park facilities. The southern softball field has a rectangular field overlay. The softball field area provides opportunities for upgrades that would allow for additional programming.

**Tacoma Street Playground – District 1:** This site encompasses nearly 20 acres of land and it contains both developed park amenities and undeveloped sloping woodlands. The park supports neighborhood needs and the nearby Great Brook Valley housing development. A pool complex was previously located at the site, but has since been removed as part of a city-wide aquatics replacement program.

This park is indicative of numerous other properties in the system where there have been few recent capital investments and as a result facilities need updating. There is an opportunity here for a complete park reconstruction allowing for the possibility of the incorporation of a new athletic field at the former pool location.



*The two images on left are showing the existing conditions of Kendrick Field with a football overlay in the softball outfield and the two images on the right are showing the existing conditions of Tacoma Street Playground.*

The additional parks in District 1 that have rectangular fields or where future renovation is intended as a result of the study, but not outlined in detail are:

- Duffy Field at Wetherell Park
- Great Brook Valley Playground
- Indian Hill Park– See approved master plan

**District 2:**

**Burncoat Park (North Park) – District 2:** This diverse property provides wide ranging passive and active recreational resources that serve the surrounding neighborhood (including the Wawecus Road Elementary School, Burncoat Senior and Middle Schools and the Hanover Insurance corporate campus). Burncoat Park Pond provides passive recreational activities such as fishing and bird/nature watching, while the open fields provide opportunity for both informal and formal sports and other activities. An expansive pathway system accommodates walking, jogging and biking.

This park is indicative of numerous other properties in the system where a playing field complex has received few recent capital investments and as a result conditions appear in need of updating.

**Green Hill Park – District 2:** This is the City’s largest and most diverse park, encompassing nearly 500 acres of land and includes a golf course, farm yard, playing fields, playgrounds and a network of drives

## RECTANGULAR SHAPED SPORTS FIELDS FEASIBILITY STUDY

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and parking areas. The State-wide Vietnam Veterans Memorial is located within the core of the park site in close proximity to Green Hill Pond, a 30-acre “great pond”. The Worcester Vocational School is located to the east of the park site and makes use of a large sports field complex located within the park. The rectangular field on Green Hill Parkway between the playground and the Connie Mack little league field has the potential to be renovated and expanded for increased rectangular field programming, but parking will need to be addressed as well.



*The two images on the left are of Burncoat Park and the image on the right is of Green Hill Park.*

The additional parks in District 2 that have rectangular fields or where future renovation is intended as a result of the study, but not outlined in detail are:

- Bell Hill Park
- Cristoforo Colombo Park
- Green Hill Park (Worcester Technical High School)
- Holland Rink Playground– See approved master plan
- Holmes Field– See approved master plan
- Lake Park
- O’Connell Field at Institute Park

### **District 3:**

**Glodis Field – District 3:** Located adjacent to the Providence Street School on Providence Street is a 300’ x 200’ natural turf multi-use athletic field. This field is constantly used and is very stressed. The field is in poor condition, which limits the availability of play during or after a rain storm and creates an inadequate play environment. The field is used by the neighboring community as well as the school. There is parking available on the site and plenty of on-street parking except during school hours. This site provides a great opportunity for increase programming. It is currently in need of a complete renovation, which opens up the opportunity to expand the size of the field at the time of renovation.

The additional parks in District 3 that have rectangular fields or where future renovation is intended as a result of the study, but not outlined in detail are:

- Blithewood Park
- Greenwood Park– See approved master plan
- Vernon Hill Park

**District 4:**

The additional parks in District 4 that have rectangular fields or where future renovation is intended as a result of the study, but not outlined in detail are:

- Crompton Park– See approved Master Plan
- South Worcester Playground (Harry Sherry Field)– See approved master plan

**District 5:**

**Coes Pond Park – Knights of Columbus – District 5:** Coes Pond Parks are a series of open space assets that form the western, southern and eastern edge of Coes Reservoir. Properties include a public swimming beach at Mill Street, new passive park at the site of the former Coes Knife Manufacturing concern, a narrow pathway corridor located to the rear of the Lakeview Residential community, Columbus Park, an easement through a Knights of Columbus property and new open space acquisitions (the Fenton parcel and part of the Knights of Columbus property). A master plan was completed for this series of interconnected properties and the City has implemented improvements that have included a small parking area, pathways, a bridge across the Coes Reservoir/Tatnuck Brook spillway, new fields and a playground. The Knights of Columbus field at Coes Pond was just renovated, but there is opportunity there for installation of a synthetic turf field.



*The image to the left is the existing conditions of Glodis Field. The image in the middle is Knights of Columbus before its most recent renovation and the image on the right is the existing Knights of Columbus after the renovations.*

**Farber Field – District 5** Located on Camelot Drive Farber Field is a rectangular complex that contains a 300' x 180' rectangular playing field with parking and a support building. If this field is renovated, there is an opportunity to increase the size of the field allowing for more flexible programming. With ample parking and no other facilities to support, this is an ideal location for a dedicated rectangular field sports complex.

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**Boynton Park – District 5:** Located on Howard Street, this nearly 90 acre property mostly consists of woodland trails and a park drive. There is a clearing at the top of the hill that contains a 250' x 215' baseball field with a rectangular overlay. There are some site constraints that include steep grades and wetlands, however there is potential for expansion and reconstruction of this facility to allow for additional rectangular field programming. Parking would also need to be expanded to accommodate the larger athletic field.



*The two images on the right are the existing conditions at Farber Field and the image on the left is the existing little league field at Boynton Park.*

The additional parks in District 5 that have rectangular fields or where future renovation is intended as a result of the study, but not outlined in detail are:

- Apricot Street Playground
- Beaver Brook Park
- Bennett Field
- Rockwood Field

Please refer to Appendix A – Study Facilities for more detailed information on each of these parks.

### **Worcester Public School Properties**

**Chandler Magnet School Field – District 5:** Located on May Street behind the Chandler Magnet School is a 370' x 300' athletic field, of which, only 300' x 180' is usable. A former baseball complex, now converted to a rectangular field facility still has the remnants of the baseball infields present, limiting the available playing area. This field is constantly used, compacted, very stressed and is in poor condition, limiting the availability of play during or after a rain storm and creates an inadequate play environment. The field is used by the neighboring community as well as the school. There are some site constraints that include steep grades to the west and difficult access. There is potential for expansion and reconstruction of this facility to allow for additional rectangular field programming. Access would need to be improved to accommodate the larger athletic field.

**Elm Park School Field – District 4:** Located directly behind the school on the corner of West Street and John Street is a 300' x 160' natural turf multi-use athletic field. This field is constantly used and is

very stressed. The field is in poor condition, limiting the availability of play during or after a rain storm and creates an inadequate play environment. The field is used by the neighboring community as well as the school. There is parking available on the site and plenty of on-street parking except during school hours.



*The image on the left is of the existing Chandler Magnet School Field and the image on the right is an aerial of Elm Park School Field.*

The additional public school properties that have rectangular fields or where future renovation is intended as a result of the study, but not outlined in detail are:

- Burncoat Middle School & High School– District 2
- Doherty Memorial High School– District 5
- Sullivan Middle School– District 5
- South High School– District 5
- Forrest Grove Middle School & Francis McGrath Elementary School– District 1
- Thorndyke Road Elementary School– District 1
- Clark Street Elementary School– District 1
- Flagg Street School– District 1
- Nelson Place Elementary School– District 1
- Norrback Avenue School– District 1
- Foley Athletic Complex– District 5

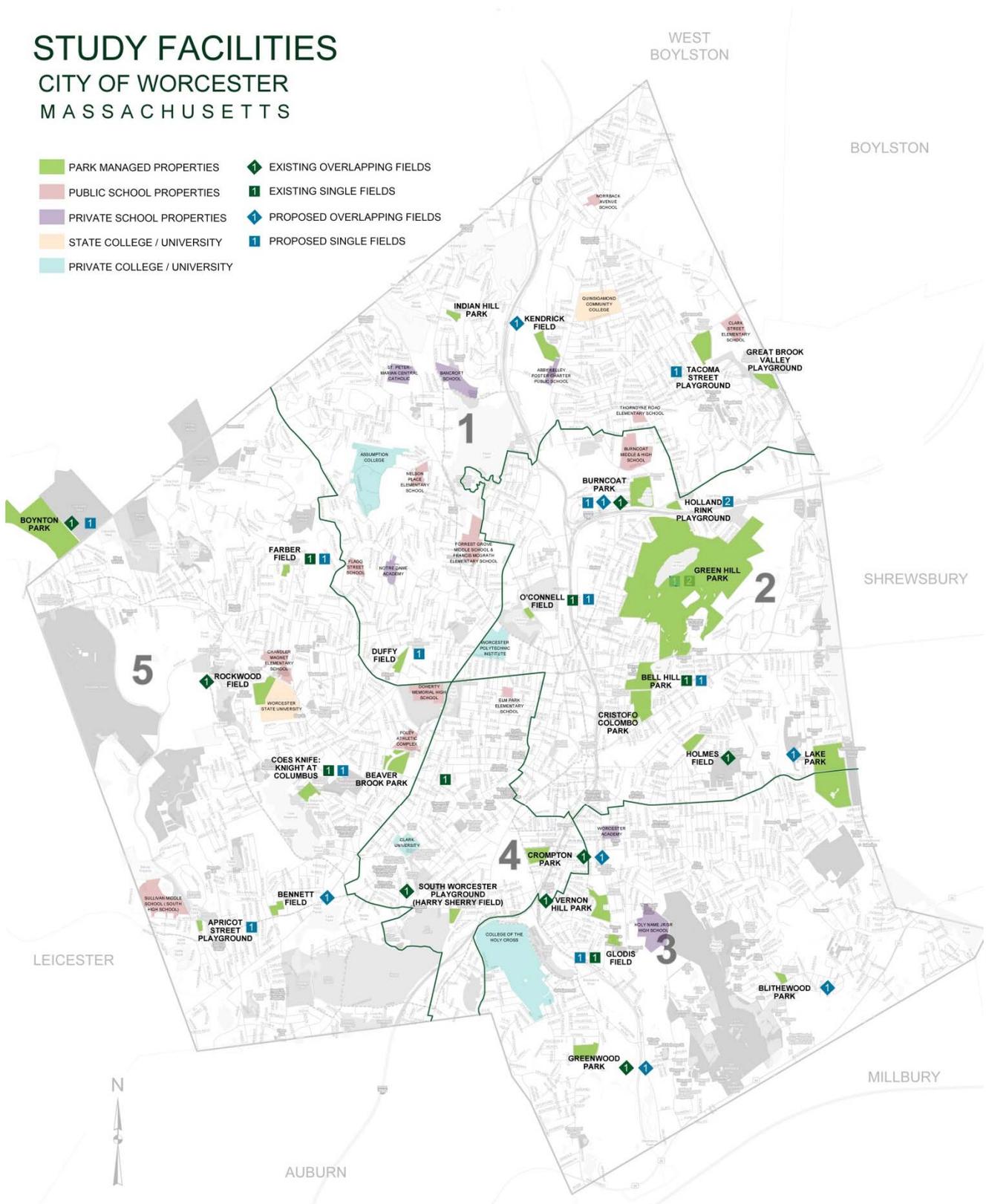
Please refer to Appendix A – Study Facilities for more detailed information on each of these school properties.

# STUDY FACILITIES

## CITY OF WORCESTER

### MASSACHUSETTS

- PARK MANAGED PROPERTIES
- PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTIES
- PRIVATE SCHOOL PROPERTIES
- STATE COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY
- PRIVATE COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY
- EXISTING OVERLAPPING FIELDS
- EXISTING SINGLE FIELDS
- PROPOSED OVERLAPPING FIELDS
- PROPOSED SINGLE FIELDS



Above is a map showing all of the studied sites that are Parks managed properties.

## PUBLIC OUTREACH & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### Public Outreach

The master planning process included a series of meetings and public comment sessions, with primary meetings identified in the chart located below.

MEETING	LOCATION	DATE
Public Outreach and Input Meeting	Green Hill Park 50 Skyline Drive	October 15, 2015
Public Outreach and Input Meeting	Worcester City Hall 455 Main Street	November 12, 2015
Public Outreach and Input Meeting	Worcester City Hall 455 Main Street	December 9, 2015
Parks & Recreation Commission	Green Hill Park 50 Skyline Drive	June 30, 2016
Parks & Recreation Commission	Green Hill Park 50 Skyline Drive	December 15, 2016

Meetings with the community were held at City Hall and Skyline Drive, as were larger public meetings involving sports league stakeholders, elected officials and members of the general public. Large-scale colored plans and PowerPoint presentations were used to communicate master plan findings, recommendations and concept diagrams for each of the properties. Feedback from each meeting was generally constructive and positive with most participants expressing keen interest in achieving dramatic improvements to sports fields in order to provide enhanced conditions for all users.

### User Survey

A user survey was conducted as part of the study. Weston & Sampson and representatives from DPW & Parks compiled a series of question aimed at garnering usage information, types of facilities desired, evaluation of conditions at facilities and other wants and needs.

The response to the survey was limited with mainly soccer and rugby users participating. There were 87 responses, of those 18 were from Soccer organizations and 48 were from Rugby. Overall, we were able to garner more information from the comments at the public meetings, most of which coincided with the survey responses.

In the end, the User Survey, information compiled during the study process, the inventory of current facilities and the analysis of existing conditions were most critical in determining the needs of the community. The resulting Needs Assessment also takes into account the availability of numerous School Department properties. However, the ability for significant city recreation needs to be accommodated at these locations is limited due to the scheduling of school related activities.

### Needs Assessment

In order to assess the best improvement for each property, it was important to consider the most pressing needs of the entire Worcester community. This Needs Assessment represents a synthesis of information obtained during the public meetings, meetings with city representatives and the data generated during the study process. In order to compile the array of needs, a variety of methods and tools were used including those summarized below:

- Information obtained at informational meetings
- Information and advice from the City staff members
- Analysis and inventory of existing facilities and conditions throughout the Worcester playing fields system
- Other anecdotal data such as petitions, discussions with staff, comments from user groups, field conditions and field availability, or lack thereof
- Use of recognized parks and recreation related standards and requirements as outlined in the 2015 NRPA (National Recreation and Parks Association) Field Report and Sports Turf Managers Association's standards for field use.

In regard to the last two items, comprehensive inspections were conducted at each of the playing field venues in order to inventory the quantity of various facilities and to assess their conditions. The physical condition of a facility can often be a strong indicator of the degree of use or overuse. Extensive wear and tear exhibited within a field always identifies a need, whether it is a need for additional fields to accommodate the sheer number of users, improved maintenance or the need for fields that are properly constructed to be better maintained.

In addition, there is a general lack of dedicated rectangular-shaped fields that are available for the exclusive use of football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey and other similar athletic programs. As a result, the sports programs that require rectangular-shaped fields often make use of "multi-use" fields that physically overlap baseball, softball or little league field venues. Under this scenario the overlapping nature of the field creates scheduling conflicts, physical conflicts if unlike activities are attempted at the same time, and ensures that facilities are in extremely high demand during all playing seasons. Maintaining turf under these conditions becomes a major challenge and almost impossible.

It is also important to note that many respondents expressed an interest in the development or improvement of other ancillary facilities at the various playing field properties (support buildings,

backstops, fencing lines, parking areas, sports lighting, irrigation, basketball courts, children's playground equipment...).

Other factors playing into the development of an appropriate recreation needs assessment for Worcester include the following:

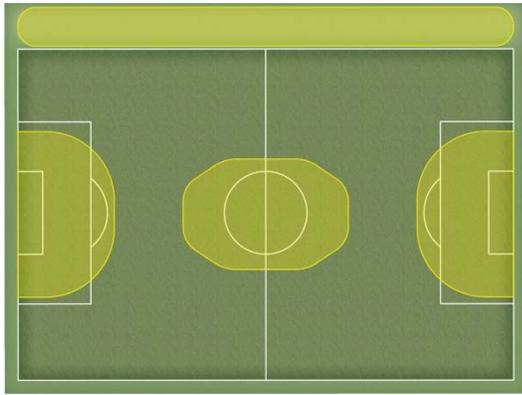
**Current Trends** – The popularity of certain recreational activities decreases and increases over time. For instance, soccer, lacrosse and rugby are experiencing incredible growth in many New England communities, including Worcester. There has also been an interest in the sport of hurling at field sites.

American colleges, through their admissions policies, increasingly promote the need for well-rounded students that are immersed in both academics and extracurricular activities. This, in addition to a national movement toward improving “wellness” through better diets and activity has been cited as a possible contributor to the increase in athletic participation rates in many cities, including Worcester.

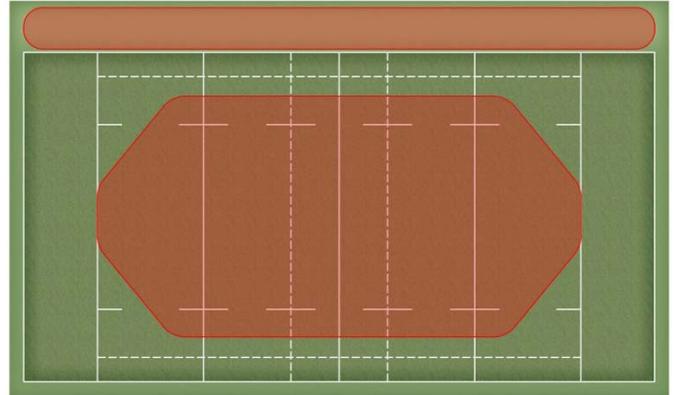
**Increasing Athletic Field Usage** – Be it due to the increase in the popularity of athletics, enactment of Title 9 for women's sports, Worcester's increased school age population or a combination of the three, the number of users utilizing the playing field venues is increasing. The construction of new venues has not kept pace with the increased participation rate. With shrinking numbers of maintenance support staff it is easy to see why poor field conditions prevail at numerous locations.

