

# **Sports Commission Meeting Agenda**

**Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Virtual Meeting**

**Lubber Run Community Center**

**[Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)**

**Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm**

## **Public Comment**

## **Approval of Minutes**

- November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting minutes

## **Old Business**

- Parks and Recreation Commission Laision Update
- Open Sports Commission Seats

## **New Business**

- Arlington County Natural Grass Field Sustainability Metrics Presentation by AFM Manager, John Koloszar and Natural Grass Team Leader, Tyler Remerow
- Unofficial 2026 Sports Commission Dates
- Susan Cunningham discussion

## **Commission Member Reports**

- Chair updates

## **Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings**

- Next meeting will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend of January. SC members received draft of 2026 dates to finalize.

# Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

In-Person Meeting

Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center

[Microsoft Teams Meeting](#) Link

Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm

## Public Comment

### Approval of Minutes

- October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, meeting minutes
  - Motion – Joesph Dunn
  - Seconded – Peter Oshanick
  - Approved

### Old Business

- Day of Play Discussion
  - The commission discussed plans to revive the "Day of Play" event.
    - Objective: To introduce people, especially young kids, to different sports and recreational opportunities (e.g., equipment stations for lacrosse, frisbees).
  - Proposed Date: The target weekend is the second or third weekend in June (a Saturday)
    - A potential date is June 20th.
    - This timing is intended to avoid early June, which is a busy playoff and travel season for baseball fields.
  - Logistics: Would need to involve the sports leagues to have kids volunteer. The commission will check on date availability.
- Sports Commission Constituent List Update

### New Business

- Presentation on Long Bridge Project by Capital Asset Manager, Robert Capper
  - The update was provided by Bob Capper, Capital Asset Manager (formerly a Landscape Architect in the Park Development Division).
  - Site History: The land was a former industrial site, described as "pretty scary" in 2001.
    - One area (now Field 3) was a dumping site for refrigerators and air conditioners, resulting in PCBs in the soil. This area is covered by a 4-inch asphalt cap to contain the chemicals.
    - Other past uses included a concrete batch plant, an impound lot, and a site for dumping construction debris.

- The site of the current Aquatics Facility was previously the location of the Twin Bridges Marriott (the first Marriott hotel in the world), which was open from 1957 to 1988.
- Master Plan (Louis Scully Janae): Approved by the board, it initially showed four regular-sized athletic fields, a playground, a parking lot, and an aquatics facility. Design & Construction included the following:
  - Lewis Scully Janae was the landscape architect of record. Hargraves Associates was brought on as a national firm to assist with the design and provided the "big idea".
    - The Esplanade: This feature was Hargraves' "incredibly simple" solution. It is a mound of earth that serves to block sound from the train tracks, connect the park to Crystal City, and encapsulate soil with high concentrations of lead (covered by two feet of clean material).
- Park Opening: phase one of the park opened on November 5, 2011.
- Roadway Rebuild (Old Jefferson Davis Highway/Route 1): Took several years due to flooding issues and the presence of critical utilities, including communication lines for banks (causing blackout periods during holidays like Christmas and Valentine's Day) and cables to the Pentagon.
- Aquatics Facility Site Acquisition: The county acquired the current Aquatics Facility property from Monument Realty via a \$25 million land swap. The county gave Monument Realty the old motel/warehouse site (now Boeing).
- The final construction cost was around \$59 million (initial bid was \$57 million).
  - Boeing and the Pentagon contributed \$10 million in naming rights.
  - Marymount University is a partner, assisting with 40% of the replacement cost for the turf on field one.
- Future Development:
  - Fourth Athletic Field: Is planned to be built over the parking lot, an expensive undertaking that will be needed due to space constraints.
  - Pedestrian Bridge (Virginia Passenger Rail Authority - VPR): The VPR is funding and building a 16-foot-wide pedestrian bridge to connect the park (behind the Aquatics facility) across the Potomac River to the Mount Vernon Trail and East Tonley Park. The traffic will split, allowing pedestrians to go to the Esplanade and commuter cyclists to new bike lanes. The target design completion date is Spring 2030.
- Tour of Long Bridge Aquatics and Fitness Center by Acting General Manager of LBAFC, Joy Ford
  - Sports Commission members were given the opportunity to receive a guided tour of the facility and see all that Long Bridge Aquatics and Fitness Center had to offer its users.
  - The 98,000 square ft facility is run and operated by Arlington County Parks and Recreation.
  - Features: Main competition pool, hot tub, leisure pool, and an 8,000 square foot fitness center.

