



**Girls Fastpitch Softball Action  
Plan Review Team (APRT)  
APRT Update January 18, 2023**

# Girls' Fastpitch Softball Equity Action Plan Review Team

Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)  
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Fairfax County Athletic Council (FCAC)  
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# Agenda

- **Background**
- **Achievements**
- **Current State**
- **Findings**
- **Goals**
- **Recommendations**
- **Next Steps**



# Background

August 1997

- Issues of inequities between boys' baseball and girls' fastpitch softball facilities in Fairfax County brought to the Board of Supervisors (BOS).
- BOS directed the current Neighborhood and Community Services to develop a plan to improve the fields for girls' fastpitch softball throughout the county.
- BOS directed that development of an Action Plan Review Team (APRT) to plan and monitor its implementation.
- The purpose of the effort was to ensure equity of facilities related to quantity, quality, availability, allocation, scheduling, location, safety, and maintenance.



# Achievements

- BOS allocated special funding to address inequities over a 5-year period.
- Equal field quality between boys' and girls' fields in proportion to participation numbers.
- Improvement of existing girls' softball fields.
- Over \$2 million dollars of field improvements such as lights, irrigation, fencing, backstops, dugouts, and infield renovations.

# Current State

Spring 2022

- Concerns regarding equity prompted by loss of Falls Church High School softball complex due to renovations
- A larger, growing trend of disparity between girls' and boys' athletic fields.
- Fairfax County Athletic Council requested that the BOS reconvene the Action Plan Review Team (APRT) to assess progress made and gaps that remain, and to develop recommendations, if necessary, to correct any remaining disparities and ensure equity for girls' softball in Fairfax.
- BOS directed the APRT be reconvened to update the original equity findings and develop a plan to replace fields lost due to school renovations and other impacts.



# Findings and Outstanding Issues

- The loss of fields at two of the girls' multi-field complexes and the need to replace them. Sharing Wakefield Park with adults severely limits girls' softball use of the facility and impacts the quality of the experience.
- Lack of multi-field softball complexes for tournament play.
- Inequitable distribution of FCPA fields between baseball and softball through the FCAC Allocation committee.
- FCPA maintenance is sufficient and consistent with both baseball and softball.
- Address the issue of permanent fencing or hire staff to install, remove temporary fencing, and add lighting at each field for equal conditions. Address the lack of weekend maintenance staff at Wakefield Park for softball equivalent to Patriot Park for baseball.

# Findings and Outstanding Issues

- Utilize the Field Allocation Policy and to make changes to ensure equitable distribution of FCPA and FCPS fields.
- Develop a process for FCPA, FCPS, FCAC, and NCS that ensures that all stakeholders are well informed, and equity is addressed in future capital improvement projects
- Realign field allocations to accommodate the recent loss of girls' fastpitch softball fields.
- Correct disparities regarding available turf facilities for fastpitch softball. Baseball has 11.5 available artificial turf facilities as compared to the girls that have .5 turf (shared) facility.
- Coordinate athletic facilities a communication plan related to capital improvement projects and equitable future planning.



# GOALS

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Goal 1: To provide FCPS Level 1, or comparable, multi-field (five fields), tournament capacity locations for girls fastpitch softball.

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Goal 2: To provide equal access for girls to quality Level 1 and Level 2 facilities.

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Goal 3: To provide a level of maintenance equal to FCPS standards on all comparable softball fields designated for primary use by girls' fastpitch softball, including school facilities.

# GOALS

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Goal 4: To establish planning guidelines for future development and use of fields at Park Authority, FCPS schools, and other county facilities.

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Goal 5: To establish planning, funding, and development of turf facilities at Park Authority, FCPS schools, or other county facilities.

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Goal 6: To establish a communication team to include FCPA, FCPS, FCAC, and NCS. This team will develop a plan for periodic review and analysis of the amenities for girls' fastpitch softball and baseball for all school and park fields, as recommended by APRT.

# Recommendations

1. Allocate funding for the development of synthetic turf fields at Wakefield Park or another equivalent location.

Improve fields and related infrastructure for the six fields at Wakefield Park including, but not limited to adding fencing to the fields, renovate pitching stations, improve turf conditions, address drainage, replace lighting, improve the pitchers' mounds, renovate supporting amenities (parking lot, picnic tables, scoreboards) Estimated cost: \$1,700,000

Provide FCPA with funding for staff to maintain fields but not limited to, installing, and removing temporary fencing on weekends at Wakefield Park. Estimated cost: \$300,000

2. Work with FCPA and NCS to identify underutilized Level 2 diamond fields in the FCPA inventory and determine if they can be upgraded to Level 1.
3. Utilize the field allocation policy to make changes to ensure equitable distribution of FCPA and FCPS fields.
4. Develop a communication plan between FCPA, FCPS, FCAC, and NCS so that all stakeholders are well informed about future capital improvement projects.

# Recommendations (con't.)

5. Review the allocation of current turf space to include girls' ability to receive additional space until inventory is increased and/or developed.
6. Work with all stakeholders to identify and develop locations for new facilities to maintain equity between fastpitch softball and baseball.
7. Utilize the fields at Wakefield Park for only girls' fastpitch softball. This would involve identifying undeveloped or unused diamond fields in Fairfax County for adult leagues who currently play at Wakefield Park.
8. Apply the Inclusive Engagement Model when determining locations of all future development to ensure equitable access includes gender as well as racial and social equity considerations.



## Next Steps

- APRT Update 2023 provided to BOS for review and financial consideration
- NCS working to identify immediate opportunities to increase field access for girls' softball via allocation policy.
- APRT continues to meet to address recommendation.

Outstanding  
Concerns or  
Questions?