It is also important to note that rectangular field sports tend to play in all weather conditions, rain, sometimes snow in the spring, and on frost in early spring and late fall which causes damage beyond general wear and tear. The diagrams on the next page outline certain areas of a field that receive medium to high wear and tear zones based on the sport being played. The location and size of these zones were gathered through observations of multiple dedicated fields over time. They are not exact, but serve to give the general area of turf being affected by each sport. As shown, no one sport contributes to the deterioration of the entire field, it is a combination of all of the sports.

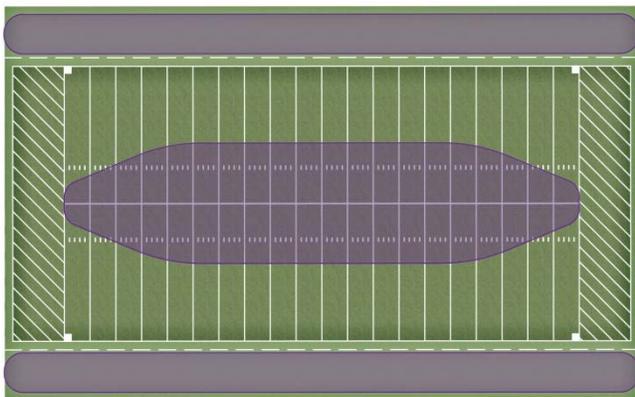
RECTANGULAR SHAPED SPORTS FIELDS FEASIBILITY STUDY



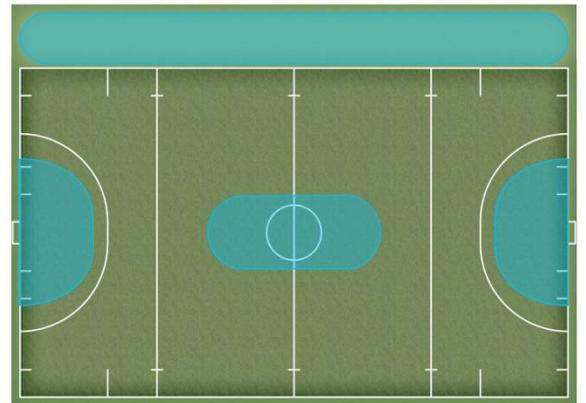
**Soccer Field (240'x360')**  
 Field Wear & Tear Zone: 26.5%  
 Sideline Wear & Tear Zone: 9,950 sf



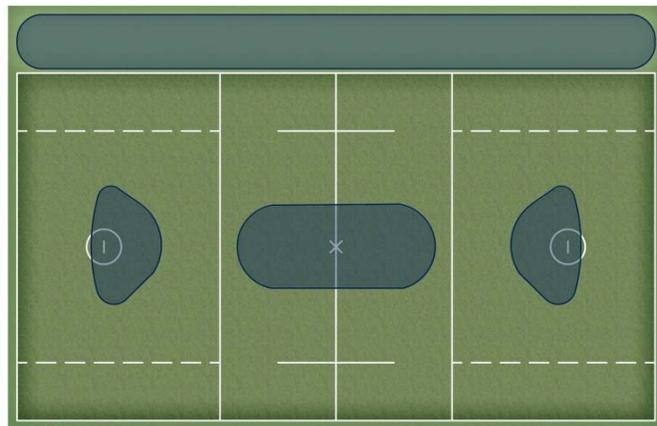
**Rugby Field (225'x430')**  
 Field Wear & Tear Zone: 49%  
 Sideline Wear & Tear Zone: 11,850 sf



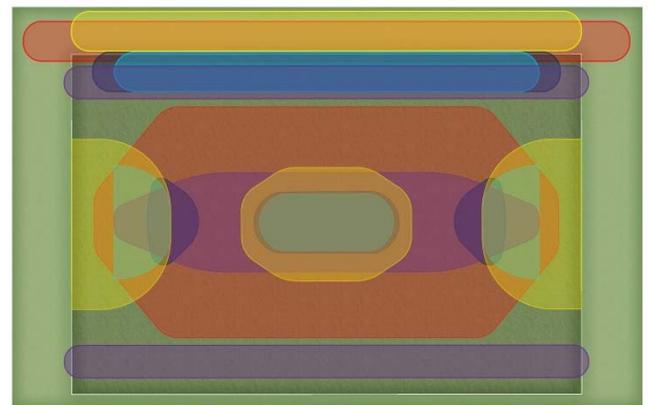
**Football Field (160'x360')**  
 Field Wear & Tear Zone: 31%  
 Sideline Wear & Tear Zone: 16,800 sf



**Field Hockey Field (180'x300')**  
 Field Wear & Tear Zone: 16.5%  
 Sideline Wear & Tear Zone: 8,250 sf



**Lacrosse Field (180'x330')**  
 Field Wear & Tear Zone: 12.5%  
 Sideline Wear & Tear Zone: 9,100 sf



**Average Multi-Use Field (240'x360')**  
 Field Wear & Tear Zone: 62%  
 Sideline Wear & Tear Zone: 32,300 sf

To provide a better understanding of the analysis and recommendations, 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” assumptions. The list below outlines some of the ideal recommendations of turf professionals (Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) and Turf Magazine, and various 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 season each year (Apr 1<sup>st</sup>–Nov 15<sup>th</sup>) 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.
- Turf should receive the same level of industry recommended maintenance during active, inactive, and field rest periods. Including mowing, fertilizing, aeration, thatching and slice seeding. Refer to page 31 for the detailed industry recommended maintenance standards.
- 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. Thus 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 are “ideal utilization”, Weston & Sampson believes that it is unrealistic for most municipal recreation and maintenance departments to administer these “ideal” recommendations as a whole. Fiscal budget, personnel and facility supply limitations require a more “realistic utilization” of athletic fields. Listed below are industry standard recommendations for realistic utilization:

- 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 sufficient rain date game replays; allowance for field, player, and equipment setup/takedown time; and some measure of in season field rest. The maximum capacity of a field per week should be no more than 30 to 35 hours of play.
- Limit use of each sufficiently maintained natural turf field to 250 to 300 hours per season.
- Sufficient field quantities should exist to permit each field at least four (4) weeks rest (no use at all) during the active growing season each year to allow the turf to rejuvenate prior to the next

year’s use. This should include two weeks in the spring, possibly one in April and one in June as scheduling allows and two weeks in the fall season, possibly one in early September and one in late October as scheduling allows.

- Fields that are not irrigated should be scheduled for minimal use during the summer season with play rotated frequently during the season to minimize turf damage, or provide on-site irrigation or watering systems for each city field. Exceptional damage occurs easily with use during hot and dry summer months.
- Maintain sufficient thatch levels and vigorous turf. All fields should receive the industry-recommended levels of maintenance throughout the spring and fall growing seasons. This includes regular mowing (twice a week), vigorous fertilizer program as outlined for the type of turf and root zone and fields should be aerated a minimum of twice a year and slice-seeded a minimum of once a year or as necessary to ensure adequate root growth and turf coverage. Further maintenance guidelines are outlined on page 29.
- Play on multi-use fields should be routinely rotated, where possible, to minimize areas of turf damage and wear.

Given all of these factors, and as a result of the survey and study process, many basic needs have been identified, as summarized below:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WORCESTER’S PLAYING FIELD NEEDS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">More Playing Venues to Accommodate Usage</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fewer overlapping / Multi-use Fields</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunities to Rest Fields</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Greater Access to Various Facilities</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Improved Ancillary Facilities (Irrigation Systems, Bleachers, Backstops...)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lighting to expand Period of Usage</p> <p style="text-align: center;">More Funding for Basic Field Maintenance and Improvements</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Increased Staffing Levels to Maintain Fields</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New Capital Funding for Major Improvements at Field Properties</p>
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It is anticipated that the city will require additional facilities in the future to meet the continued city-wide increase in sports activity participation rates. The “preferred” plans developed for each of the athletic field 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 the fiscal realities of the community. However, since land is tight at all venues, there are limited realistic opportunities for field expansion at existing facilities, which will cause Worcester to look to other potential open space properties in order to seriously address the poor playing conditions and lack of venues that characterize the system. Relying on the refurbishment of existing facilities alone is risky, as capital investments may deteriorate rapidly unless the rates of use can be significantly curtailed at each playing venue. The addition of playing venues will also allow the city to rotate the fields, rest the fields during lighter use times and take fields off line for minor or major renovations.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Schematic Design Options and Identification of New Sports Field Venues

The feasibility study effort presents a unique opportunity for the city to assess 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.

In undertaking this planning process and developing the concept plans, a number of basic, recurring themes for improvement became apparent. In this section, we summarize these basic themes, which can be implemented as capital improvements and planned and constructed at many or all of the properties in the study.

**Athletic Fields**– The process identified the critical need for new and refurbished athletic facilities and fields in order to better support the myriad of sports programs that operate within the community. Based on participation rates for various activities, Worcester does not have enough fields to accommodate the large number of users. The resulting problem is two-fold; with heavy programming/overuse and limited facilities, the city cannot serve their recreation programs adequately, and appropriate field conditions cannot be maintained. This situation will worsen when field facilities go offline in conjunction with upcoming major reconstruction projects. To this end, we have structured the preferred plans for various properties to:

- Recognize the desire of community members to provide attractive, first-class sports facilities that can be maintained with reasonable ease in a manner that fits the cities (and league's) operation and maintenance abilities
- Identify the need to develop facilities that are properly oriented, 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 park and recreation amenities that respect the needs of abutting property owners
- Provide perimeter fencing and appropriate gates to enclose the facilities, limit access when needed, control use, and help maintain high-quality turf surfaces
- Provide athletic field lighting at all the venues for complete flexibility of programming.
- There is a need for an indoor sports complex that could support a large indoor rectangular field for multi-sport use. The city should consider locations for this venue. This facility could be in the form of a public/private partnership if feasible.
- Provide a minimum of one synthetic turf field per district.

**Advantages and Disadvantages of synthetic turf and natural turf**

With the increasing popularity of youth sports and the high demand of 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 a reliable field, when other natural turf fields are being over used with little to no rest creating safety hazards and poor playability. Below are a list of the advantages and disadvantages of each field type.

<b>SYNTHETIC TURF FIELD</b>	
<b>ADVANTAGES</b>	
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 be utilized up to 3,000 hours of play per year and can be played on in most weather conditions.
Environment	Every square foot of synthetic turf saves approximately 250 gallons of water compared to a natural turf field. Also, the need for harmful pesticides and fertilizers is eliminated.
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.
<b>DISADVANTAGES</b>	
Initial Costs	The initial costs can be 3-4 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 on the 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 approximately 75% of the initial investment

<b>NATURAL TURF FIELD</b>	
<b>ADVANTAGES</b>	
Initial Cost	The initial cost of a natural turf field is about 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.
<b>DISADVANTAGES</b>	
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 700– 800 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 pesticides and fertilizers which are harmful to the environment



J.J. Lane Park in Natick, MA and Halfmoon Town Park in Halfmoon, NY (*Weston & Sampson*)

**Support Buildings** – New or updated support buildings should contain restrooms and storage accommodations. Where appropriate, larger structures could be designed to contain concession stands or office/meeting spaces. Sheltered/screened porta john structures could be a practical alternative to support buildings at certain sites.



**Access and Linkages** – While not a particular focus of the study, another important improvement type includes provisions for new and improved access to the properties, by foot and by car. This can be accomplished by providing convenient and appropriately scaled parking amenities, reducing conflicts between pedestrians and drivers, and providing logical ADA-compliant linkages between various site features and facilities within a given space.

The preferred plans identify a series of improvements that focus on the primary park entrances and parking areas near the core of each property. Our primary recommendations for improvements to enhance park access and linkages include the following:

- Eliminate any badly deteriorated and difficult-to-maintain existing conditions
- Develop new park entrances and reconfigure drives/parking areas to provide clear travel patterns, clearly defined parking spaces, more efficient use of the overall space and more parking spaces
- Establish pedestrian connections from all reconstructed parking areas and access points to provide safe, convenient, and ADA-compliant access to all major park facilities and park areas
- Reconstruct the parking areas to include new pavement or porous surfaces where available, low-impact approaches to storm drainage where available, curbing, edges, and striping to achieve ADA compliance

**RECTANGULAR SHAPED SPORTS FIELDS FEASIBILITY STUDY**

- Install traffic-calming measures to slow vehicular traffic and provide for safe pedestrian movement throughout the area (e.g., speed bumps, tabled (or raised) crossings, and special surface textures and colors to delineate areas of pedestrian use and traffic-related signage)

The narratives in the chart below are intended to be brief and to provide a quick glance at eight featured sites from the study with a focus on the rectangular athletic fields. They are not intended to convey detailed improvement information. These eight sites were selected due to their potential for improvement, or the feasibility to, add more rectangular fields. These parks are a representative sample of the myriad of sites that could be renovated. For a complete list all the facilities studied refer to Appendix A – Study Facilities. The end goal is to have three to five synthetic turf fields in the city, one in each region all with sports lighting.

<b>PARKS MANAGED PROPERTIES</b>	
<b>STUDY PROPERTY</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
Kendrick Field – District 1	Convert the southern softball field to synthetic turf. This will allow for more programming on the field
Tacoma Street Playground – District 1	Construct the 360’ x 240’ natural turf rectangular shaped field and parking as shown on the fields study graphic (attached at the end of the document). This park would require a master plan process in order to complete the improvements
Burncoat Park – District 2	Renovate the rectangular field playing area and the softball field per the master plan recommendations. This will increase the rectangular field size to 360’ x 225’
Green Hill Park, Connie Mack site – District 2	Reconstruct the 330’ x 225’ rectangular shaped field as shown on the fields study graphic (attached at the end of the document). The field could either be synthetic or natural turf. Parking expansion will be needed to accommodate the increased use.
Glodis field – District 3	Reconstruct the current natural turf field with a synthetic turf field. The field can be reconstructed in the same footprint with a slight expansion. The increased field size would be 330’ x 220’ (In process)
Coes Pond Park, Knights of Columbus – District 5	Reconstruct the current natural turf field with a synthetic turf field. The field can be reconstructed in the same footprint with a slight expansion. The increased field size would be 400’ x 225’
Farber Field – District 5	Reconstruct the current natural turf field with a synthetic turf field. The field can be reconstructed in the same footprint with a slight expansion. The increased field size would be 330’ x 210’
Boynton Park – District 5	Construct the 300’ x 230’ rectangular shaped field as shown on the fields study graphic (attached at the end of the document). The field could either be synthetic or natural turf. Parking expansion would be needed to accommodate the increased use. This park would require a master plan process in order to complete the improvements

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROPERTIES	
STUDY PROPERTY	RECOMMENDATIONS:
Chandler Magnet School Field	Reconstruct the 360' x 225' rectangular shaped field as shown on the fields study graphic (attached at the end of the document). The field could either be synthetic or natural turf. Parking expansion and access would be needed to accommodate the increased use.
Elm Park School Field	Reconstruct the current natural turf field with a synthetic turf field. The field can be reconstructed in the same footprint with a slight expansion. The increased field size would be 300' x 160'

This is a representative sample of potential park improvements. Refer to Appendix A – Study Facilities for a complete list of potential rectangular field improvements. These fields are also listed because they could be the first in a series of recommended improvements. Refer to section “Action Plan and Summary of High Priority Initiatives” for a proposed sequence of improvements for these properties.

## Budget Analysis, Phasing and Funding Options

### Budget Analysis and Phasing

The following pre-design program Budget Summary are example estimates and identify the initial breakdown of costs associated with the planned program at each property. All costs have been rounded and are estimated based on our previous experience with similar projects. Estimated costs include construction, contractor general conditions, overhead and profit, testing and design fees of the field and sports lighting, but does not include associated park improvements and appurtenances such as upgraded parking areas and other amenities.

PARKS MANAGED PROPERTIES		
STUDY PROPERTY	FIELD TYPE	ESTIMATED COST:
Kendrick Field – District 1	Synthetic Turf	\$1,200,000
Tacoma Street Playground – District 1	Natural Turf	\$1,585,000
	Synthetic Turf	\$1,835,000
Burncoat Park – District 2	Natural Turf	\$1,325,000
Green Hill Park, Connie Mack site – District 2	Natural Turf	\$960,000
	Synthetic Turf	\$1,265,000
Coes Pond Park, Knights of Columbus – District 5	Synthetic Turf	\$1,365,000
Farber Field – District 5	Synthetic Turf	\$1,265,000
Boynton Park – District 5	Natural Turf	\$1,200,000
	Synthetic Turf	\$1,450,000
Indoor Facility	Synthetic Turf	\$3.5m–\$5m

WORCESTER PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTIES		
STUDY PROPERTY	FIELD TYPE	ESTIMATED COST
Chandler Magnet School Field	Natural Turf	\$1,265,000
	Synthetic Turf	\$1,710,000
Elm Park School Field	Synthetic Turf	\$1,265,000

If and when the funding is available, the City should allocate \$2.1 million in the first year to allow for the design and construction of one facility and the design of the following year’s facility, and then allocate \$1.7 Million per year over a ten year period for improvements to rectangular sports facilities. This would allocate funding for the construction of one facility and the design of the next year’s facility.