- Offers day passes, membership options (10-visit punch pass to annual), and rates vary based on in-county or out-of-county residency.
- Programming: Hosts all learn-to-swim programs, 55+ aquatics classes, and the competitive aquatics team.
- Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison Update
  - Hamilton Humes, Vice chair to the Sports commission and Liaison to the Parks and Recreation committee provided an update from the last Parks and Rec meeting he attended.
    - River House Development (Pentagon City): The development is West of the Pentagon City Mall.
      - The old parking lot will be removed.
      - The current building is being kept.
      - Land Donation: The developer will donate a 2.5-acre area, which is currently "park-ish," to the county.
      - The development plan eliminates the current tennis courts and dog park on the property, which raises a question about where the new dog park will be located, especially given the planned increase in residents (from 1,700 to 4,400).
      - There is currently no master planning process for the Bridging the Highland area, but it is being considered for around 2030.
    - Nonprofit Fundraising Mechanism: The Parks and Recreation Commission is exploring the idea of establishing a Friends of Park organization or a fund through the foundation to raise money for specific projects, such as opening the boathouse.
- Open Sports Commission Seats
  - There are still seats that remain open in the Sports Commission that need to be filled.

## **Commission Member Reports**

- Chair updates
  - Commission members should review the provided list of different representative organizations and email the chair if they are interested in being a liaison to a specific group

## **Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings**

- December 18<sup>th</sup> (Third Thursday) (Virtual)

## **2026 Sports Commission Meeting Options**

### **5 Virtual, 6 In-person – Joint Meeting in Feb.**

- January 22<sup>nd</sup> **(Virtual)**
- February 26<sup>th</sup> **(In-person)**
- March 26<sup>th</sup> **(Virtual)**
- April 23<sup>rd</sup> **(In-person)**
- May 28<sup>th</sup> **(Virtual)**
- June 25<sup>th</sup> **(In-person)**
- August 27<sup>th</sup> **(Field Trip)**
- September 24<sup>th</sup> **(In-Person)**
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> **(Virtual)**
- November 19<sup>th</sup> **(Third Thursday) (In-person)**
- December 17<sup>th</sup> **(Third Thursday) (Virtual)**

# Arlington County Athletic Field Sustainability Metrics

John Koloszar - Athletic Field Maintenance Manager  
Tyler Remerow - Natural Grass Team Leader, AFM



# Agenda

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- **Field playability determination process**
- **Bermuda grass 101**
- **Growing zones & calendar**
- **Bermuda grass damage**
- **Repair solutions**

# Determining Field Playability

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**An athletic field shall be considered closed if one or more of the following conditions exist:**

- **Construction or repairs**
- **Soil is frozen**
- **A lightning/electrical storm is occurring**
- **Soil is wet and “spongy” in 75% or more of the field surface**
- **Standing water is present on any part of the field that cannot be removed without causing damage**

# Determining Field Playability (cont.)

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- Muddy conditions that will not dry by start of practice or game
- While walking on the field, water can be seen or heard with any footstep
- If water gathers around the sole of a shoe or boot on any portion of the field
- While walking in turf areas any impression of your footprint is left in the surface
- While walking on the infield portion of the field, an impression of 1/2" deep or more that is left by a footprint
- If field can't be made playable with three or less bags of drying agent.

