



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: Kirk W. Kincannon, Director

FROM: David Bowden, Director
Planning and Development Division

DATE: January 27, 2016

Agenda

Committee of the Whole
Thursday, February 4, 2016 – 6 p.m.
Boardroom – Herrity Building
Chairman: William G. Bouie
Vice Chair: Ken Quincy

1. Needs Assessment Update and Service Level Standards – Information*

*Enclosures



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563. TTY (703) 803-3354

Committee Agenda Item
February 4, 2015

INFORMATION

Needs Assessment Update and Service Level Standards

The purpose of the Needs Assessment Study is to determine countywide park and recreation needs and determine how best to meet those needs through service level standards, contribution levels, and development of a long range capital improvement plan. The PROS Consulting team has been engaged to assist in conducting the Needs Assessment.

Staff provided the Park Authority Board with an overall Needs Assessment update in September 2015 that included a presentation on the overall survey results. Since that meeting, staff has continued to work with the PROS consulting team to establish service level standards, contribution levels and a Capital Improvement Plan. This update will be the third in a multi-part discussion on recommended service level standards and FCPA contribution levels. Service level standards and contribution levels set facility provision goals for FCPA, recognizing that there are multiple public park and recreation providers that contribute to Fairfax County park needs. Established facility provision goals provide the basis for adding new facilities or improving existing facilities in the park system and will be captured in the Capital Improvement Plan that will be presented by the consultant as the next step in the Needs Assessment process.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

None

STAFF:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
David Bowden, Director, Planning & Development Division
Cindy Walsh, Director, Resource Management Division
Todd Johnson, Director, Park Operations Division
Barbara Nugent, Director, Park Services Division
Judy Pederson, Public Information Officer
Sandy Stallman, Manager, Planning & Development Division
Anna Bentley, Planner, Planning & Development Division

Needs Assessment Update

Park Authority Board

4 February 2016



Parks

better parks

better living

Count!

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parkscount/>

Athletic Field Context

- 268 athletic fields in parks
- 420 athletic fields maintained on other County sites (FCPS & FMD)
- Support millions of athletic field related park visits per year
- Athletic field management and use
 - FCPA – facility provider and maintenance in parks and schools
 - NCS – allocation of fields and collect fees per County policy
 - Leagues, sponsors, teams – manage use in accordance with permits issued by NCS

Needs Assessment History

- 2004 Needs Assessment new facility goals:
 - 95 rectangle fields
 - 4 adult softball
 - 9 youth-adult 90' baseball
- Based on population projection through 2014
- Based on then typical field type (grass, unlit)