**Identify Properties that can be Designated for Athletic Field Use**

Identify other city owned or privately owned properties in Worcester that might be suitable for field development. It has been well documented throughout the Study process that there is an insufficient quantity of playing fields to satisfy the needs of the public. A new complex, with 2–3 multi–use fields would dramatically reduce the burden on current fields and yield better playing conditions overall. This would also provide new playing venues without taking an existing field off–line for construction. Ideally, a property that is 10 acres in size, generally flat and located within “upland” areas (limited or no wetlands) should be sought. Woodlands, pasture lands, former gravel quarries or other previously developed or disturbed properties should be considered.

Identifying opportunities within the urban core would assist in allowing access by those who have limited transportation options.

**Funding Options**

Many potential sources of funding from both public and private entities could help to pay for improvements to field and park sites in Worcester. In addition, donations, both large and small, can be combined to help offset the city’s responsibilities in undertaking these meaningful improvements. The City of Worcester will aggressively pursue a variety of funding and implementation strategies that could include:

- **Traditional Public Bidding** – Develop plans, specifications, and estimates for the desired improvements and then publicly advertise, receive bids, and award a construction contract to the lowest qualified bidder. The costs for these types of projects can range from \$50,000 for small–scale work to hundreds of thousands of dollars, or even multiple millions for large–scale projects.
- **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. These types of arrangements often originate from the approval of a large in–city development. In certain cases, we can also

implement improvements using contractors who seek to donate services, equipment, or materials.

### Partnerships

Partnerships must play an important role in the overall plan to improve, manage, and maintain park properties. For example, many privately managed sports leagues in Worcester have impressive track records of supporting certain maintenance and capital improvement initiatives for numerous facilities. More and more, communities are relying on public/private partnerships to create facilities and maintain the desired playing conditions needed to support city-wide sports programming.

For your initial consideration, we have identified a number of potential funding sources. Many of the governmental sources identified allocate millions of dollars a year for parks, open space, and athletic facility improvement programs, but competition for these funds is intense. If selected to receive these funds, the actual improvements are implemented through a public design, bid, and construction process.

### 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 larger communities like Worcester, 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 for the upcoming year has not yet been determined; however, the funds, when available, may be used to supplement funding from the PARC program.

### Community Preservation Act Funding

A number of years ago, the Massachusetts legislature passed the Community Preservation Act, which allows cities and towns to generate funds through an added property assessment for improvements related to affordable housing, historic preservation, and certain types of park/open space acquisitions and enhancements. With this act, locally generated funding is matched up to 35%–40% with state dollars, and more than 100 communities in the Commonwealth have already adopted the legislation. If adopted in Worcester, this program could become an important source of local capital funding for the implementation of some of the recommended improvements identified in this study.

### Funding Alternatives

For your consideration, we have also identified the following alternative funding sources:

- **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 across the country with a goal of promoting healthier, safer, and more active communities. They award two types of grants each year. The first grant is called *Safe Places to Play*, which assists grantees with synthetic turf fields, lighting, irrigation, and sports courts. Stipulations may apply, such as the use of specific products. Funding under this source may need to be done by a private entity. The second grant is a *Program Grant*, which assists with equipment and operating costs. Visit <http://www.ussoccerfoundation.org> for further information and to read the requirements of each grant.

## Action Plan and Summary of High Priority Initiatives

### Implementation Strategies

Outlined below is a suggested implementation strategy for the facilities, as discussed during the study process. The level of implementation for each effort will greatly depend on available funding and the requirements of the funding source. This suggested strategy allows for the least amount of disruption during the construction processes.

1. Improve the turf quality at two or three properties to allow for increased programming so that a field can be taken off-line for complete reconstruction.
2. Construct the following programs, one or two per year until complete, as a new field is brought “on-line” start the reconstruction of another field, subsequently repeat the process. During this reconstruction process, one field will be off line each year. Each field must include lighting.
  - Kendrick Field | District 1

- Tacoma Street Playground | District 1
- Burncoat Park | District 2
- Green Hill Park | District 2
- Glodis Field | District 3
- Boynton Park | District 5
- Coes Pond Knights of Columbus | District 5
- Farber Field | District 5
- Indoor Facility | Similar to the Bancroft School or others in the area.

The order listed can be adjusted depending on available funding, unanticipated needs and other factors. After each improvement proper maintenance should be conducted at each facility. A budget of \$25,000 per year for each natural turf field and \$20,000 per year for each synthetic turf field should be established for maintenance of these and existing properties in order to maintain a safe and high level of quality turf on the fields.

The city should work with their consultants to prepare an operation and maintenance plan for the established and newly constructed turf fields, both synthetic and natural. In order to minimize adverse field conditions due to maintenance issues, as a general outline we recommend that all fields be maintained to the Sports Turf Managers Association (STMA) and Turf Magazine industry standards listed below.

**Beginning of Season Conditions:** The city 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 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. 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.

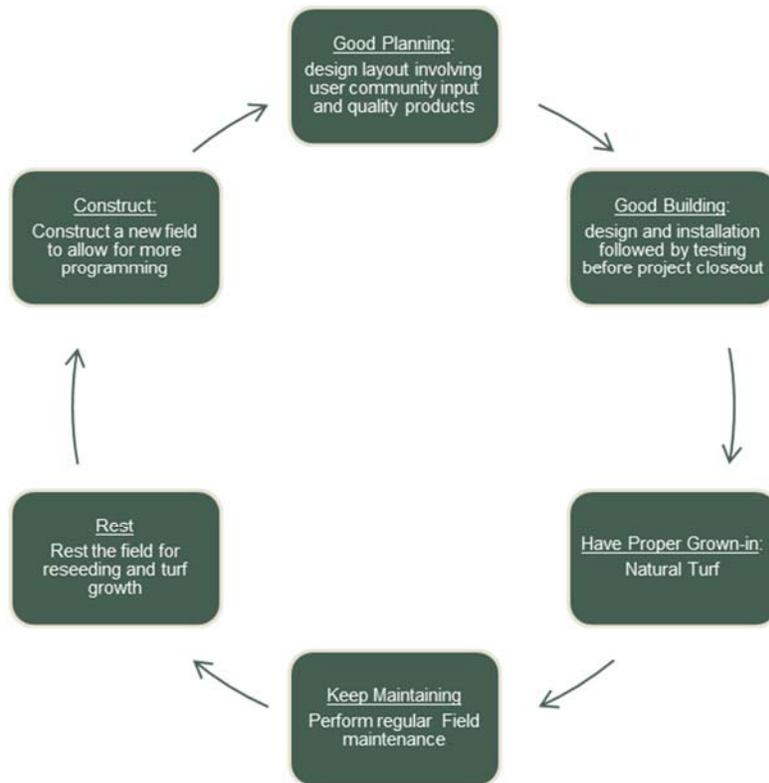
**Field Lining:** Before each game or as otherwise needed.

**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. As part of the maintenance program and 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. The plan should be supported by sufficient labor savings equipment to allow implementation of all aspects of the plan.



## Field Use Policy

During the completion of the site analysis efforts at various field properties and in discussions with city staff members, it became apparent that Worcester needs a more formal field use policy. In recent years, many similar, nearby 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 on, and help protect decision makers by adopting a clearly articulated and evenhanded use policy that is widely published 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. In fact, it is the desire to maintain superior playing conditions once major capital projects have been completed. That desire has motivated many 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.
- In Needham, fields are often closed for short periods of time for minor renovation efforts (seasonal aeration and slice seeding operations). This inconveniences user groups, but the need to maintain good playing conditions takes precedent.
- Westwood and Needham officials all aggressively monitor field conditions and issue advisories to user groups as to field status. In Needham, a parent or player doesn't 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 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 collaborative 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 drier conditions allow for use without risk of excessively damaging the turf and underlying soil structure.

Excerpts from neighboring Westwood’s “Guidelines for Use of Town and School Athletic Fields” are included below. 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. Additional field use policies are attached at the end of the report.



*Town of Westwood*

**Guidelines for Use of Town and School Athletic & Fields**

Cancellation Policy:

*Due to poor field conditions, potential hazards / unsafe conditions, and or inclement weather the Westwood Recreation Department and Westwood School Department reserves the right to deny an athletic activity or event from being held on a Town field. The two main purposes of this policy are to ensure the safety of participants and to prevent Town fields from getting abused and destroyed when the sod is vulnerable. Any Westwood School Administrator, Recreation official, Department of Public Works Official, Westwood Police Officer, or any other Town Official or designated person may deny use of a field and /or require an activity to stop.*

*Daily updates on fields, playable or closed [www.townhall.westwood.ma.us](http://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us), go to Recreation Department, click on field status.*

Conditions that require cancellation of an athletic or field activity:

- 1. No field will open until the spring thaw is complete.*
- 2. A field is automatically closed if standing water is evident.*
  - 3. Footing is unsure and slippery.*
  - 4. Ground is water logged and "squishy".*
  - 5. Grass can be pulled out of the ground easily.*
  - 6. Lightning*
  - 7. Severe weather storms*
8. If concerned or in doubt about canceling, call the Recreation Department 461-0070 after 4:00 PM weekdays, or weekends after 7:00 AM.
9. League Officials make their decisions if weather / field conditions change after the initial cancellation (i.e. the sun comes out and dries the fields). They must use good judgment. If in doubt do not play or practice.
10. All League / Organization / Coach should "police" themselves, and report infractions to the Recreation & School Departments. The Recreation Department will contact League / Organization / Coach that have used fields improperly.

Use of a closed field, or one with standing water, jeopardizes the safety of all, in particular children. Future League / Organization / Coach use of Town fields will be in jeopardy if this happens. In addition, if the inappropriate use requires additional maintenance to restore the field to safe conditions, costs to repair will be charged to the League / Organization.

As Worcester 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 (city 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 Worcester may include the following:

- 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. The estimated cost for this additional labor is \$6,000 per year for the athletic season.
- 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 Worcester.
- 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 Worcester 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 additional public works and parks maintenance staff hires, materials and equipment such that basic improvements can be undertaken without the need to go through a costly and cumbersome public bidding process.
- At field facilities that require major refurbishment efforts, authorize capital expenditures to design, bid and construct the desired facilities. This might include the upgrading of existing facilities or the development of new facilities within undeveloped sections of existing field properties.
- It is evident that Worcester has a shortage of fields. The conflicts and pressures are documented throughout this study. It is critical to establish new playing venues at other city-owned properties (developed or undeveloped) that are suitable for field development.

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.

## Appendix

- Appendix A | Study Facilities Matrix
- Appendix B | Study Facilities Site Map
- Appendix C | Priority Sites Map
- Existing & Proposed Site Plans
- Public Outreach Meeting Sign in Sheets
- Field Use Policy Examples

**APPENDIX A**  
**STUDY FACILITIES**  
City of Worcester- Rectangular Fields Study

**Park Managed Properties**

DISTRICT	FIELD/FACILITY NAME	ASSESORS OWNERSHIP	SYN. TURF RANKING	EXISTING RECTANGULAR FIELDS	PROPOSED RECTANGULAR FIELDS	LOCATION/ADDRESS	TOTAL ACRES*	AREA (IN ACRES) OF EXISTING ATHLETIC FIELDS	SITES WITH MASTER PLANS COMPLETED/ IN PROGRESS	FIELDS IN USE	PARKING	SUMMARY
DISTRICT 1	DUFFY FIELD AT WETHERELL PARK	City of Worcester Parks Department	2	No Rectangular Fields	240'x165' Multi-use Field	19 Newton Avenue	6.7	2.4	—	1- Little League Field 1- Open Lawn	No Parking	Adjacent to the Yeshiva Achei Tmimim Academy, this site is mainly used for little league. Also included is a small open field south of the little league field and a small playground.
	GREAT BROOK VALLEY PLAYGROUND	City of Worcester Parks Department	1	No Rectangular Fields	260'x150' Multi-use Field	1 Brookview Drive	13.7	3.1	✓	1- Soccer Field 1- Softball Field	Ample Parking	Multiuse property with 1 softball field, 1 multiuse/ soccer field and 1 dirt parking lot.
	INDIAN HILL PARK	City of Worcester School Department	3	200'x165' Field overlay with softball infield	No Recommendations	165 Ararat Street	3.9	1.3	✓	2-Softball Fields	Some Parking	This site contains one full size softball field with a smaller softball skinned infield in the outfield. The outfield is also used for soccer and football.
	KENDRICK FIELD	City of Worcester Parks Department		325'x215' Field overlay with softball infield	360'x160' Field overlay with softball outfield	7 Brooks Street	14.9	5.7	✓	1- Football Field 2- Little League Fields 1- Softball Field 1- Baseball Field 1- Basketball Court	Ample Parking	Multi-use complex including little league, football, softball, baseball, and basketball. Property also includes three parking lots and a support building.
	TACOMA STREET PLAYGROUND	City of Worcester Parks Department	2	No Rectangular Fields	360'x240' Multi-use Field	Tacoma Street	18.9	0.0	—	2- Basketball Courts 3- Open lawns	Ample Parking	Multi-use park used for basketball. Property also includes one play area and one black top.
DISTRICT 2	BELL HILL (CHANDLER) PARK	City of Worcester Parks Department	2	335'x215' Multiuse Field	330'x210' Multi-use Field	190 Belmont Street	23.1	2.3	—	1- Basketball court 1- Open lawn	Some Parking	Located behind the Belmont School, this property contains an open field, mainly used for soccer, and a basketball court. Other amenities include a small beach, a playground, a support building and a parking area.
	BURNCOAT (NORTH) PARK	City of Worcester Parks Department	2	340'x335' Field overlay with baseball and little league infields	360'x225' Multi-use Field	70 North Parkway	25.9	3.5	✓	1-Baseball Field 1- Little League Field 1- Football Field	No Parking	Multi-use park used for baseball, little league and football.
	CRISTOFORO COLOMBO (EAST) PARK	City of Worcester Parks Department		370'x250' Field overlay with baseball infield	No Recommendations	180 Shrewsbury Street	22.9	4.2	—	1- Football Field 1- Little League Field 1- Baseball Field 1- Tennis Court 1.5- Basketball Courts	Ample Parking	Multi-use park used for basketball, little league, baseball, football, and tennis. This park also provides a playground, a splash pad and an amphitheater.
	GREEN HILL PARK (GREEN HILL PARKWAY)	City of Worcester Parks Department		360'x200' Multiuse Field 265'x195' Multiuse Field	330'x225' Multiuse Field	15-75 Green Hill Parkway	464.9	4.3	—	1- Little League Field 2- Soccer Fields 1- Open Lawn	Ample Parking	This park is one of the largest in worcester. It is used for little league and soccer. Other ammenities include a 18 hole golf course, a barnyard zoo, the Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans Memorial and walking trails. The property is located next to Worcester Technical High School.
	GREEN HILL PARK (WORCESTER TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL)	City of Worcester Parks Department	1	230'x100' Multiuse Field 190'x145' Multiuse field 435'x380' Field overlay with baseball and softball infields	No Recommendations	15- 75 Green Hill Parkway	464.9	12.7	—	1- Baseball Field 2- Softball Fields 1- Handball Court 3- Open Lawns	Ample Parking	This park is one of the largest in worcester. It is used for baseball, softball, handball, and soccer. Other ammenities include a 18 hole golf course, a barnyard zoo, the Massachusetts Vietnam Veterans Memorial and walking trails. The property is located next to Worcester Technical High School.
	HOLLAND RINK PLAYGROUND	City of Worcester Parks Department	2	No Rectangular Fields	(2) 145'x115' Multi-use Fields	441 Lincoln Street	3.9	1.2	✓	1- Little League Field 2- Basketball Courts 1- Open Lawn	No Parking	Multiuse property located in the intersection of Lincoln Street and Route 290. Site includes a little league field, 2 basketball courts and irregularly shaped open lawn areas.
	HOLMES FIELD	City of Worcester Parks Department	3	(1) 360'x200' Multi-use Field overlay with existing baseball	No Recommendations	201 Plantation Street	7.9	3.7	✓	1- Baseball Field 1- Roller Hockey Rink 2- Tennis Courts 1- Open Lawn	On Street Parking	Multi-use park used for baseball, roller hockey, and tennis. Property also includes two play areas.
	LAKE PARK	Commonwealth of Massachusetts Environmental Management	3	No Rectangular Fields	330'x210' Multi-use Field overlay with existing softball	284 Lake Avenue	23.3	5.6	—	1- Softball Field 1- Baseball Field 1- Basketball Court	No Parking	Located across the street from Lake Quinsigamond, this park offers softball, baseball and basketball. Property is mostly comprised of wooded area.
	O'CONNELL FIELD AT INSTITUTE PARK	City of Worcester Parks Department	2	330'x170' Multiuse Field	330'x210' Multi-use Field	167 Grove Street	24.2	2.0	—	1- Football Field 1- Soccer Field	No Parking	Located within Institute Park, this field is used for soccer and football.

