Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 22nd, 2026

Virtual Meeting

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm

Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

- September 24th Meeting Minutes

Old Business

- Dutch Walking Event in Arlington Update

New Business

- Pickleball Presentation by Arlington Pickleball Club, Tim Dellinger
- Lights at Williamsburg Presentation by Arlington Soccer Executive Director, Frank DeMarco
- PSMP Refresh-IAC meeting update by SC Chair, Lizzy Stell
- 2027 Sports Commission Proposed Meeting Dates
- Proposed Agenda Items for November Meeting

Commission Member Reports

- Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison Update
- Chair updates
- Open Sports Commission Seats

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

- November 19th (Third Thursday) (In-person)
- December 17th (Third Thursday) (Virtual)

Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 24th, 2026
In-Person Meeting
Lubber Run Community Center
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm

Commission Members Present:
Vice Chair, Hamilton Humes
Member, Peter O'Shanick
Member, David Lansing, Virtual
Member, Kyle Brown
Member, Sam Watzman
Member, George Thompson
Member, Meredith Wearing
Member, Joesph Dunn
Member, Preston Redd

Commission Members Absent:
Member, Megan Sullivan
Chair, Lizzy Stell

County/APS Staff:
Mariah Leonard, DPR

Start: 7:00PM

Public Comment

- None

Approval of Minutes

- No minutes approved from August Field Trip

Old Business

- The Commission briefly revisited active points of focus. No formal votes or old business resolution items required action at this meeting.

New Business

- Overview of DPR Fitness Programs Presentation by Fitness Manager, Michelle Atkins
  - Michelle Atkins provided an in-depth operational overview of the diverse fitness programs managed by DPR across Arlington County's community centers and indoor facilities.
  - The presentation covered class structures, instructor-led fitness options, target demographics, and strategies used to handle peak-hour registration demands.
    - discussed how class structures are adapted to serve a broad spectrum of residents which ranges from active older adults to youth and working professionals.
    - highlighted structural shifts in program delivery aimed at increasing accessibility, incorporating inclusive fitness routines, and adapting to shifting community health trends.

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        - DPR focuses heavily on balancing pre-registered multi-week classes with drop-in flexibility, noting that high-demand classes frequently experience immediate waitlists.
        - Details were shared regarding instructor recruitment, retention, and the logistical challenges of scheduling group fitness rooms around peak community center operating hours.
    - Commissioners engaged in a detailed discussion regarding user feedback, participant retention, and the balance between structured registration classes and drop-in offerings.
        - Questions were raised concerning how DPR assesses facility capacity limits and schedules program spaces to prevent conflicts between community fitness classes and youth/adult league sports allocations.
- Arlington Community Center Strength and Fitness Facilities Presentation by Member, Peter O'Shanik
    - Peter O'Shanik presented a review of strength and fitness facilities located within Arlington community centers.
    - The review focused on current equipment availability, capacity constraints during peak hours, geographical equity across different neighborhoods, and potential areas for infrastructure upgrades.
        - Discussion centered around aligning community center fitness options with the goals outlined in the Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) to ensure broad public access and modern amenities.
- Dutch Walking Day in Arlington Update
    - An update was presented regarding the upcoming or ongoing coordination for the "Dutch Walking Day" event in Arlington.
        - The initiative focuses on community wellness, promoting alternative active transportation, and encouraging multi-generational physical activity through organized walking paths.
        - Commissioners discussed ways to leverage local partnerships to drive participation and expand outreach to older adults and families.

Commission Member Reports

- Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison Update
    - The liaison shared recent updates from the Parks and Recreation Commission, emphasizing cross-committee collaboration on upcoming capital improvement projects, park space allocations, and shared infrastructure goals.
- Chair updates
    - Vice Chair, Hamilton Humes updated members on county-wide policy developments, administrative timelines, and upcoming collaborative opportunities with the County Board.
- Open Sports Commission Seats
- The Commission discussed the status of current and upcoming vacancies
    - Emphasis was placed on targeted recruitment strategies to ensure broad representation, specifically looking to fill seats with advocates from

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underrepresented sporting disciplines, casual recreation users, and diverse demographic backgrounds.

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

- **October 22nd (Virtual)**
- **November 19th (Third Thursday) (In-person)**
- **December 17th (Third Thursday) (Virtual)**

Adjourn: 8:20PM

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PICKLEBALL ALL ARLINGTON Virginia

PSMP Refresh: Establishing a Target Level of Service For Pickleball in Arlington

Arlington Pickleball Club

Presented to Sports Commission October 2026

Context

Pickleball has gone under-served in Arlington due to a **lack of a Target Level of Service.** The Public Spaces Master Plan (“PSMP”) Refresh will establish one for the first time.