# Bermuda Grass 101

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**Aggressive, low growing, wear tolerant species of grass.**

**Spreads via rhizomes (underground roots) and stolons (surface coverage of Bermuda), which provides a dense, resilient playing surface.**

**Optimal Growing Conditions:**

**Full sun with temperatures between 80-95 degrees.**

# Bermuda Grass 101 Pros

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- Premier playing surface - grows out, not up
- Heat & drought tolerant
- Fast growth – fastest growing warm season grass
- Resilient - As long as roots are not severely damaged during dormancy, they will resume growing with increase in temperature.
- Weed resistance
- Attractive appearance
- High durability

# Bermuda Grass 101 Cons

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## Cons

**Dormancy - Growing Season Begins in May (Zone 7b)**

**High Maintenance – Regular Fertilization & Mowing**

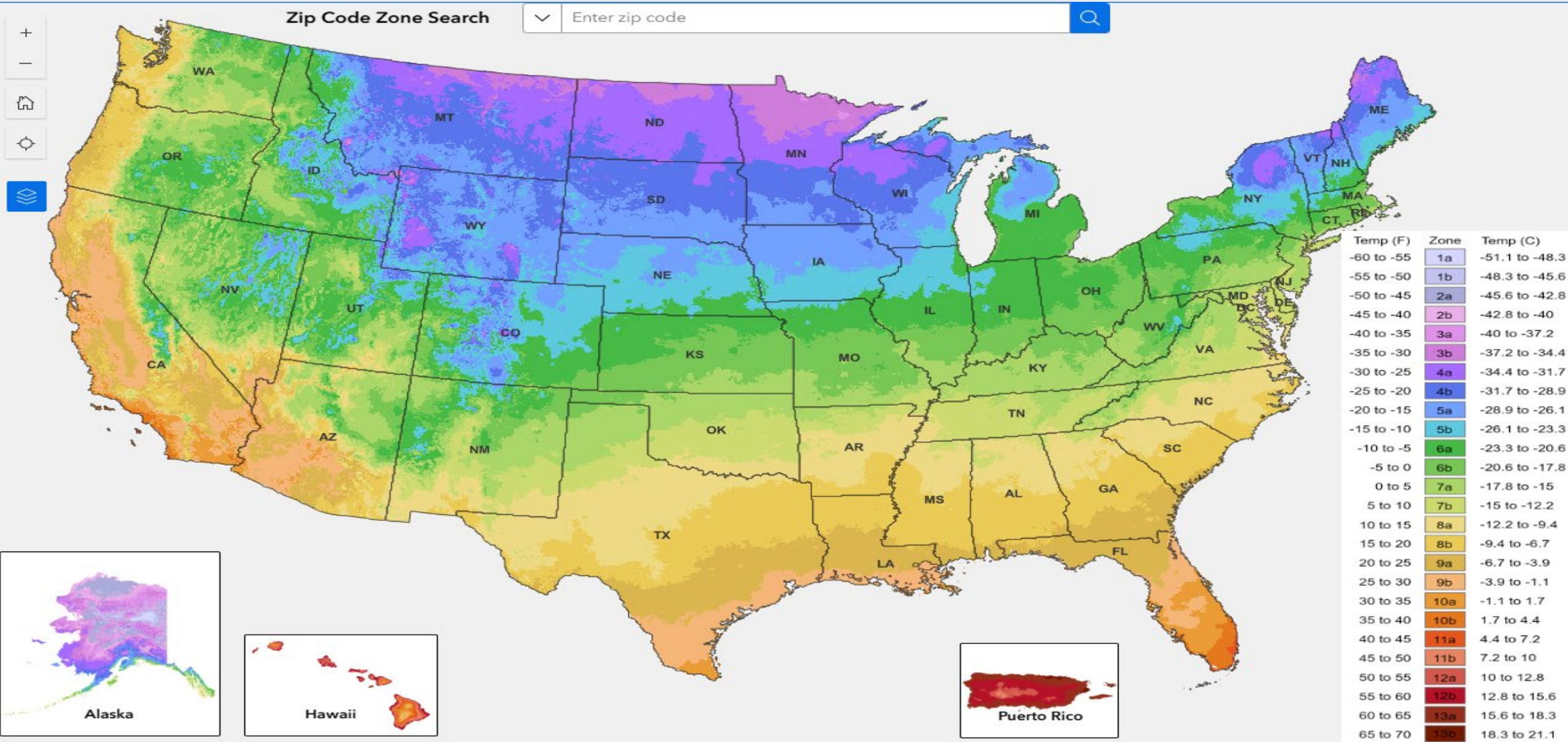
**Easily damaged when played on during inclement weather**

**Easily damaged when played on when turf is frozen**

**Requires irrigation**

**Shade intolerance, struggles in areas heavy shade**

# Bermuda Grass National Grow Zones



# Bermuda Grass Growing Calendar



**Dec.–Feb.**

**Winter**

- **Mowing** – Bermuda does not need to be mowed during dormant period.
- **Irrigation** – Dormant Bermuda may need to be watered when weather turns warm/windy.
- **Soil Cultivation/Repair** – Repairs are not suggested during this period. Coring or Aerating can warm the soil. Overseeding with rye grass and use of growth covers.