DISTRICT 3	BLITHEWOOD PARK	City of Worcester Parks Department	3	No Rectangular Fields	170'x125' Multi-use Field overlay with baseball	10 Blithewood Avenue	3.5	1.9	—	1- Little League Field 1- Basketball Court 1- Tennis Court	Some Parking	Multiuse property including 1 little league field, 1 basketball court, 1 tennis court, 1 parking lot, 1 playground with shade shelters and walking paths
	GLODIS FIELD	City of Worcester School Department	2	300'x200' Multiuse Field	330'x220' Multi-use Field	239 Providence Street	4.6	2.1	—	1- Soccer Field	Ample Parking	This property is adjacent to the Vernon Hill School. It is devoted to soccer and surrounded by wooded area.
	GREENWOOD PARK	City of Worcester Parks Department	2	(1) 360'x225' Multi-use Field overlay with existing softball	No Recommendations	14 Forsberg Street	14.3	3.2	✓	1- Soccer Field 1- Baseball Field 1- Basketball Court 3- Tennis Court	Some Parking	Multi-use complex includes softball, soccer, basketball, tennis and a playground.
	VERNON HILL PARK	City of Worcester Parks Department		No Rectangular Fields	No Recommendations	150 Vernon Street	15.1	6.2	✓	1- Little League Field 2- Softball Field 1- Baseball Field 1- Basketball Court 1- Open Lawn	Ample Parking and On Street Parking	Multi-use complex down the street from the Vernon Hill School. Property includes little league, softball, baseball, basketball, and a playground.
DISTRICT 4	CROMPTON PARK	City of Worcester Parks Department	2	420'x250' Field overlay with (2) softball infields and a baseball infield	360'x240' Multi-use Field overlay with 2 softball fields	47 Quinsigamond Avenue	12.4	4.5	✓	1- Football Field 2- Softball Fields 1- Baseball Field 1- Basketball Court 2- Tennis Courts 2- Handball Courts 1- Open Lawn	Ample Parking and On Street Parking	Multi-use complex including baseball, football, softball, tennis and basketball. Property also includes a swimming pool, large play area and a support building.
	SOUTH WORCESTER PLAYGROUND (HARRY SHERRY FIELD)	City of Worcester Parks Department		250'x200' Field overlay with baseball infield	No Recommendations	380 Cambridge Street	4.9	3.0	—	1- Little League Field 1- Baseball Field 1- Basketball Court 1- Handball Court	Some Parking	Multiuse property including, 1 baseball field, 1 little league field, 1 basketball court, 1 handball court, 1 playground and 2 parking lots.
DISTRICT 5	APRICOT STREET PLAYGROUND	City of Worcester Parks Department	3	No Rectangular Fields	180'x105' Multi-use Field	20 Merchant Street	2.3	0.3	—	1- Open Lawn	No Parking	A small property with an existing black top/ lawn area. This site is mostly covered by trees.
	BEAVER BROOK PARK	City of Worcester Parks Department	4	360'x160' Multi-use Field 250'x225' Open Field	No Recommendations	15 Mann Street	13.3	7.1	✓	1- Football Field 2- Little League Fields 1- Softball Field 1- Basketball Court 1- Roller Hockey Rink 1- Open Lawn	Ample Parking	Multi-use complex including little league, football, softball, roller hockey, and basketball. Property also includes two parking lots and a support building.
	BENNETT FIELD	City of Worcester Parks Department	1	No Rectangular Fields	240'x165' Multi-use Field	1258 Main Street	5.6	1.5	✓	1- Softball Field	Ample Parking	Located adjacent to Gates Lane School, this property is devoted to softball. Site also includes a swimming pool and a playground.
	BOYNTON PARK	City of Worcester Parks Department	1	250'x215' Field overlay with little league infield	300'x230' Multi-use Field	1 Boynton Parkway	89.3	1.7	—	1- Softball Field	No Parking	Consists mostly of woodlands and trails but also includes one softball field, a playground and a parking lot.
	COES POND PARK: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	City of Worcester Parks Department	1	400'x225' Multiuse Field		44 Circuit Avenue North	8.3	2.5	✓	1- Multi Use Field	Ample Parking	Multi-use property featuring an open field mainly utilized for soccer and a parking area
	FARBER FIELD	City of Worcester Parks Department	3	300'x200' Multiuse Field	330'x210' Multi-use Field	90 Camelot Drive	3.1	1.8	—	1- Soccer Field 1- Multi Use Field	Ample Parking	Multi-use property featuring an open field mainly utilized for soccer. Site includes a support building.
	ROCKWOOD FIELD	City of Worcester Parks Department		No Rectangular Fields	No Recommendations	540 Chandler Street	15.5	6.0	✓	1- Soccer Field 2- Little League Fields 1- Softball Field 1- Baseball Field 1- Open Lawn	On Street Parking	Multi-use complex including baseball, little league, softball, and soccer. Property also includes four support buildings and walking trails.

\* Lot area calculated by GIS and Aerial photography. Could be verified by researching lot records.

#### Public School Properties

FIELD/FACILITY NAME	ASSESORS OWNERSHIP	LOCATION/ADDRESS	TOTAL ACRES*	AREA (IN ACRES) OF EXISTING ATHLETIC FIELDS	SITES WITH MASTER PLANS COMPLETED/ IN PROGRESS	FIELDS IN USE	SUMMARY
BURNCOAT MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS	City of Worcester School Department	135 Burncoat Street	33.5	9.1	—	1- Baseball Field 1- Softball Field 1- Football Field 3- Tennis Courts 1- Open Lawn	
DOHERTY MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL	City of Worcester School Department	299 Highland Street	23.8	2.5	—	1- Baseball Field 1- Softball Field	
SULLIVAN MIDDLE SCHOOL (SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL)	City of Worcester School Department	170 Apricot Street	43.3	7.5	—	5- Tennis Courts 1- Baseball Field 1- Football Field 1- Open Lawn	
FORREST GROVE MIDDLE SCHOOL & FRANCIS MCGRATH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	City of Worcester School Department	495 Grove Street	28.8	5.0	—	1- Little League Field 1- Soccer Field 1- Open Lawn	

	CHANDLER MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	City of Worcester School Department				525 Chandler Street	21.1	4.1	—	1- Multiuse Field		
	THORNDYKE ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	City of Worcester School Department				30 Thorndyke Road	5.3	0.7	—	1- Open Lawn		
	CLARK STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	City of Worcester School Department				280 Clark Street	16.7	8.9	—	3- Little League Fields 1- Baseball Field 1- Basketball Court 1- Open Lawn		
	ELM PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	City of Worcester School Department				33 North Ashland Street	4.2	1.3	—	1- Open Lawn		
	FLAGG STREET SCHOOL	City of Worcester School Department				115 Flagg Street	9.9	1.2	—	2- Basketball Courts 2- Open Lawns		
	NELSON PLACE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	City of Worcester School Department				35 Nelson Place	9.6	0.8	—	1- Softball Field		
	NORRBACK AVENUE SCHOOL	City of Worcester School Department				44 Malden Street	5.8	0.5	—	1- Open Lawn		
	FOLEY ATHLETIC COMPLEX	City of Worcester School Department				50 Abbott Street	14.1	9.4	—	1- Baseball Field 1- Football Field 4- Tennis Courts 1- Running Track 1- Open Lawn		

**Private School Properties**

FIELD/FACILITY NAME	ASSESORS OWNERSHIP					LOCATION/ADDRESS	TOTAL ACRES*	AREA (IN ACRES) OF EXISTING ATHLETIC FIELDS	SITES WITH MASTER PLANS COMPLETED/ IN PROGRESS	FIELDS IN USE		SUMMARY
BANCROFT SCHOOL	Bancroft School					110 Shore Drive	30.4	9.5	—	1- Baseball Field 1- Softball Field 8- Tennis Courts 1- Lacrosse Field 1- Field Hockey Field 1- Basketball Court 1- Open Lawn		
WORCESTER ACADEMY	Worcester Academy					81 Providence Street	10.7	0.5	—	1- Open Lawn		
ABBY KELLEY FOSTER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL	Abby Kelley Foster Charter					10 New Bond Street	15.0	3.6	—	1- Baseball/ Soccer Field (Syn) 1- Basketball Court 1- Open Lawn		
NOTRE DAME ACADEMY	Notre Dame Academy at Worcester INC					425 Salisbury Street	11.9	2.0	—	1- Softball Field 1- Open Lawn		
HOLY NAME JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL	Roman Catholic Bishop of Worcester					144 Granite Street	35.7	4.6	—	1- Soccer Field 1- Open Lawn		
ST. PETER-MARIAN CENTRAL CATHOLIC	Roman Catholic Bishop of Worcester					781 Grove Street	23.6	11.6	—	1- Softball Field 1- Baseball Field 1- Football Field 2- Open Lawns		

**State Colleges/Universities**

FIELD/FACILITY NAME	ASSESORS OWNERSHIP					LOCATION/ADDRESS	TOTAL ACRES*	AREA (IN ACRES) OF EXISTING ATHLETIC FIELDS	SITES WITH MASTER PLANS COMPLETED/ IN PROGRESS	FIELDS IN USE		SUMMARY
WORCESTER STATE UNIVERSITY	Commonwealth of Massachusetts Education					486 Chandler Street	49.5	3.4	—	1- Football Field 1- Running Track 3- Tennis Courts		
QUINSIGAMOND COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Commonwealth of Massachusetts Education					670 West Boylston Street	50.1	9.8	—	1- Football Field 1- Running Track 1- Baseball Field 1- Open Lawn		

**Private Colleges/Universities**

FIELD/FACILITY NAME	ASSESORS OWNERSHIP					LOCATION/ADDRESS	TOTAL ACRES*	AREA (IN ACRES) OF EXISTING ATHLETIC FIELDS	SITES WITH MASTER PLANS COMPLETED/ IN PROGRESS	FIELDS IN USE		SUMMARY
WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE	Worcester Polytechnic Institute					100 Institute Road	33.8	8.1	—	1- Football Field (Syn) 1- Running Track 1- Softball Field (Syn) 1- soccer/ Lacrosse Field (Syn) 6- Tennis Courts		

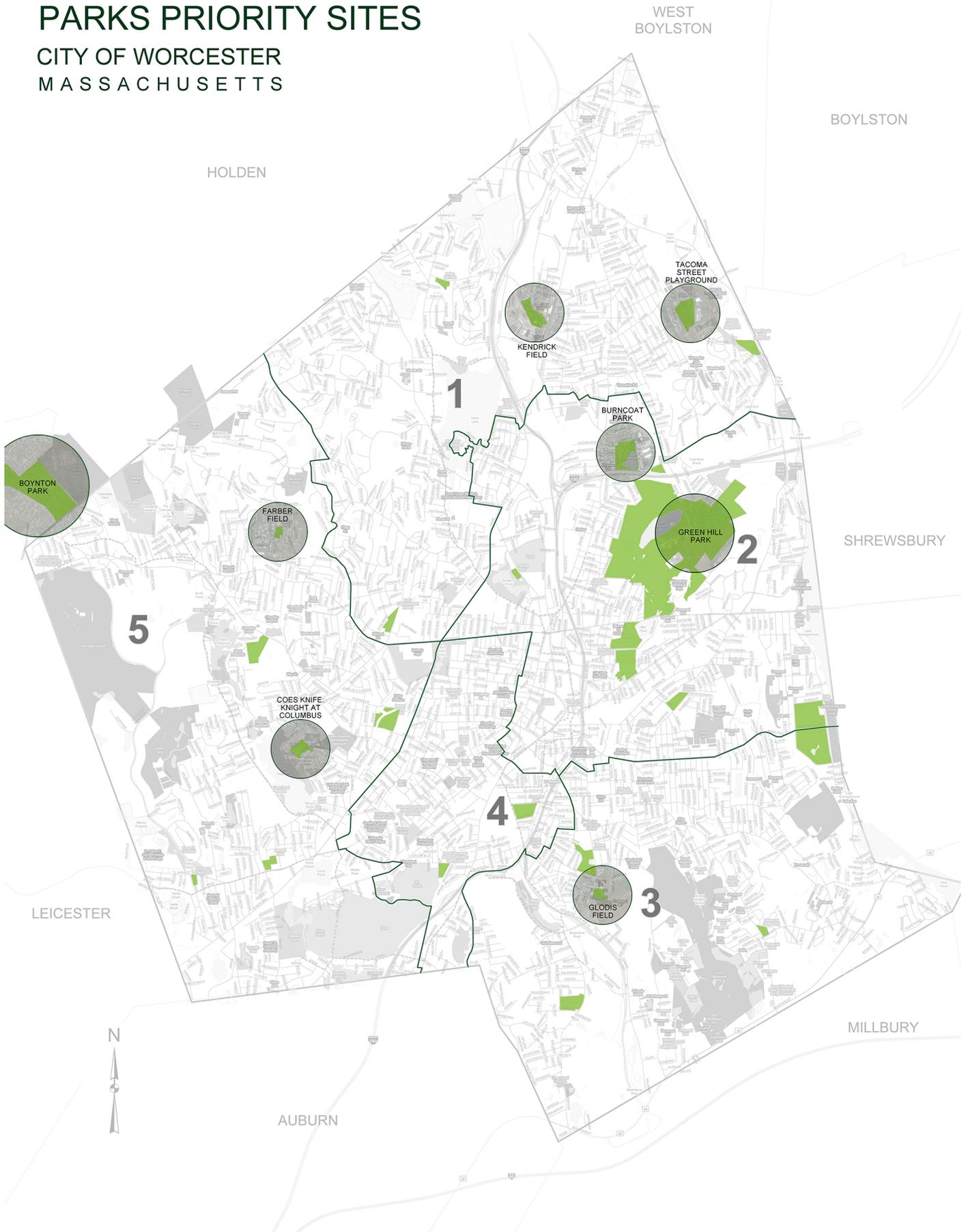
	<b>ASSUMPTION COLLEGE</b>	Assumption College				500 Salisbury Street	149.4	9.9	—	1- Baseball Field 1- Softball Field 8- Tennis Courts 1- Football Field 1- Open Lawn		
	<b>COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS</b>	College of the Holy Cross				1 College Road	207.6	26.8	—	1- Baseball Field 1- Softball Field 1- Football Field 1- Football/ Multiuse Field (Syn) 1- Running Track 1- Multiuse Field (Syn) 1- Soccer Field 8- Tennis Courts 1- Basketball Court 5- Open Lawns		
	<b>CLARK UNIVERSITY</b>	Clark University Trustees				950 Main Street	17.3	0.4	—	1- Open Lawn		