PSMP acts a mandate to direct DPR’s actions - it’s why a flagship facility at Bluemont Park is being built for tennis

Bottom Line Up Front

DPR’s methodology shows that ***pickleball is under-served in Arlington***,
and that more pickleball courts are needed in order to meet the County’s goals

In contrast, ***tennis and basketball are over-served***; they could lose
a significant number of courts and still exceed the peer municipality benchmark

The PSMP Refresh should include an ***immediately actionable mandate to increase the number of pickleball courts in Arlington***

The Culture of Pickleball

*The heart and soul of the community is **drop-in play**: just show up with your paddle, and there will already be players there ready to play with you. Mix in with a wide variety of players. Play one game to 11 points and rotate off.*





There are often 30-40 players waiting in line to play!

Competing for Space

Tennis

wow!

56 dedicated courts
10 shared courts

an amazing flagship facility
is being newly built

Pickleball

these close at 5pm on Saturday, and don't open until 1pm on Sunday

6 dedicated courts
22 shared courts

no flagship facility

Target Level of Service: How DPR Gets There

The primary guide is the median of the following peer municipalities:

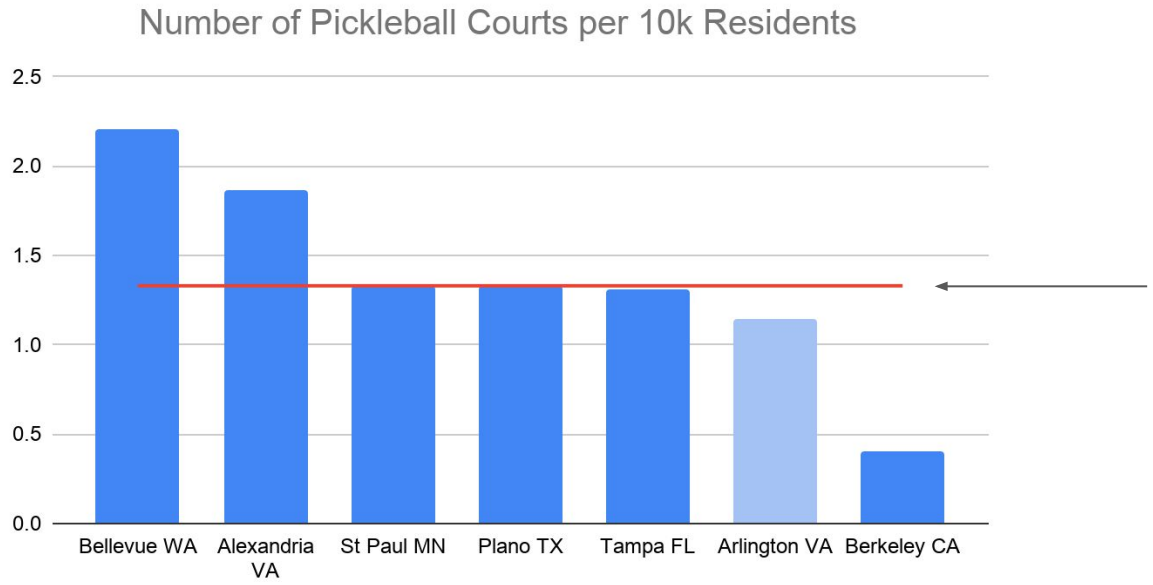
Alexandria VA
Bellevue WA
Berkeley CA
Plano TX
St Paul MN
Tampa FL

Level of Service is expressed as either the number of residents per court, or the reciprocal: the number of courts per 10,000 residents

This is DPR's own methodology, per the PSMP and PSMP Update

Peer Benchmarks: Outdoor Pickleball Courts

Arlington is ***below the peer median!***
An increase from 28 courts to 33 would put us at the line
An increase to 46 courts would put us on par with our neighbor Alexandria (1.87 courts per 10k residents)