**Mar.–May**

**Spring**

- **Apply Pre-emergent & Fertilizer**
- **Irrigation** – 1 inch of water per week in absence of rainfall
- **Soil Cultivation/Repair** – April and May is preferred time period for renovating bermudagrass.



**June–Aug.**

**Summer**

- **Mowing** – Bermuda cut To 1.5 inches
- **Irrigation** – 1 inch of water per week in absence of rainfall
- **Apply Fertilizer** (Late August)
- **Soil Cultivation/Repair**
- **Rest**



**Sep.–Nov.**

**Fall**

- **Mowing** – Raise mowing height to improve winter hardiness (2 weeks prior)
- **Irrigation**
- **Soil Cultivation/Repair**
- **Rye Grass Overseeding of Goalmouths** (October)
- **Cover**

# Stages of Bermuda Grass



# Winter Kill-Bermuda grass damage

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- **Winter kill** - Created by freezing temps & prolonged snowpack on turf grass.
- **Freeze/thaw cycles** - can damage plant tissue. This can lead to cell rupture.
- **Snow mold** - although rare in Bermuda, it can affect Bermuda grass under prolonged snowpack.

# Examples of Bermuda Grass Damage



Winter Kill



Snow Mold

# Recovering from Bermuda Winter Kill

Assess the damage: Includes identifying the extent of damage and checking for signs of life in the turfgrass.

Fertilization: injection of 21-0-0 fertilizer (Ammonium Sulfate) delivers a powerful 21% nitrogen boost that can encourage faster recovery & growth.

Re-establishment: Sodding, sprigging, plugging and seeding is an effective way to recover large areas of winter kill.

# Traffic Damage Reduction Recommendations

Damage Reduction may be achieved by:

- **Restricting use when soil is extremely wet. (i.e. Freeze & Thaw and Morning Dew)**
- **Restrict use when soil is very dry and turf is wilting. (Drought)**
- **Rotate heavy traffic areas during practices.**
- **On game fields, restrict all practices to a minimum.**
- **Restrict use when grass is dormant. (Winter Season)**
- **Restrict use until new grass is mature. (4-8 months post establishment)**
- **Prohibit all unofficial play (i.e. Drop-in)**
- **During heavy use season, mow grass tall as possible.**
- **Use tarps on bench areas to reduce severe wear by coaches and team members.**

# Industry standards of use as it correlates to turfgrass wear

Field Condition	Programmed Use Per Year
Good Field Conditions	200 Hours or less
Fair Field Conditions (Thinning & Wear)	300-600 Hours
Poor Field Conditions	700-1000 Hours
Significant Turf Loss (Repairs Needed)	1000+ Hours

# Bermuda Grass Repair

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- Sod
- Sprig
- Plugging
- Aerate
- Slice
- Rest

# Maintenance Challenges

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- Use hours on fields
- Weather
- Early spring season play while Bermuda is dormant and frozen
- Winter weather damage aka winter kill
- Soil compaction
- High use areas such as goal mouths and center of field
- Mid-season repairs and maintenance such as top-dressing low spots

# References

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- [Field-use capacity: How much play is too much play?](#) - University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences by Dr. Don Gardner
- [SPORTS TURF TRAFFIC - HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?](#) - University of Kentucky by A.J. Powell Jr
- [Bermudagrass Management On Athletic Fields In The Transition Zone](#) - Advanced Turf Solutions
- [Bermudagrass Athletic Field Maintenance Calendar](#) - North Carolina State University by Grady Miller & Fred Yelverton
- [Sprigging Bermuda Grass](#) - Sports Turf Managers Association

# Questions

John Koloszar - Athletic Field Maintenance Manager  
Tyler Remerow - Natural Grass Team Leader, AFM