# PARKS PRIORITY SITES

CITY OF WORCESTER  
MASSACHUSETTS



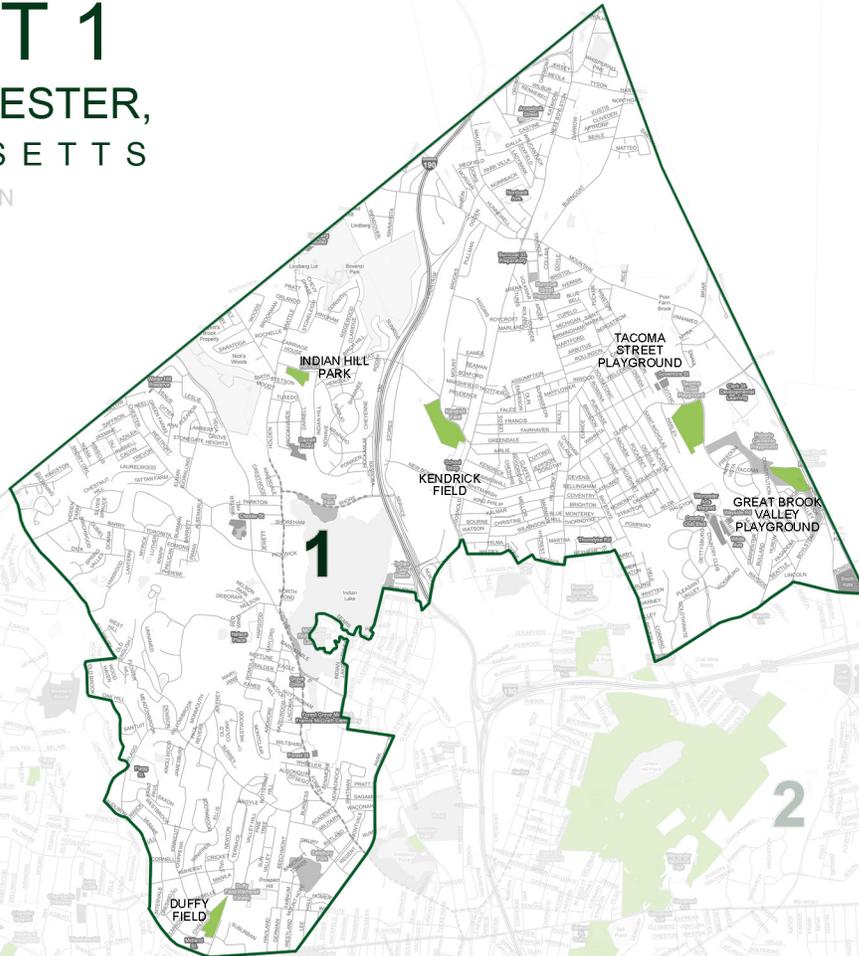
# DISTRICT 1

CITY OF WORCESTER,  
MASSACHUSETTS

HOLDEN

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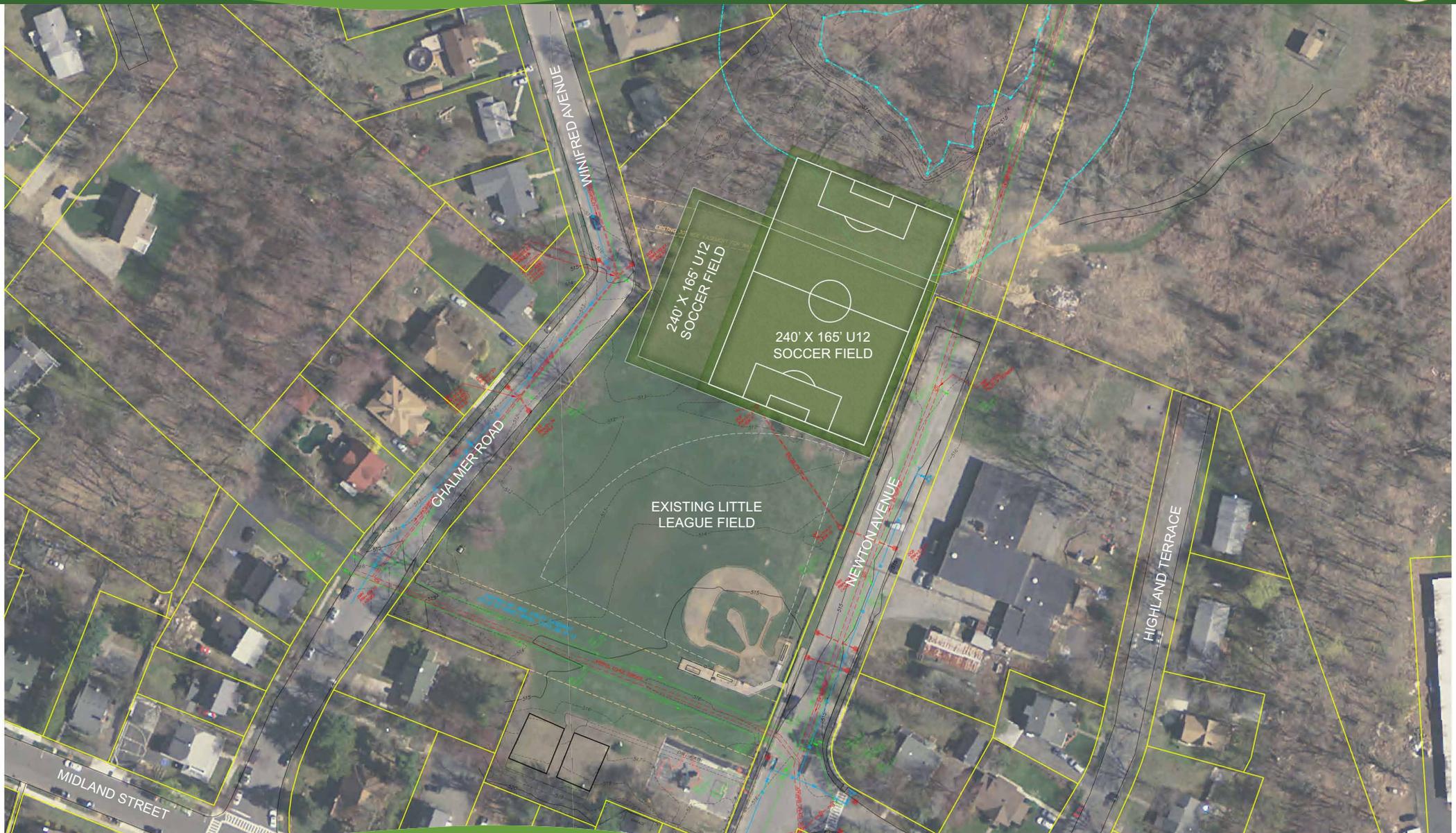


SHREWSBURY

LEICESTER

MILLBURY

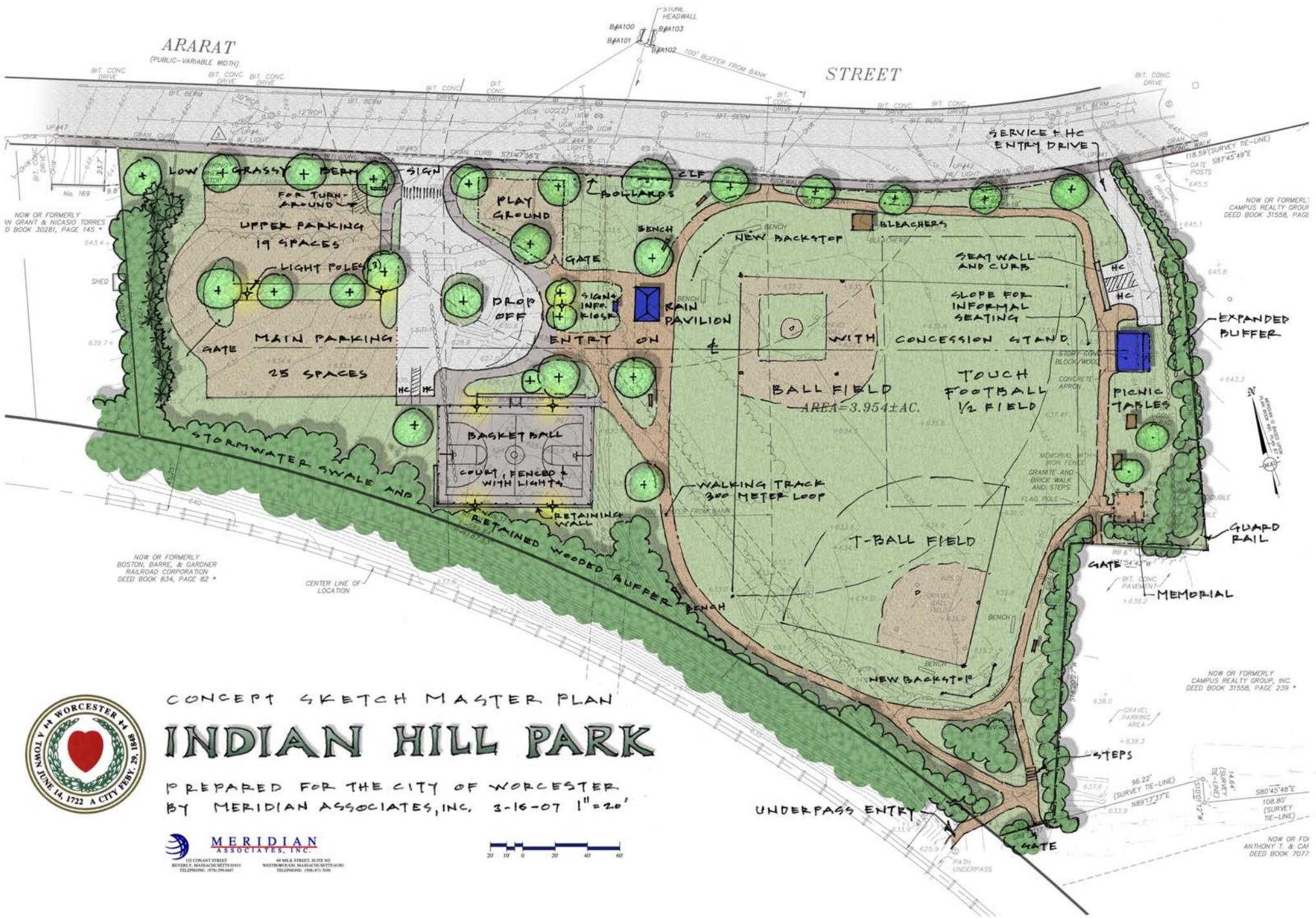
AUBURN





**ARARAT**  
(PUBLIC-VARIABLE WIDTH)

STREET



NOW OR FORMERLY  
IN GRANT & NICASIO TORRES  
D BOOK 30281, PAGE 145 \*

NOW OR FORMERLY  
CAMPUS REALTY GROUP  
DEED BOOK 31558, PAGE

NOW OR FORMERLY  
BOSTON, BARRIE & GARDNER  
RAILROAD CORPORATION  
DEED BOOK 834, PAGE 82 \*

NOW OR FORMERLY  
CAMPUS REALTY GROUP, INC.  
DEED BOOK 31558, PAGE 239 \*



CONCEPT SKETCH MASTER PLAN  
**INDIAN HILL PARK**

PREPARED FOR THE CITY OF WORCESTER  
BY MERIDIAN ASSOCIATES, INC. 3-16-07 1"=20'

**MERIDIAN ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
110 CONANT STREET  
BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS 01915  
TELEPHONE: (978) 266-6667  
60 MILA STREET, SUITE 202  
WATERBURY, MASSACHUSETTS 01567  
TELEPHONE: (978) 241-7000



NOW OR FOR  
ANTHONY T. & CAJ  
DEED BOOK 7077





# DISTRICT 2

CITY OF WORCESTER,  
MASSACHUSETTS

HOLDEN

WEST  
BOYLSTON

BOYLSTON



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SHREWSBURY

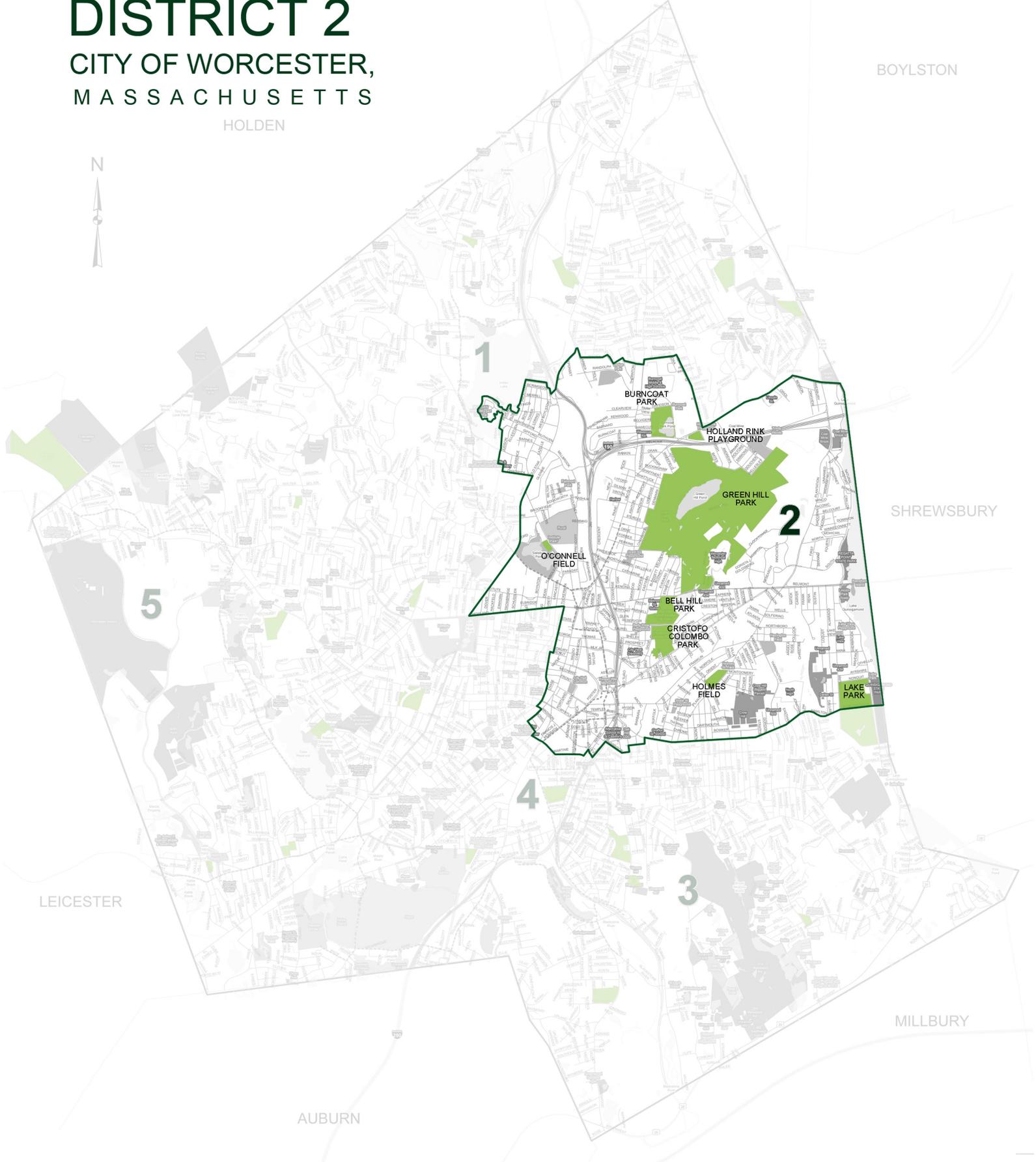
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LEICESTER