Changes Since 2004

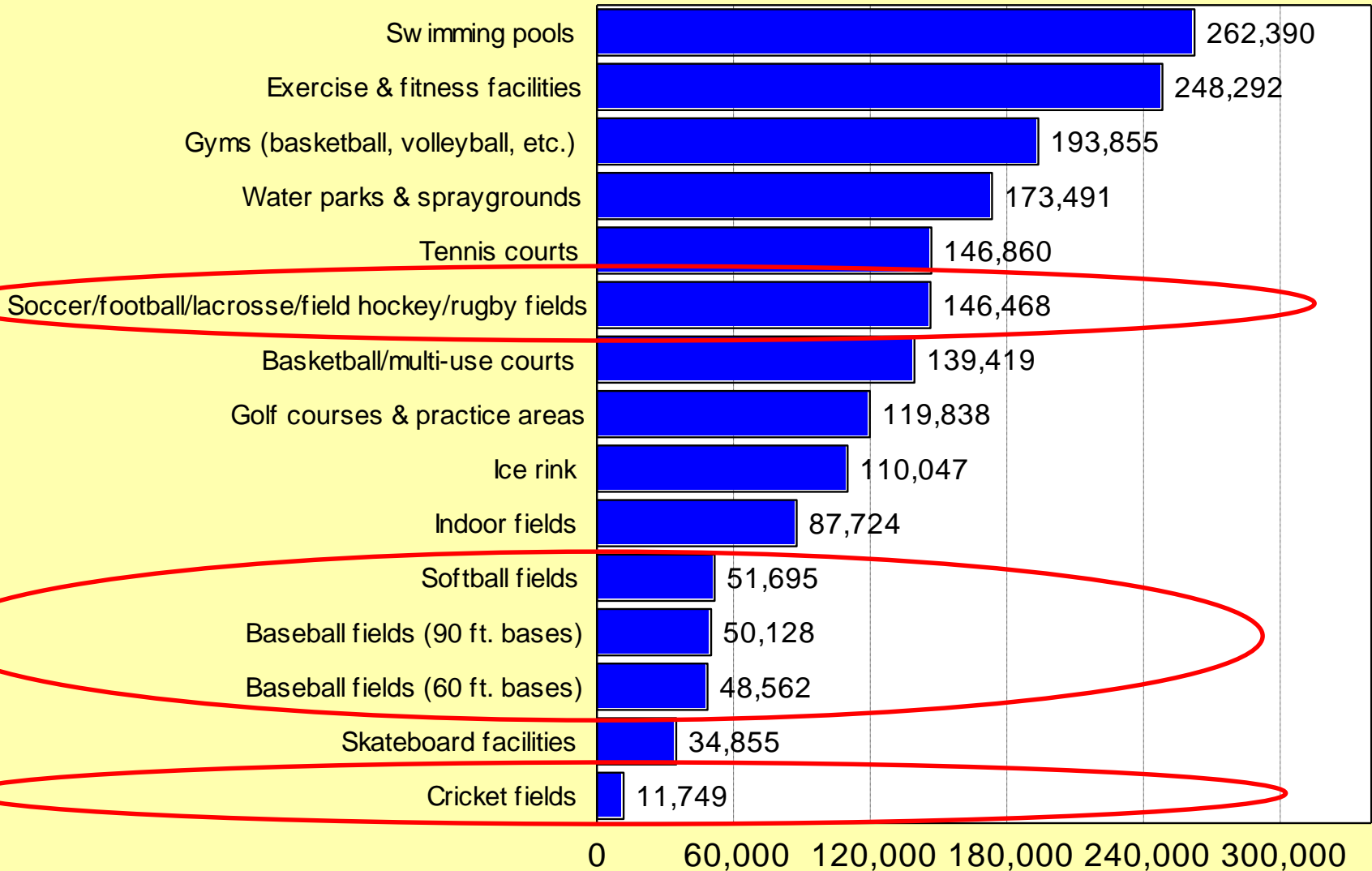
- Changes in construction and access
 - Synthetic turf
 - Lights
 - Maximize size to support small sided play and multiple sports
 - Access to high school fields
 - Tysons and Reston
- New athletic fields added, and capacity enhancing improvements (synthetic turf and/or lights)
 - 48 new fields constructed (6 diamonds, 42 rectangles)
 - 89 existing fields improved with synthetic turf and/or lights (13 diamonds, 76 rectangles)

Added Inventory

- Here's the math for added capacity...
 - Each new field counts as 1, regardless of surface, lights;
 - Conversion of an existing field to synthetic turf adds an extra 0.3 capacity; and
 - Addition of lights to an existing field adds an extra 0.4
- Added capacity approx. equivalent to
 - between 75-85 rectangle fields and
 - between 4-6 90' diamonds

