

Athletic Field Planning Subcommittee

of the Town of Harvard's
Parks & Recreation Commission

Update for Select Board

19 November 2019

Introduction / Background

2016 Open Space & Recreation Plan

Goal #: 7. Maintain, expand & improve playing fields

- a) Improve field maintenance
- b) Develop more fields to allow rotation and prevent overuse

2016 Master Plan

“Continue to implement the Action Plan in Harvard’s Open Space & Rec. Plan”

New HES building project to create further capacity shortage - May, 2018

Push for additional capacity/artificial turf field - Summer 2018

“Land swap” proposal - Fall 2018

Softball field renovation - Special Town Meeting, October, 2018

Parks & Recreation creates subcommittee - October, 2018

Provide information & data for planning (see charges); 1st met June, 2019

Big questions: Which require additional capacity?; New or additional fields?

Interim Report - September, 2019

Town of Harvard
Parks & Recreation Commission
Athletic Field Planning Subcommittee
Interim Report
September 17, 2019



Ann Lees Art@twin - September, 2019

Usage

Most fields exceed the 20 hours/week guideline for natural turf.

- 3 fields over-capacity all year round
- 8 fields over-capacity in Spring

All groups compete for the same practice timeslots, making scheduling difficult.

- Dictated by school day, most requested time is btwn 2pm - 8pm.
- Upper Depot, Waite and Bromfield almost always have less than 20% (5h) of unscheduled time per week.

The industry standard cost evaluation is “Cost Per User Hour”. Harvard fields average 10 active users per hour scheduled.

- Upper Depot, Lower Depot, Pond Field and Waite fields serve the most users per hour, with Upper Depot serving roughly 25 users per hour scheduled.

Festivals, flea markets, physical education classes, camps & clinics usage contribute to the over-use of existing inventory & capacity.

Time for sufficient field rest is impossible without major disruption to current usage.

DPW has to perform maintenance before 2pm during the school year.

PRELIMINARY DATA

	Weekly Hours of Usage (1)		Special Event Hours (2)
	Fall	Spring	
Bromfield	41.5	42.75	70
Upper Depot	28	42	106
Harvard Park	9	29	-
Pond - Field	23.5	26.5	-
Ryan Land - 1	2.5	26.5	6.5
Waite	18.5	25.5	-
Pond - Diamond	-	22	-
Ryan Land - 2	-	21.5	3.5
Lower Depot	4.5	19	-
Ann Lees	-	14.5	-
Library	5	5	13

1.) Recommended weekly use: 15-20 hours max. - Stantec, Inc.

2.) Represents a total of hours from all other usage that is not calculated on a weekly basis, eg special events, camps, clinics, etc.

Users

Soccer is far and away the most prominent activity on the Town's athletic fields.

Data reflects single school year

- Fall 2018 + Spring 2019

Little difference from the 3-year trend

- Lacrosse up
- Softball down

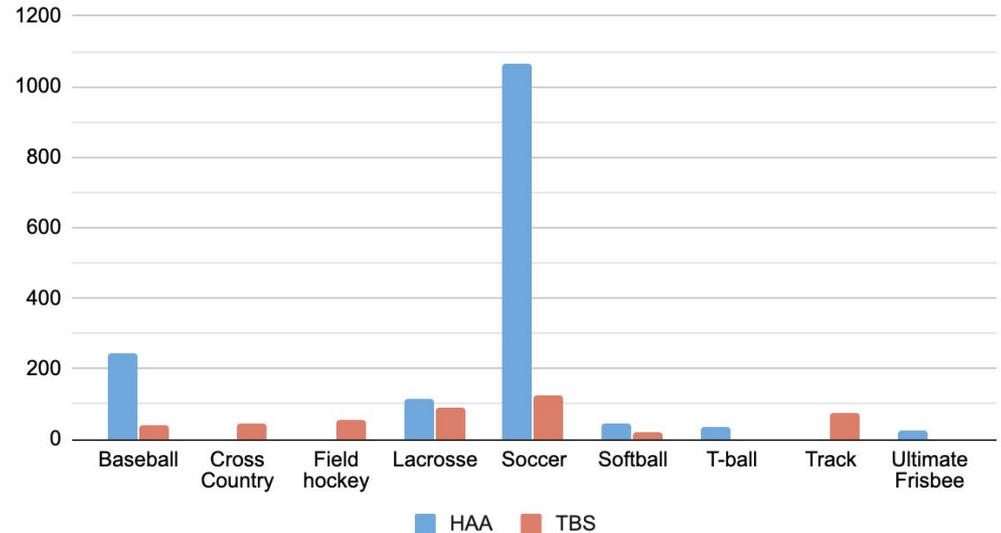
Depicts field use by participants as opposed to unique athletes.

Does *not include*...

- Festivals, flea market, physical education classes, camps & clinics

Demand implication for rectangular fields

Athletics Participation (# of Users) - SY 18/19



Field Condition Assessments

Overall athletic field conditions are “fair” (see table)

Rubric adapted from leading universities’ turf management programs.

Assessed over several days in Sept. & Oct.

- Conditions change w/ weather and/or field over-use

Tool for consistent/periodic assessment

Light - % Shade

Water - Irrigated or not

Food - Fertilizer Apps/yr

Bare Soil - % exposed soil

Mowing - Mow Hght. inches

Grass v Weeds - % non-grass

Terrain/ Grading - Surface Drainage

Feel of Ground - Surface Firmness

Color - Nutrient or pest issues

Est. Intensity - Events per week

Expected Quality - How perfect?

Rating	Field
Poor	Ann Lees
Poor	Bromfield
Good	Harvard Park
Fair	Library
Good	Lower Depot
Fair	Pond - Diamond
Fair	Pond - Field
Good	Ryan Land - 1
Good	Ryan Land - 2
Poor	Upper Depot
Fair	Waite

Rating	# of fields
Excellent	0
Good	4
Fair	4
Poor	3
Hazard	0

Other Areas / Next Steps

Interim Report outlines AFPS's next steps

Management

- Field-by-field plans for ongoing & annual maintenance; DPW needs resources to fulfill expectations.
- Long-term asset management approach & planning for capital improvements

Governance

- Roles & responsibilities of P&R, DPW, Schools, Select Board and Open Space Committee
- Cross functional collaboration required to address Harvard's unique setup (i.e., schools own no athletic fields).

Inventory

- Build out has been inconsistent, therefore amenities inconsistent; A-L is first project in 17 years.
- Needs for additional amenities as well as field inventory.

Finances

- Financing models from comparable towns to better support fields, maintenance, upgrades, and new facilities.
- Public-private partnerships; boosters; increased school/town funding

Our ask of the Select Board

- Act on initial recommendations.
- Prioritize information needs.
- Provide feedback, collaboration, and leadership.