MILLBURY

AUBURN



# Rectangular Fields Study

# BELL HILL (CHANDLER) PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS



# Rectangular Fields Study

# BELL HILL (CHANDLER) PARK PROPOSED WORK



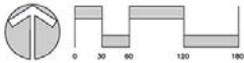


# Rectangular Fields Study

# BURNCOAT (NORTH) PARK PROPOSED WORK



FINAL MASTER PLAN BURNCOAT PARK



# Rectangular Fields Study

# GREEN HILL PARK

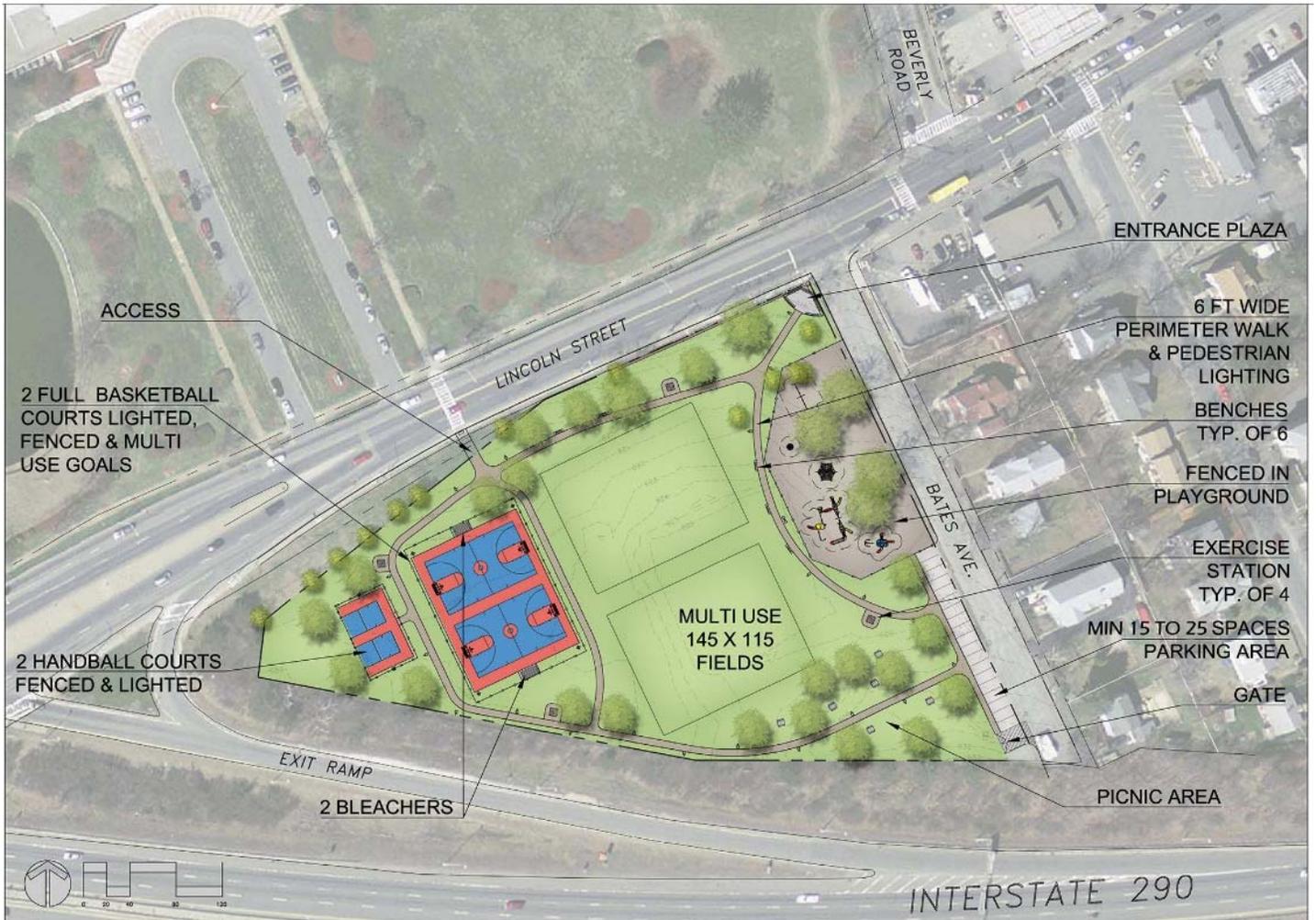


# Rectangular Fields Study

# GREEN HILL PARK



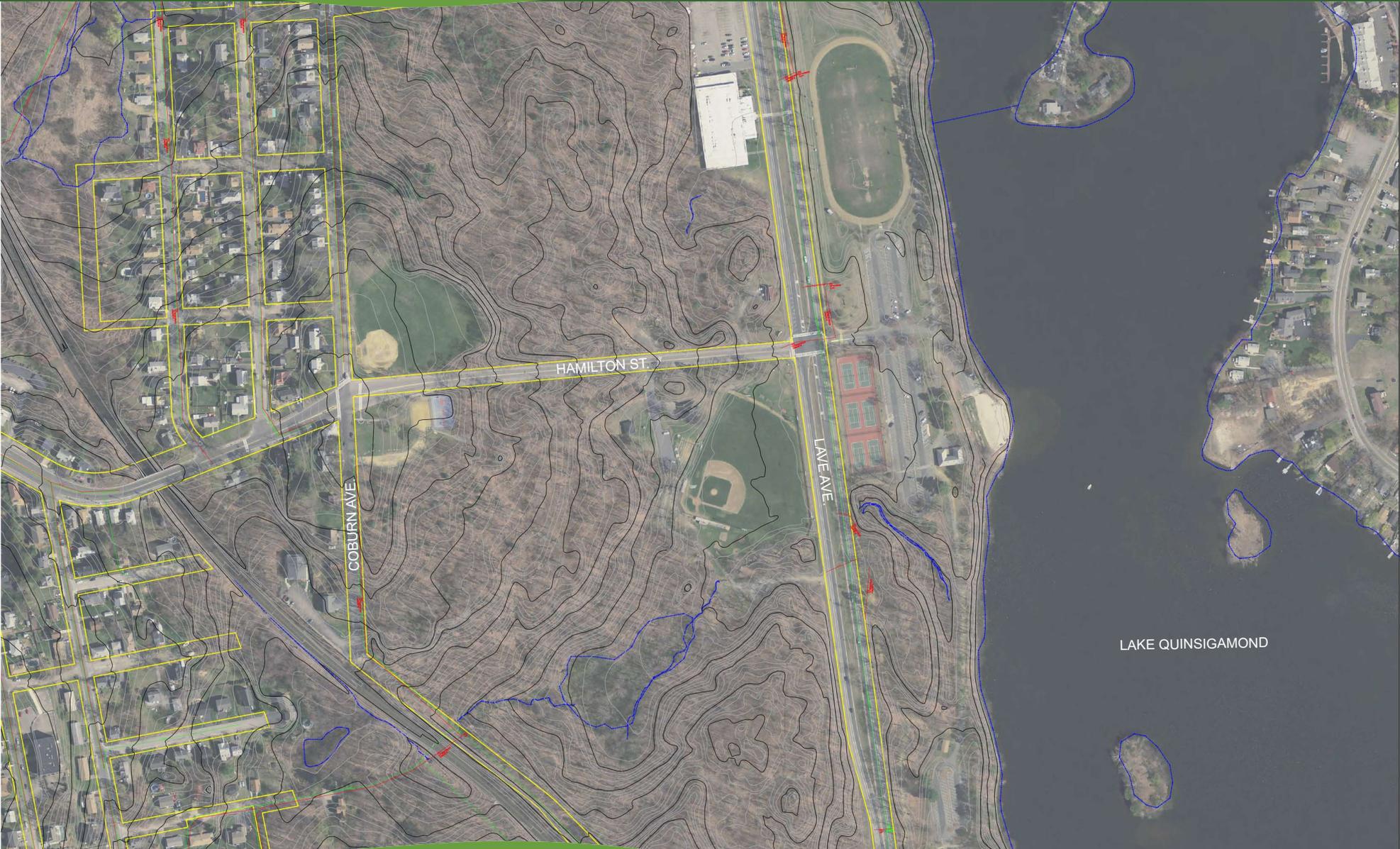
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# Rectangular Fields Study

# LAKE PARK



# Rectangular Fields Study

LAKE PARK



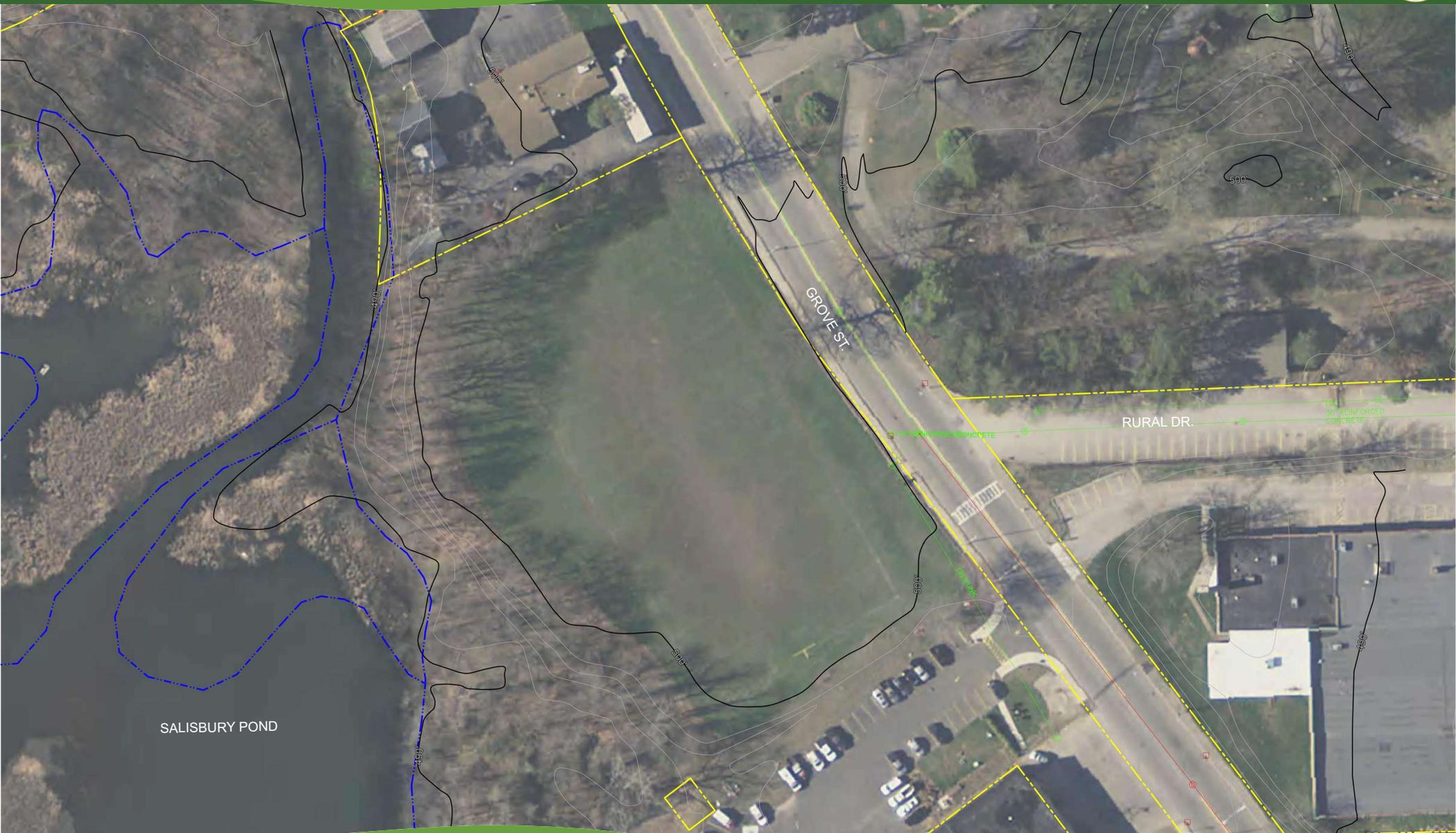
City of Worcester, Massachusetts



SPORTS & RECREATION | **Weston & Sampson**  
When it's essential... it's Weston & Sampson.

# Rectangular Fields Study

# O'CONNELL FIELD AT INSTITUTE PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS



# Rectangular Fields Study

## O'CONNELL FIELD AT INSTITUTE PARK PROPOSED WORK



# DISTRICT 3

CITY OF WORCESTER,  
MASSACHUSETTS

HOLDEN

WEST  
BOYLSTON

BOYLSTON



1

2

5

SHREWSBURY

4

LEICESTER

VERNON HILL  
PARK

GLODIS  
FIELD

3

BLITHEWOOD  
PARK

GREENWOOD  
PARK

MILLBURY

AUBURN

# Rectangular Fields Study

# BLITHEWOOD PARK



# Rectangular Fields Study

GLODIS FIELD



City of Worcester, Massachusetts

Scale: 1" = 50'

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When it's essential... it's Weston & Sampson.



# Rectangular Fields Study

# VERNON HILL PARK



# DISTRICT 4

CITY OF WORCESTER,  
MASSACHUSETTS

HOLDEN

WEST  
BOYLSTON

BOYLSTON



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SHREWSBURY

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CROMPTON  
PARK

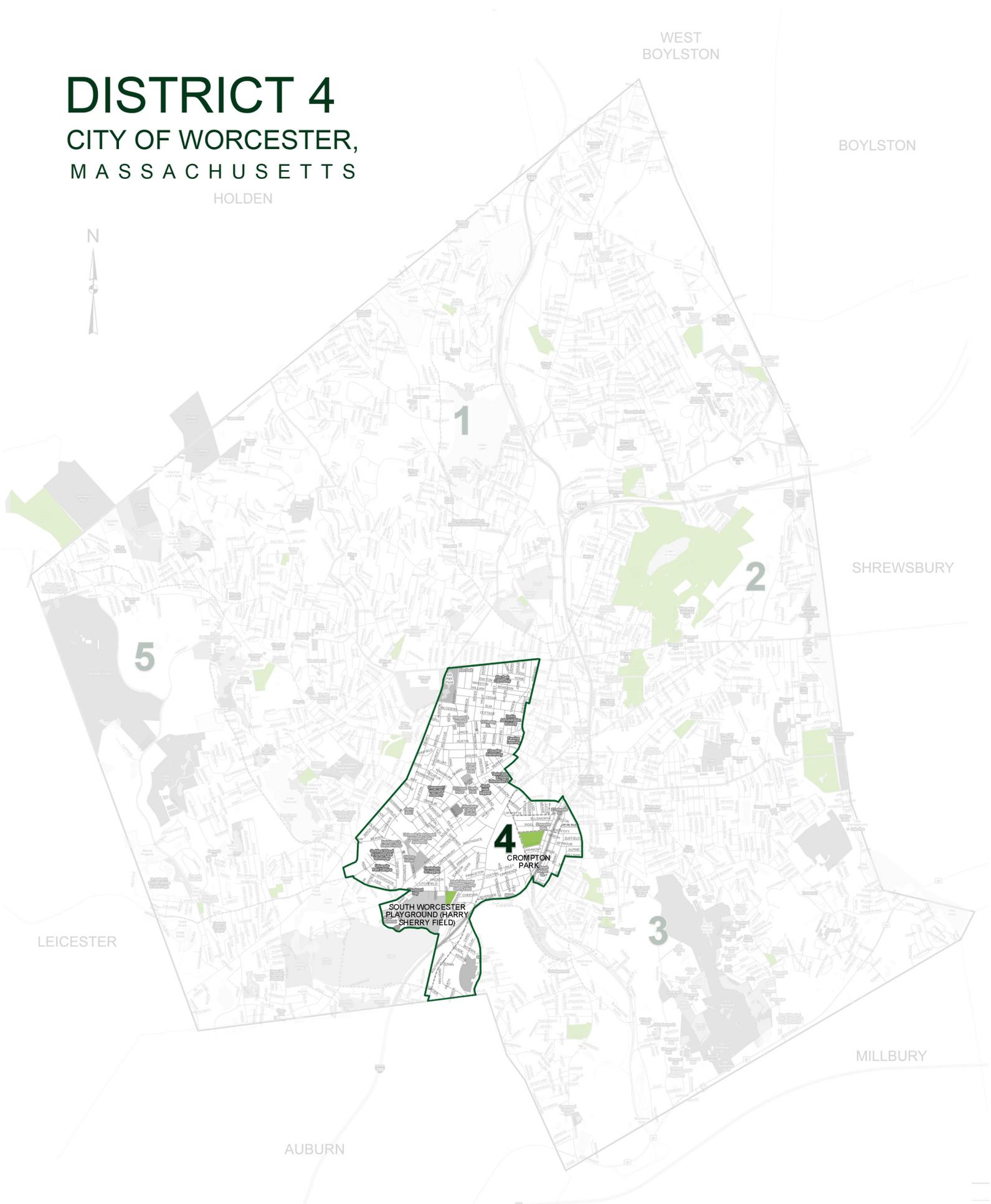
SOUTH WORCESTER  
PLAYGROUND (HARRY  
SHERRY FIELD)

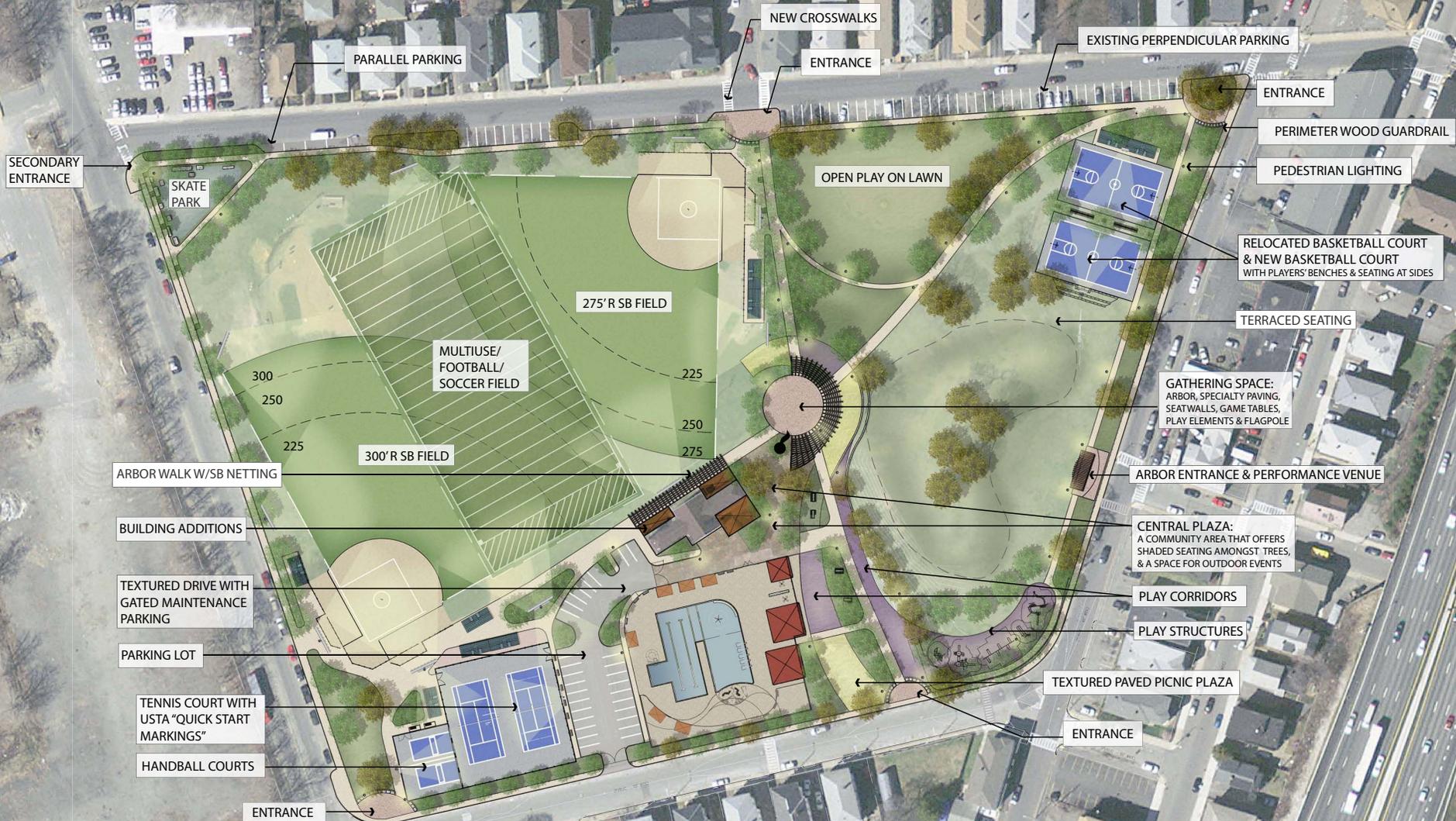
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LEICESTER