Q9a. Households that Have a Need for Outdoor or Indoor Facilities

by number of households based on 391,627 households in Fairfax County

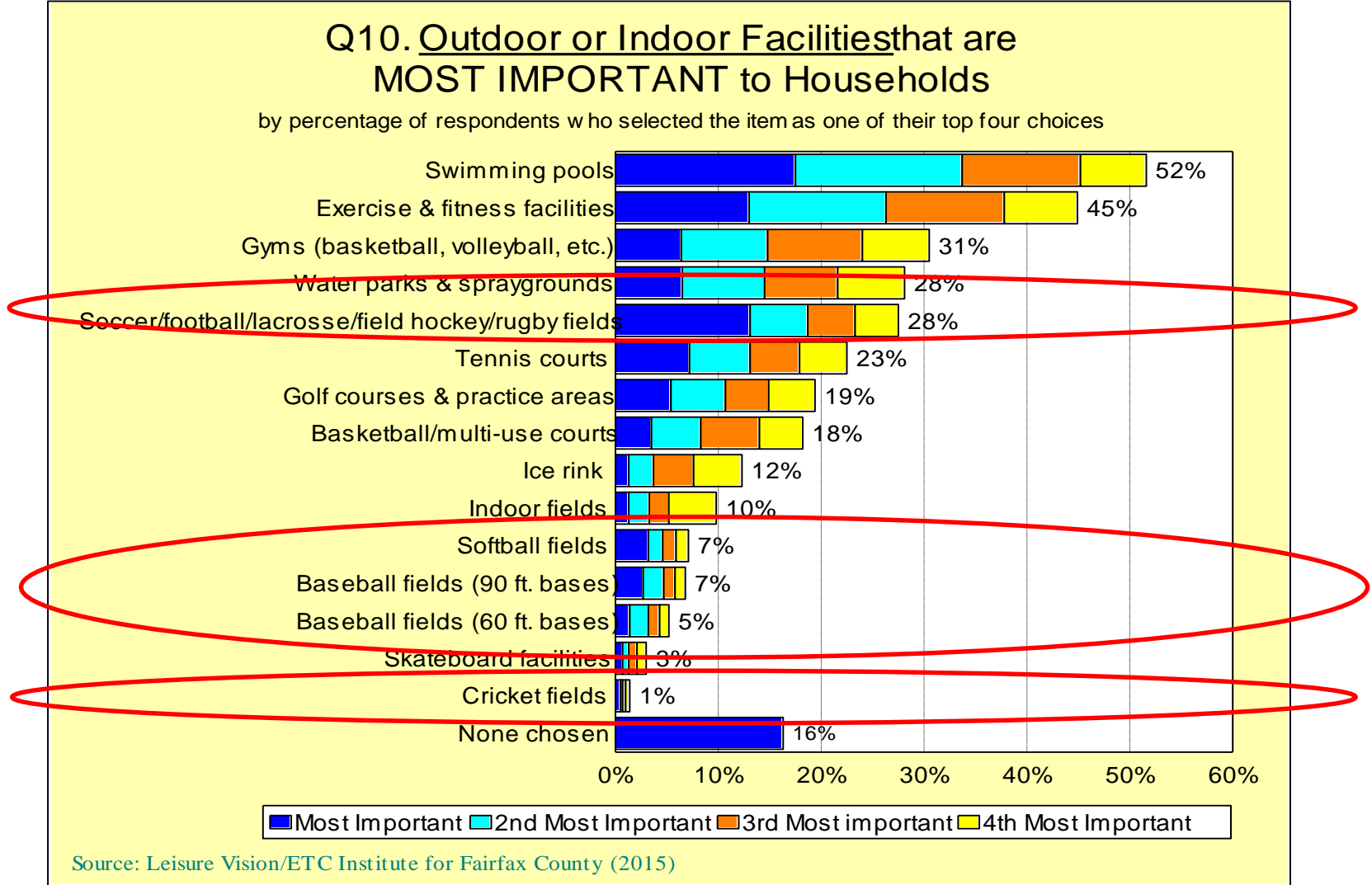


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Fairfax County (2015)

Key Result #7: Swimming Pools are Most Important Outdoor or Indoor Facility

Q10. Outdoor or Indoor Facilities that are MOST IMPORTANT to Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute for Fairfax County (2015)