MILLBURY

AUBURN







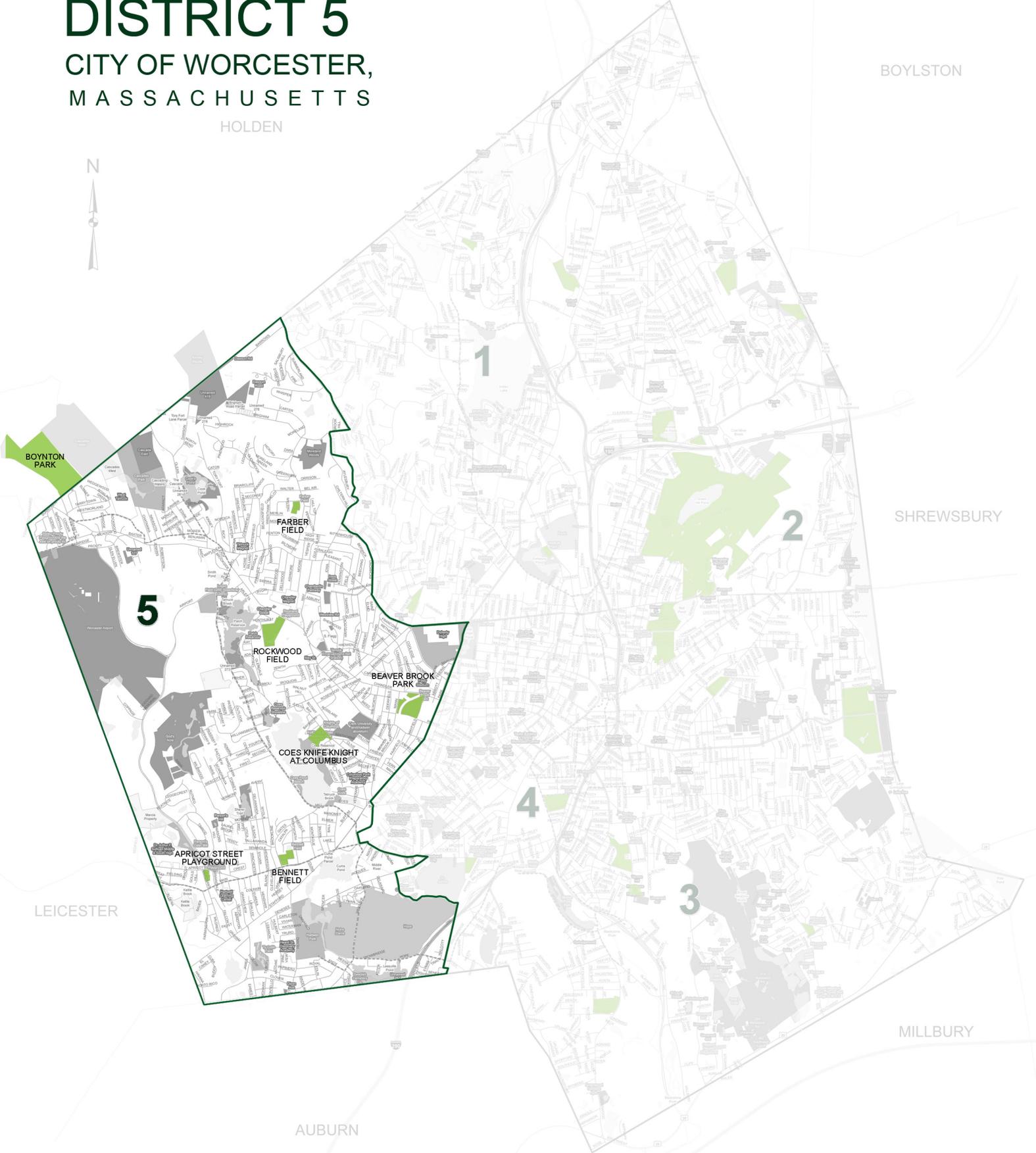
# DISTRICT 5

CITY OF WORCESTER,  
MASSACHUSETTS

HOLDEN

WEST  
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BOYLSTON



BOYNTON  
PARK

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FARBER  
FIELD

ROCKWOOD  
FIELD

BEAVER BROOK  
PARK

COES KNIFE KNIGHT  
AT COLUMBUS

APRICOT STREET  
PLAYGROUND

BENNETT  
FIELD

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3

SHREWSBURY

LEICESTER

MILLBURY

AUBURN



# Rectangular Fields Study

# BEAVER BROOK PARK





Dept. Of Public Works & Parks  
 Capital Project Division  
 ROBERT C. ANTONELLI, JR.  
 Assistant Commissioner

## BEAVER BROOK PARK OVERALL SITE IMPROVEMENTS & PLAYFIELD LAYOUTS

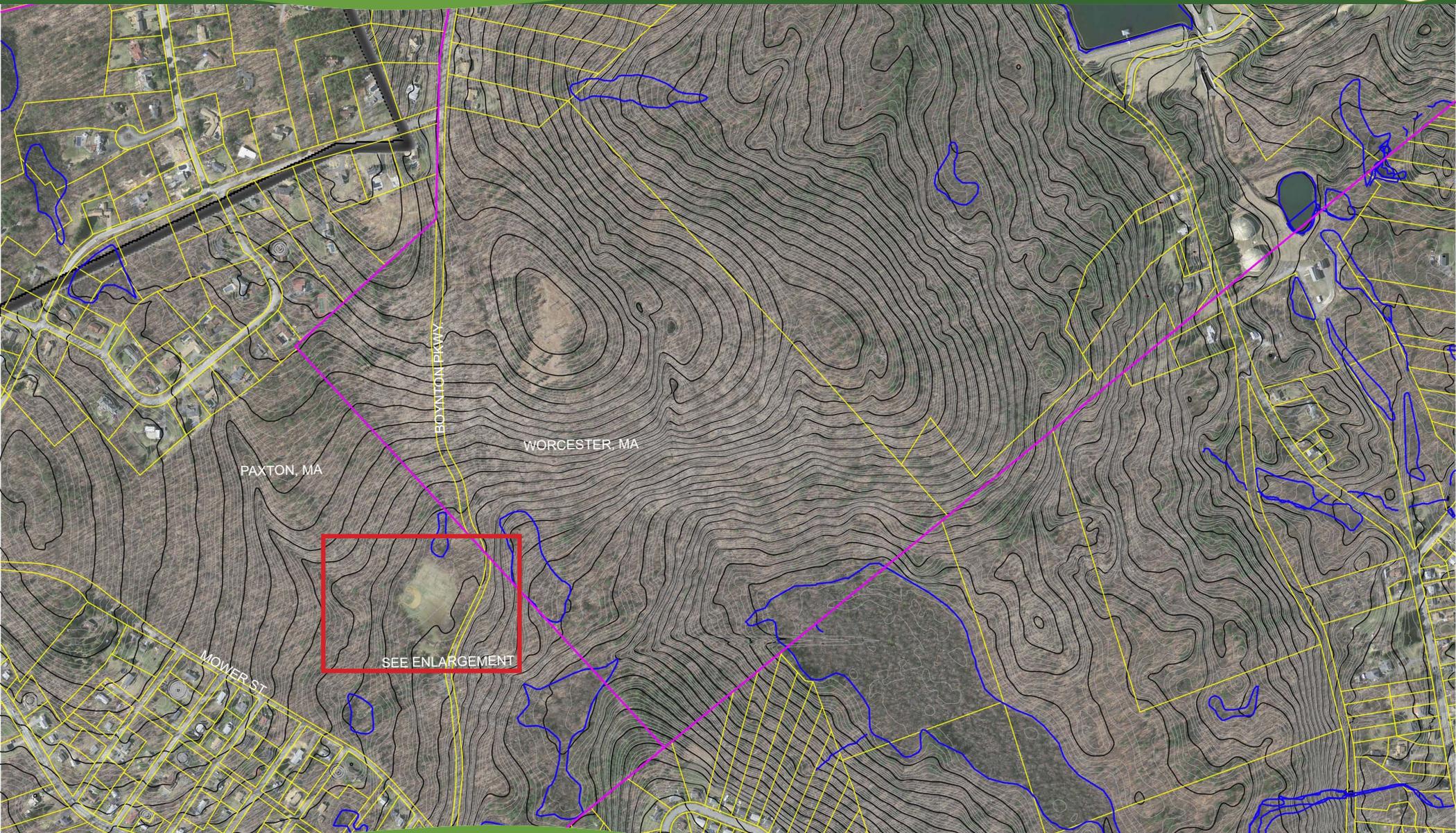
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# Rectangular Fields Study

## BOYNTON PARK OVERALL PLAN



# Rectangular Fields Study

## BOYNTON PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS



# Rectangular Fields Study

## BOYNTON PARK PROPOSED WORK





Figure 7 - Master Plan - New City Parcels (former Knights of Columbus and Fenton Parcels).

# Rectangular Fields Study

# FARBER FIELD



# Rectangular Fields Study

# ROCKWOOD FIELD







# DPW & Parks - Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division

## Rectangular Field Master Plan Public Hearing # 1

Green Hill Park - Monday, October 15, 2015 @ 6:30 PM

Robert C. Antonelli Jr., Assistant Commissioner



	Name	Address	Phone No.	Affiliation/Resident
1	Ben Ben			Carpenters 107
2				
3	Joshua Blinski			African Community Association
4	Stephen Chiavardi			Clark University
5	Cassie Giardina			CETS
6	ED TARVUZZER			WYSL
7	Sim Sato			WYSL Dir of Trans
8	Jonathan Hardy-Lavie			Resident
9	GEORGE SEDARIS			100th Ave Commissioner
10				
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	Name	Address	Phone No.	Affiliation/Resident
21	Kenn Ksen			PSNNC
22	Cassie Giardina			CETS
23	MARLA CARRERA			WYSL/ACE
24	ELIZABETH CROWTHER			ClarkV. CDP student
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# DPW & Parks - Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division

## Rectangular Field Master Plan Public Hearing # 3

City Hall Council Chambers - December 09, 2015 @ 6:30 PM

Robert C. Antonelli Jr., Assistant Commissioner



	Name	Address	Phone No.	Affiliation/Resident
1	ERIC GOLDSTEIN			PARKS COMM.
2	FUERTER BACH			WRFC
3	Greg Whelan			WRFC
4	Ryan Leonard			WRFC
5	Jamie Gniasck			RugBY
6	Chris Monaghan			Rugby
7	Ryan McKeon			Rugby
8	Elizabeth McCarthy			Rugby
9	GEORGE CORDELL			WRFC
10	MARK LAVIGNE			WRFC RUGBY
11	Stephen Chiavola			ACE
12	BOB FITZGERALD			Winc. world cup
13	Mohamed Elmadiq			WRFC Soccer
14	JEFF TURGEON			WRFC HOUSE
15	Glen Koen			WRFC
16	Jason Heck			WRFC
17	Cassie Giardino			CETS
18	Sharon Hernandez			WRFC
19	JAMES ECHEVEZ			"
20	ROBERTA HUBBARD			WRFC-RUGBY

	Name	Address	Phone No.	Affiliation/Resident
21	BILL MUELLER			RUGBY
22	Matt Dufresne			Worc. Gaelic Athletic Assoc.
23	Manuel Reyes			Worcester World Cup
24	Joshua Plisinski			American Community Education
25	Jonathan Hardy-Levoie			Resident
26	Martha Hebeh			Worcester World Cup Cultural Ex. Through Soccer
27	Sean Hilliga			Worcester Rugby
28	MAT NILES			Worcester Rugby
29	Meg Brunelle			Worcester Field Hockey
30	Joseph Sanchez			Worcester Rugby Youth
31	Paul Foley			Worcester Rugby
32	Ling Crowther			Community Dev. + Planning
33	MARLA CARRERA			SOCCER COACH
34	JARA SAMMERS			Worc. Rugby
35	Bridget Simmons			Rugby
36	Sarah Luddy			Rugby
37	Tim Knies			Rugby
38	Charles Allison			Soccer
39	Prince T. Sordon			Soccer
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# CITY OF WORCESTER

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division 50 Skyline Drive Worcester, MA 01605-2898

Paul J. Moosey, P.E.  
Commissioner



Robert C. Antonelli, Jr., CPRP  
Assistant Commissioner

(508) 799-1190  
(508) 799-1293 FAX

Edward M. Augustus, Jr., City Manager

## PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING Sign-in Sheet

Thursday, December 15, 2016  
6:30 p.m.

**(PRINT ONLY)**

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address/Organization</u>	<u>Item of Interest</u>	<u>Email</u>
1.	Tim Rai			raitul@yahoo.com
2.				
3.	Samir Crunicy			
4.	Meredith Rai			
5.	Jonathan Hardy-Lawie	CETS	Soccer Fields	
6.				
7.				
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21.				

# CITY OF WORCESTER

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS

Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division 50 Skyline Drive Worcester, MA 01605-2898

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**(PRINT ONLY)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address/Organization</u>	<u>Item of Interest</u>	<u>Email</u>
1. George Cotes		soccer fields	
2. Taming Nagar		Soccer fields	
3. Dawid Gurevich			
4. Tom Quinn		benches	
5. Kiran Nagar		soccer fields	
6. Bishal Nagar		soccer fields	
7.			
8. Colin Nowicki		Rest Fields	colin@gwlt.org
9.			
10. James Ahey		East Hill Park	
11. Joe Sanchez		Rugby fields / PARTNERSHIP	to maintain
12.			fields
13.			
14.			
15.			
16.			
17.			
18.			
19.			
20.			
21.			

# Petition to create a new soccer field at Great Brook Valley

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Yadiel			I love Soccer	11/5/15
Mohama dunn				11/30/15
Dauda			love soccer	11/30/15
Abdul			Soccer is life	11/30/15
Abdurazid			Soccer is Fun	11/30/15
Abdulrashid			Soccer is Famous	11/30/15
Jesus Santos			Love Soccer	11/30/15
Angelis De la Cruz			I love soccer	11/30/15
Cesar Rivera			I like soccer	11/30/15
Melody Aviles			I love soccer	11/30/15
Nashma Melendez			I like Soccer	11/30/15
<del>Nashma Melendez</del>			good sport	11/30/15
Luis Delcid			Good sport	11/30/15
Chris De la Cruz			I like to Play soccer	11/30/15
Abdulkarim			Soccer is the best	11/30/15

# Petition to create a new soccer field at Great Brook Valley

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
David Mohammed			We need soccer field	11/13/15
Adem Mohamed				11/13/15
Mohamed El Fadl				11/13/15
Abdulhadi Adum				
Indham Anwar			Love soccer	11/13/15
Ilyas Adam				11/13/15
Abdulkadir Omar				11/13/15
Mohamed Adam				11/13/15
Yohan Weshah				11-23-15
Rawad Mubana				11-23-15
Hami Mubana				11-23-15
Yahya Kozaz				11-24-15
Mustafa Kibiz			#Soccer is life	11-24-15
David Beck			I'm for real	
Mohamed				



## *Natick Recreation and Parks Department*

*"CREATE COMMUNITY THROUGH PEOPLE, PARKS & PROGRAMS"*

# **Field Rules & Regulations**

## **General Rules and Regulations**

The Town of Natick and Director of Recreation & Parks, Land Facilities Supervisor, High School Athletic Director or an authorized representative retains the right to set conditions and requirements suitable for safe, reasonable, and orderly use of the parks and fields. Violation of rules and regulations may result in the field use permit being revoked.

1. Any person (s) violating the established Rules and Regulations or constituting a public nuisance may be required to leave the premises.
2. Permit holders are only to use those fields specifically designated on the permit. There may be another group following yours, so it is essential that the field is vacated by the scheduled ending time.
3. The reservation is for field use only. Field permits are issued "AS IS": bases, goals, balls and other equipment are not included in the permit.
4. All trash must be placed in proper receptacles. User groups are responsible for making sure the area is picked up at the end of their daily use period (this includes under bleachers and the perimeter of the field). We take pride in our green initiatives.
5. Drills that result in excessive wear shall be conducted outside of the marked playing surface. Please do not use lines for impact running drills.
6. User groups are expected to use good judgment to ensure unnecessary wear during non game time activities.
7. Vehicles may not be driven or parked on turf areas, sidewalks, service driveways, or emergency zones, no exceptions.
8. There is no alcohol or tobacco consumption allowed on Town owned property.
9. There is no subletting of any field or facility in the Town of Natick. Permit holder must be present on site during the field or facility usage.
10. Full responsibility and liability for property damage will be assumed by the user group.



## *Natick Recreation and Parks Department*

*"CREATE COMMUNITY THROUGH PEOPLE, PARKS & PROGRAMS"*

### **General Rules and Regulations Continued**

11. The Town of Natick carries no medical insurance for users of its facilities. Users participate at their own risk of injury.
12. There is to be no trespassing on a butter's property for any reason.
13. There is no grilling (either gas or charcoal) allowed at the fields in town.
14. The Town of Natick asks that all pets be on leashes. Under no circumstances should pets be on playing surfaces.
15. Use of Lights, Bathrooms Facilities or PA System requires prior approval.

*Please note the following field specific policies:*

#### **Synthetic Field and Track Use**

- ✓ Proper foot wear at all times on both the track and synthetic field.
- ✓ No items of any kind should be placed on the track surface, including bags, tables, and goals.
- ✓ Walkway mats shall be used by all user groups to access the synthetic surface. The user group shall be responsible for rolling up the protective mat after each use. The mat shall be the only pathway to access the synthetic surface with cleats on.
- ✓ Water only, no other sport drinks or beverages allowed on track or synthetic surface.

#### **Baseball and Softball**

- ✓ Soft toss against fences shall not be allowed.
- ✓ Standing water SHALL NOT be shoveled, bucketed, or swept out in any fashion. Field grooming shall be conducted by the LFNR staff, or by approved individuals that have been properly instructed by the LFNR supervisor.
- ✓ Only those amendments approved by LFNR shall be used for water removal and infield conditioning.



## *Natick Recreation and Parks Department*

*"CREATE COMMUNITY THROUGH PEOPLE, PARKS & PROGRAMS"*

### **Rainy Days/Wet Fields**

All fields (with the exception of artificial turf) in the Town of Natick are closed for use by anyone during the months of late November – through March. To prevent damage and for safety reasons, the fields are not to be used in rain, wet, frost or frozen conditions. Please do not allow your participants to play in any unsafe conditions and report such conditions (if necessary) to the Land Facilities Division at (508) 647-6558.

**If there are questions as to whether or not a field can be played on, you should check the posting on the town website.** Change in status due to changing weather conditions will be updated by 2pm for daily evening play and by 7am for weekend play.

#### **Guidelines for cancellation of activity on Town/School fields:**

1. If a footstep leaves an impression on the turf or if the grass is removed easily with a cleat, this is considered a wet field.
2. Standing puddles of water on a field, ground is water logged and/or squishy.
3. Footing is unsure and slippery.
4. Lightening or thunder is present or severe weather warnings are present.
5. Unsafe facility conditions – glass, exposed stones and rocks, etc.
6. Frost present or frozen fields.