Qualitative Input

- Variety of voices
- FCAC – 6 meetings and appointees
- Variety of means of input
- Sampling of what was heard
 - Desire for multi-field complexes
 - Concern about field condition
 - Concern about access
 - Policymaker recognition of importance and health benefits of play

Service Levels

By Field Type



**Parks
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Rectangle Fields

CONSIDERATIONS

- Multiple sports supported (e.g., soccer, football, lacrosse, field hockey, cricket); all ages
- Currently meeting 92% of SLS; FCPA provides about one-third
- Overall survey rank = 8 out of 23
- Public input, interest group interest in complexes
- Contribution goal was 95 (based on grass, unlit fields)
- 15 (FCPA) and 21 (FCPS) new fields constructed since 2004; 30 (FCPA) and 48 (FCPS) fields conditions improved (synthetic turf and/or lights)
- Projected 2025 need = approximately 67

Rectangle Fields

2015-2025 Strategy

Service Level Standard: Retain current, 1 per 2,700

FCPA Contribution Strategy: (1) Improve; (2) Supplement

- Complete rectangle fields in design/development
- Complete rectangles in adopted master plans
- Consider opportunities for complexes
- Continue to obtain through the development process/proffers
- Contribution to the total need: equivalent to 30 rectangles
- Reinvest in existing fields, improving conditions

Diamond, Softball 65' (Adult)

CONSIDERATIONS

- Currently meeting 57% of SLS; FCPA provides all
- Overall survey rank = 21 out of 23
- Public input
- 2004 contribution level goal of 4
- No new fields constructed since 2004
- Daytime field use = more fields available
- Given projected 2025 population and adopted SLS, would have a need for as many as 26

Diamond, Softball 65' (Adult)

2015-2025 Strategy

Service Level Standard: Retain current SL, 1 per 22,000

FCPA Contribution Strategy: (1) Supplement;(2) Improve

- Consider redesign of underutilized diamond fields
- Invest in fields already in adopted master plans
- Continue to obtain through the development process
- Anticipate contributions by private sector
- Synthetic turf and lights to increase capacity
- Add equivalent to 5 fields

Diamond, Baseball 90' (Youth & Adult)

CONSIDERATIONS

- Inventory meets 126% of gross need, but effectively only about 86% of need is met due to limited access to high school fields (High school fields = about 65% of inventory)
- Overall survey rank = 22 out of 23
- 2004 contribution level goal of 9
- 3 (FCPA) and 1 (FCPS) new fields constructed since 2004; 2 (FCPS) improved with synthetic turf and/or lights
- 2 youth-adult 90' diamonds lost, Herrity and Laurel Hill
- Given projected 2025 population and adopted SLS, no deficit
- Need for complexes

Diamond, Baseball 90' (Youth & Adult)

2015-2025 Strategy

Service Level Standard: Retain current, 1 per 24,000

FCPA Contribution Strategy: (1) Implement

- Complete fields in design/development (LLV/Patriot)
- Invest in fields already in adopted master plans
- Continue to partner with schools
- Maintain contribution level (about a third of the total need)
- Complete planned complex(es)

Diamond, Softball 60' (Youth)

CONSIDERATIONS

- Currently meeting 142% of SLS; FCPA provides about one-third
- This field type is also heavily used by youth baseball
- Overall survey rank = 21 out of 23
- No 2004 contribution goal set
- 2 (FCPA) new fields constructed since 2004; 5 (FCPA) improved with synthetic turf and/or lights
- Given projected 2025 population and adopted SLS, no deficit

Diamond, Baseball 60' (Youth)

CONSIDERATIONS

- Currently meeting 86% of SLS; FCPA provides about one-third
- Skinned (youth softball) fields used nearly as often for baseball
- Overall survey rank = 23 out of 23
- Public input, interest group
- No 2004 contribution goal set
- 2 (FCPA) and 4 (FCPS) new fields constructed since 2004; 2 (FCPA) and 2 (FCPS) improved with synthetic turf and/or lights
- Given projected 2025 population and adopted SLS, could have a need for as many as 35 fields, if skinned fields were not also used

Diamond, Softball 60' (Youth) **Diamond, Baseball 60' (Youth)**

2015-2025 Strategy

**Service Level Standard: Retain current SL, Softball 60' = 1 per 8,800;
Baseball 60' = 1 per 7,200**

FCPA Contribution Strategy: (1) Reinvest; (2) Partner

- Invest in fields already in adopted master plans
- Complete fields in design/development (McNaughton, LLV)
- Continue to partner with schools
- Continue to contribute about a third of the total need
- Focus investment on improving conditions on 60' fields, skinned or grassed type (ie, Youth Baseball or Youth Softball)
- Evaluate youth 60' diamond fields to ensure needs are met and redesign/reallocate for equity and sport need, as appropriate

Where to add fields?

- Several adopted park Master Plans include athletic fields
 - Approximately 40 master planned but not yet built athletic fields
 - Includes complexes such as LLV, Laurel Hill, Patriot, Baron Cameron, Langley Fork and Sully Woodlands
- Additionally, over 30 fields identified in Comp Plan for Tysons, Reston

Local and District/Countywide Parks

Service Levels



**Parks
Count!**



Local Parks

- Serve neighborhoods and mixed use centers in suburban and urban areas of the County
- Offer variety of recreation opportunities, natural and/or cultural features near where people live and work
- Scheduled and unscheduled activities, social/informal gathering
- Located within walking distance (1/4-1/2 mile), limited parking depending on context
- Typically 2.5 - 50 acres (suburban setting); less than ½ - 5 acres (urban setting)

Local Parks

CONSIDERATIONS

- Currently meeting 99% of SLS; FCPA provides about two-thirds
- Overall survey rank = 5 out of 23
- Park type often described in public input
- This park type provides recreational opportunities near where people live and work, improving health outcomes
- Given projected 2025 population and adopted SLS, projected deficit of 538 acres

Local Parks

2015-2025 Strategy

Service Level Standard: Retain current, 5 acres per 1,000 (suburban context); 1.5 acres per 1,000 (urban context)

FCPA Contribution Strategy: (1) Reinvest

- Reinvest in existing local parks
- Build out master planned local parks
- Continue to provide parks through the development process to address deficiencies
- Strategically look at access to parks
- Expand existing parks
- Support connectivity

District Parks

- Serve larger geographic areas
- Provide variety of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities and experiences, natural and cultural resource features
- Service area ranges from 3 to 6 miles, size is typically 50-150 acres, parking must be provided
- May include RECenters, recreation-oriented complexes, clustered facilities
- Lighted facilities and extended hours are the norm
- Diverse experiences and activities

Countywide Parks

- Large parks that serve the County
- Provide variety of large-scale indoor and/or outdoor recreation facilities and experiences, natural and cultural resource features
- Service area larger than 5 miles, often including entire County or larger, size is 150+ acres, parking must be provided
- Complexes of intensively developed activity areas, unique facilities, may combine developed areas with extensive natural/cultural areas
- Lighted facilities and extended hours are the norm
- Diverse experiences and activities

District/Countywide Parks

CONSIDERATIONS

- Currently meeting 169% of SLS; FCPA provides one quarter
- Regional, state, and federal parks are included in measuring need served
- Overall survey rank = 7 out of 23
- Destination features frequently described in public input
- Facilities at this park type can be significant revenue generators for FCPA (eg, Watermine)
- Given projected 2025 population and adopted SLS, no deficit

District/Countywide Parks

2015-2025 Strategy

Service Level Standard: Retain current, 13 acres per 1,000

FCPA Contribution Strategy: (1) Maintain; (2) Reinvest

- Continue to expand facilities for these park types
- Build out master plans
- Expand existing parks
- Support connectivity
- Preserve open space and resources