#### **Youth Group Field Coordinators Responsibilities**

Although fields may be open for play, weather and field conditions may deteriorate by game time, in these situations, it is the responsibility of the field use coordinator to determine whether or not to resume play.

#### **Closed or restricted areas:**

A closed field area is at the discretion of the Director of Recreation & Parks, Land Facilities Supervisor, NHS Athletic Director or the Town's designee. Any section or part of any park, facility or field may be declared closed to the public at any time for any interval of time, either temporarily or at regularly scheduled maintenance intervals.

Knowledge of a group playing on or damaging turf may result in the immediate cancellation of that permit and/or fines imposed to repair such damage. Please call the Land Facilities Department to report damage immediately at 508 647-6558. **Refunds will not be issued for inclement weather but every effort will be made to reschedule the event.**

**Trustees of Memorial Park  
Park and Recreation Commission  
Town of Needham, Massachusetts**

**JOINT POLICY**

**Use of Athletic Field Lights at Memorial Park and DeFazio Park**

*This joint policy was approved by both boards in October 2006 and revised in May 2008 through the decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Memorial Park's regulations were again revised in December 2009 through a decision by the Zoning Board of Appeals, and DeFazio Park was revised by the Zoning Board of Appeals in May 2010.*

The Needham Park and Recreation Commission and the Trustees of Memorial Park have set the following rules for use of athletic field lights at public parks in Needham under their jurisdiction and administration, with the support of the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee. The Memorial Park Trustees will make specific decisions related to Memorial Park; the Park and Recreation Commission will make decisions related to DeFazio Park. *For purposes of this joint policy, a super majority of the Memorial Park Trustees shall mean five (5) of the six (6) trustees would have to approve the issue or request and a super majority of the Park and Recreation Commissioners shall mean four (4) of the five (5) commissioners would have to approve the issue or request. A super majority for each board will be adjusted to account for any unfilled vacancy on the board.*

Organizations using lights on athletic fields are expected to be respectful of the neighborhoods surrounding Memorial Park and DeFazio Park by strictly adhering to the Joint Policy and taking special care to minimize noise and other impacts to the neighborhoods.

1. The organization requesting use of the lights must complete an official Field Permit Request through the Park and Recreation Department. Some requests will also require the completion of a Special Event Request form to either the Memorial Park Trustees or the Park and Recreation Commission. Proof of Insurance is required when submitting the permit request. All existing policies, rules and regulations regarding use of athletic fields remain in effect. Requests must be submitted at least thirty (30) days in advance of use. Late requests will not be considered without a super majority vote by the jurisdictional board.
2. The permit request must include the reason for use of athletic field lights and the anticipated number of participants/spectators: practice, game, special event, and/or tournament. Other than for a Needham High School scheduled or makeup game on a Friday night or Saturday night or a Needham High School playoff game, no requests for permits will be considered for the use of the athletic field lights in conjunction with public address systems, music or other amplified systems. Consistent with other town policies, the use of all illegal substances, including the consumption of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited at Memorial Park and DeFazio Park.

**JOINT POLICY**

**Use of Athletic Field Lights at Memorial Park and DeFazio Park  
Park and Recreation Commission and Trustees of Memorial Park  
Most Recent Update: May 2010**

3. The organization requesting the permit must have an official standing with the Town of Needham: residents, employers or employees of Needham businesses, non-profit organization with local/regional affiliation. The individual making the request must be associated with the organization and is responsible for the adherence to all rules and regulations relating to the use of the fields.
4. Needham High School requests must be made through the Director of Athletics and Activities; other Needham Public School requests must be made through a school principal or administrator.
5. Out of respect for the observation of religious/civic holidays, the Park and Recreation Commission and Memorial Park Trustees reserve the right to restrict use of athletic field lights on designated days.
6. Lights may be requested during the following time frames:

Each year will be divided into four (4) seasons as follows:

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
December 1 <sup>st</sup> to March 31 <sup>st</sup>	April 1 <sup>st</sup> to June 30 <sup>th</sup>	July 1 <sup>st</sup> to August 31 <sup>st</sup>	September 1 <sup>st</sup> to November 30 <sup>th</sup>

Other than a Special Event, no permit will be issued for any use of lights during Winter other than for a request from the Needham High School Director of Athletics to use a synthetic turf field for Needham High School practices after the third Monday in March. Subject to Sections 7 and 8 below, any permit granted will be limited to the following restrictions:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Closed	Off at 9:00 p.m.	Memorial: Off at 10:00 p.m.  DeFazio: Off at 9:00 p.m.	Off at 9:00 p.m.			

Subject to Section 8, all games and practices end a reasonable time before the lights are scheduled to go off. Players, coaches, league officials, parents and other visitors are required to exit the park complex immediately after the lights are shut off.

7. The time limits for special events may be waived by a supermajority vote of the Park and Recreation Commission or the Memorial Park Trustees and approval of the Board of

## **JOINT POLICY**

### **Use of Athletic Field Lights at Memorial Park and DeFazio Park Park and Recreation Commission and Trustees of Memorial Park Most Recent Update: May 2010**

Selectmen. The Park and Recreation Commission or Memorial Park Trustees will first allow discussions at two meetings or special meeting agendas prior to voting their final decision. Affirmative vote of the board will then be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for approval at their next meeting.

8. At DeFazio, Needham High School reserves the right to complete varsity games that extend beyond the designated time for the lights to be shut off, but only if the start time is no later than 7:00 p.m. and in no event will the extended cut off time be later than 10 p.m. At Memorial, Needham High School reserves the right to complete varsity games that extend beyond the designated time for the lights to be shut off, but only if the start time is no later than 7:00 p.m. and in no event will the extended cut off time be later than 11 p.m. *Per Zoning Board of Appeals decisions.*
9. All trash must be picked up before the representatives of the organizations leave at the conclusion of the event. Trash must be placed in appropriate trash receptacles or removed from the site.
10. Organizations must request that all vehicles connected to the event utilize the parking lots available at Memorial Park and DeFazio Park. Auxiliary parking lots are available at Needham High School for Memorial Park events and the Department of Public Works for DeFazio Park events. Parking is not permitted in the neighborhoods adjacent to Memorial Park or DeFazio Park for purposes of attending an event at Memorial Park or DeFazio Park.
11. The Park and Recreation Commission and the Memorial Park Trustees will set an hourly rate for use of athletic field lights, and an estimated payment equal to the permitted hours is due when the permit is issued. The Park and Recreation Commission and Memorial Park Trustees will credit any unused time to future uses. To conserve energy, preserve the funds of organizations and limit the impact on the neighborhoods, each organization should make sure to notify the Park and Recreation Department during normal business hours 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. of any time when lights are scheduled but will not be used.
12. An organization violating any of the rules and regulations for use of athletic field lights will (1) be given a written warning for a first offense; (2) have use of lights taken away until appearing before the jurisdictional board at a public meeting resolving the conflicts that led to the second offense; and (3) for a third offense, lose use of the lights for the remainder of the season.
13. The Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing upon written request of four (4) households directly effected by the use of the lights at DeFazio Park or Memorial Park who have exercised good faith efforts to resolve their complaints by consultation with the Field Lights Advisory Committee (if it remains in existence) and the Park and Recreation Department and that following such public hearing the Board may modify the Special Permit. Notice of such hearing will be given in accordance with the procedures for an

## **JOINT POLICY**

### **Use of Athletic Field Lights at Memorial Park and DeFazio Park Park and Recreation Commission and Trustees of Memorial Park Most Recent Update: May 2010**

application to amend the Special Permit. The households requesting the hearing will not be required to pay an application fee, but shall pay the cost of any newspaper notice of the hearing.

14. To make any recommendations for changes to this Joint Policy, the jurisdictional boards must initially approve to review the Joint Policy by a super majority vote of each board. Following this approval, each jurisdictional board will allow discussions on two meeting or special meeting agendas prior to voting its final decision, including holding at least one (1) public meeting. The jurisdictional board will use reasonable effort to invite abutters and neighbors and other interested parties to these meetings. Affirmative votes will then be forwarded to the Board of Selectmen for approval at their next meeting. Any such changes shall then be forwarded to the Zoning Board of Appeals, who, in its sole discretion shall determine if said change is minor, not requiring a public hearing for implementation, or substantial, requiring a public hearing, after such notice as the Board in its sole discretion shall appropriate. *Per Zoning Board of Appeals decision*
15. Control over the physical operation of the lights, e.g. turning on and off, shall be held by the holder of the title of Director of the Needham Park and Recreation Commission, or if a vacancy should occur, the person designated to act as such by the Town acting through its Park and Recreation Commission, or if such Commission is no longer in existence at such time, the Board of Selectmen. No other person, group or entity shall have the right to operate the lights, except in the case of an emergency. *Per Zoning Board of Appeals decision*

\* \* \* \* \*

CITY OF WALTHAM  
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**2016 ATHLETIC FIELD AND RECREATION FACILITY  
PERMIT POLICY**

**Policy Statement**

The City of Waltham’s Recreation Department has adopted the following policies regarding use of athletic fields and recreational facilities requiring a permit. Permits are required for organized groups using facilities during a fixed time period. It is the Recreation Department’s responsibility to provide the following policies and procedures that govern the use of athletic fields and recreational facilities for scheduling purposes, to help ensure responsible usage, and safety on properties under their jurisdiction.

**Definitions**

Applicant:	Refers to individual of an organized group responsible for completing permit application and abiding by policies and conditions set forth in the permit.
Facility:	Refers to the location and appropriate name of property requesting use of.
Waltham Resident:	Refers to individuals who reside within the City of Waltham.
Non-Resident:	Refers to individuals who do not reside within the City of Waltham.
Waltham Youth Organization:	Any youth group based in the City of Waltham with a purpose to provide support and services to the youth of Waltham. Each youth group must have a governing Board of Directors consisting of Waltham adults.
Non-Profit Groups:	Any group acting as a non-profit organization with proof of such declared status.
User:	Refers to an individual, group, or organization that utilizes property under the jurisdiction of the City of Waltham’s Recreation Department.

## Policies

- Organized groups using City of Waltham Recreation Department athletic fields and related recreational facilities require permits.
- Those properties not requiring a permit are open to the public on a first-come, first served basis.
- No person shall enter or be present on City of Waltham Recreation Dept. properties after dark unless authorized by the Recreation Department.
- All facility users must comply with the terms and conditions of the permit agreement, policies, and procedures, City of Waltham ordinances pertaining to said properties, and rules and regulations posted at all Recreation Department properties.
- Athletic fields or related recreational facilities may be reserved and designated for a specified use and time period.
- Allocation of permits will be based on availability, scheduling needs, field conditions, renovations, and control measures implemented by the Recreation Department, subject to approval from the Recreation Board.
- The Recreation Department may require liability insurance coverage and City of Waltham Police details when deemed necessary as a condition to approving a permit request. Liability Insurance and costs for police coverage would be at the applicant's expense.
- The Recreation Department reserves the right to charge additional fees for camps, clinics, tournaments, and special events held on properties under their jurisdiction. The Recreation Department also reserves the right to charge additional fees to large groups and/or functions due to increased expenses incurred for upkeep, maintenance and personnel needs.
- The Recreation Department may require a security deposit be paid and/or utility fees in addition to permit fees charged to reserve facilities. It is the responsibility of the group using the facility to leave an athletic field/recreational facility in the condition it was in prior to their use.
- Groups are not allowed to practice or play games on any field that has standing water on it, or during thunder storms/lightning activities. Groups will be held responsible for the repair of any field on which they played in standing water, wet or unfavorable conditions, and caused damage to the field. Failure to pay for repairs will be sufficient to revoke all future permit use.

- The permit holder must be present at the facility during the time stated on the permit. The permit holder must be in possession of the permit at the athletic field and/or related facility and be prepared to produce the permit upon proper request by representatives of the Recreation Department or any city official, including the police. Failure to produce a valid permit when requested is grounds for expulsion from the athletic field or facility and such further action as the Recreation Department may determine to be appropriate under the circumstances.
- Re-allocation or subletting of facilities by a permit holder to any other person or group is prohibited. If it is determined such action was granted, the permit will be revoked and future permit requests will be denied.
- There is no guarantee that the field permitted will be lined. Field lining is not included in the permit fee. If the group using the field requires lines it is the responsibility of the permit holder to make arrangements. Users are NOT permitted to perform any type of maintenance, repairs or improvements, including the painting of any lines on Recreation Department athletic fields without the approval of the City of Waltham's Consolidated Public Works (C.P.W.)/Department's designee.
- Goals and other equipment ancillary to use on City athletic fields and/or recreational facilities may be made available. The permit holder may use equipment, but shall do so at their own risk. The permit holder is responsible to ensure that all such equipment that is used is returned to its original location on the site after each use.
- **THE CITY OF WALTHAM'S ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO ALCOHOL IN PUBLIC PLACES IS STRICTLY ENFORCED ON ALL PROPERTIES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT. THERE IS NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED ON OR AT THESE FACILITIES AT ANY TIME! ANY VIOLATION OF THE CITY ORDINANCES WILL BE GROUNDS FOR IMMEDIATE REVOCATION OF SUCH PERMIT AND DENIAL OF FUTURE APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS.**
- **Any violation of permit terms, conditions and/or limitations shall be grounds for immediate revocation of such permit and denial of future applications for permits.**
- The Recreation Department reserves the right to deny permits to those individuals and organizations that have in the past shown disregard for these policies, rules and regulations.
- If a permit is revoked for failure to abide strictly by its terms, conditions, and/or limitations, there shall be no refund of the permit fee.

- Once a field/facility permit fee has been processed, no refunds will be given. If inclement weather conditions cause a cancellation due to wet or unfavorable conditions, the Recreation Department will attempt to accommodate a request for another date and time. This may not be possible due to scheduled events. To be eligible for a possible re-scheduling date it is the responsibility of the permit holder to contact the Recreation Department by the next business day.
- After a permit has been processed, each change made to a permit, whether it is date or time, will result in a \$10.00 administrative fee being assessed to the permit holder.
- By submitting an application for a permit, all applicants agree to conform to all City policies for athletic fields and recreational facilities.

### **Infractions**

- First Occurrence – Will cause a letter specifically listing the Department’s concerns to be hand delivered to the organization/permit holder. This notification is a warning that any future infraction will result in loss of permit.
- Second Occurrence – Will result in the loss of scheduling privileges, suspension of permit, or cancellation of permit and future use of facilities by organization.

### **Scheduling Procedures**

The scheduling of athletic fields and recreational facilities requiring a permit is performed by the Recreation Department, which is located at 510 Moody Street, Waltham, MA 02453. Office Hours are Mondays –Fridays, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Scheduling an athletic field or recreational facility and issuing a permit to an organization does not give the group authority to use the field in the event the field is too wet and not playable. The event should be postponed and rescheduled.

#### **The scheduling of athletic fields and recreational facilities will have the following priorities:**

- Recreation Department sponsored programs, services, activities, and special events.
- Waltham Public Schools athletic teams, programs, activities, and special events.
- Waltham Youth Sport Organizations supported by the Recreation Department.
- Other Waltham educational institutions and Waltham Youth Recreational Program Providers (Boys and Girls Club/YMCA)
- Organized Waltham Adult Sport Leagues/Associations (Team Roster complete with names and addresses, requiring the majority of Waltham residents, will be verified)
- Waltham Neighborhood Associations
- Waltham Non-profit and Charitable Organizations
- Waltham Businesses and Companies
- Non-Waltham Adult organized Sports Leagues/Associations
- Other Requests (private camps, clinic, athletic competitions, special events)

**Application Process and Procedures**

- Permit applications are available from the Waltham Recreation Department beginning the first business Monday in February each new calendar year.
- It is the responsibility of the applicant to fully complete the application. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Starting and ending dates for each season are approximate and depend upon weather conditions and field conditions. The Recreation Department in partnership with the City’s Consolidated Public Works Department (C.P.W.) will set start and end dates.
  - Spring Season: Approximately April 1 – June 15
  - Summer Season: Approximately June 16 – August 15
  - Fall Season: Approximately August 15 – November 15
- Facility permit requests are available from the Recreation Department office or online from our website [www.city.waltham.ma.us/recreation-department/pages/permits](http://www.city.waltham.ma.us/recreation-department/pages/permits)
- Facility permit requests will contain the following information: Applicant’s name, address, phone numbers, organization name, date and time requested, athletic field or recreational facility to be used, fee schedule if applicable, and size of group anticipated using facility. Additional information may also be requested depending upon planned use of facility.
- No permit will be considered unless all conditions are met. The application must be completed and signed. All required documentation must be attached, which may include rosters, residency verification and/or insurance coverage.
- An adult (21 years or older) must complete all permit applications. The applicant named on the permit must be present during the times specified on the permit.
- A copy of the applicant’s driver’s license will be required prior to issuing a permit.
- Permit applications are available from the Recreation Department beginning the first Monday in February.
- Once notification is made confirming the permit, all fees must be paid in full prior to use.

**Acknowledgement of Receipt of Policy**

The undersigned, an applicant of an athletic field or recreational facility usage permit, acknowledges that the undersigned has received and read a copy of the “City of Waltham, Recreation Department Policies and Procedures for Permits” and understands and will fully abide by the terms and provisions contained.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Master Plan Approved by Worcester Parks Commission  
December 15, 2016

Master Plan Approved by Worcester City Council  
May 23, 2017

City of Worcester Department of Public Works and Parks

Weston & Sampson<sup>SM</sup>