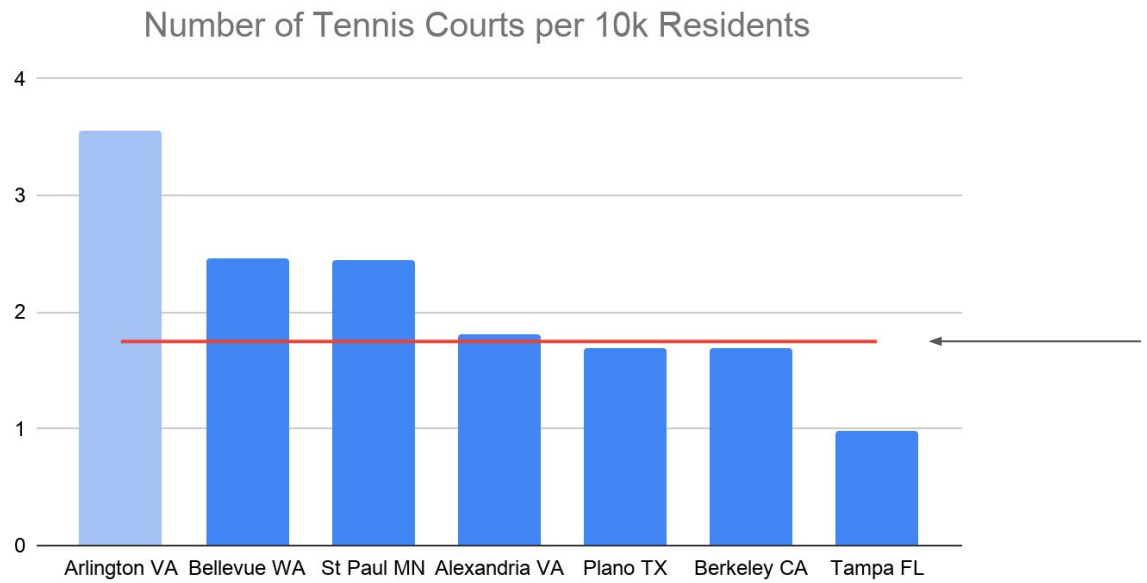
peer median:

1.33 courts / 10k residents

1 court per 7516 residents

Peer Benchmarks: Outdoor Tennis Courts

Arlington has ***over twice as many courts as the peer median!*** Tennis is over-served by a large margin! Tennis could drop from 87 courts to 43 and would still be hitting the benchmark



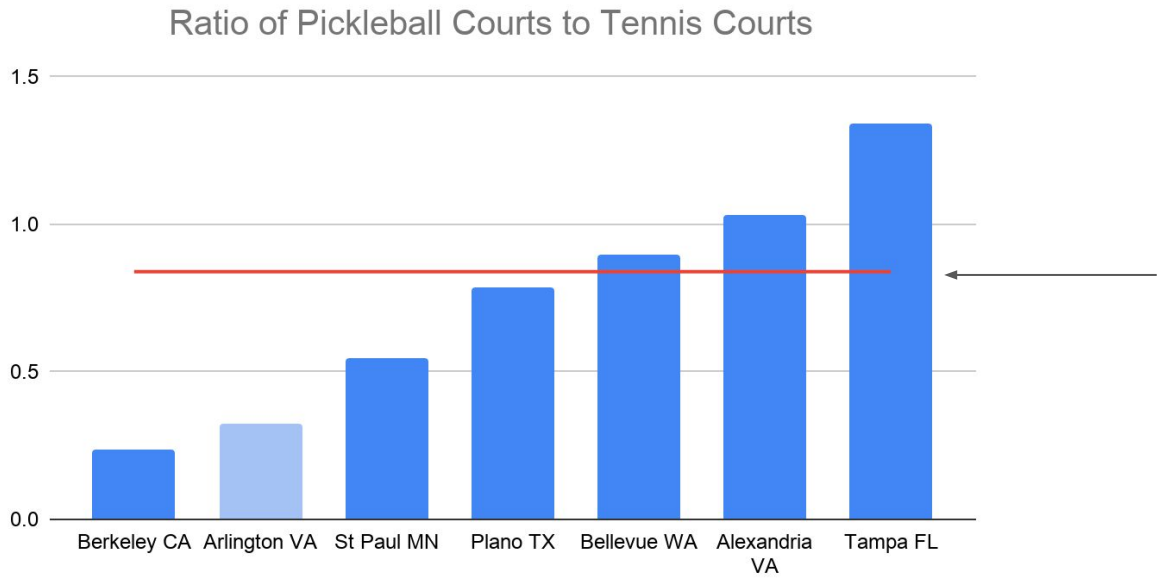
peer median:

1.64 courts / 10k residents

1 court per 6095 residents

Peer Benchmarks: Ratio of Pickleball to Tennis Courts

Arlington is ***far below the peer median***
Decreasing the number of tennis courts in Arlington and increasing the number of pickleball courts will get us to the appropriate balance

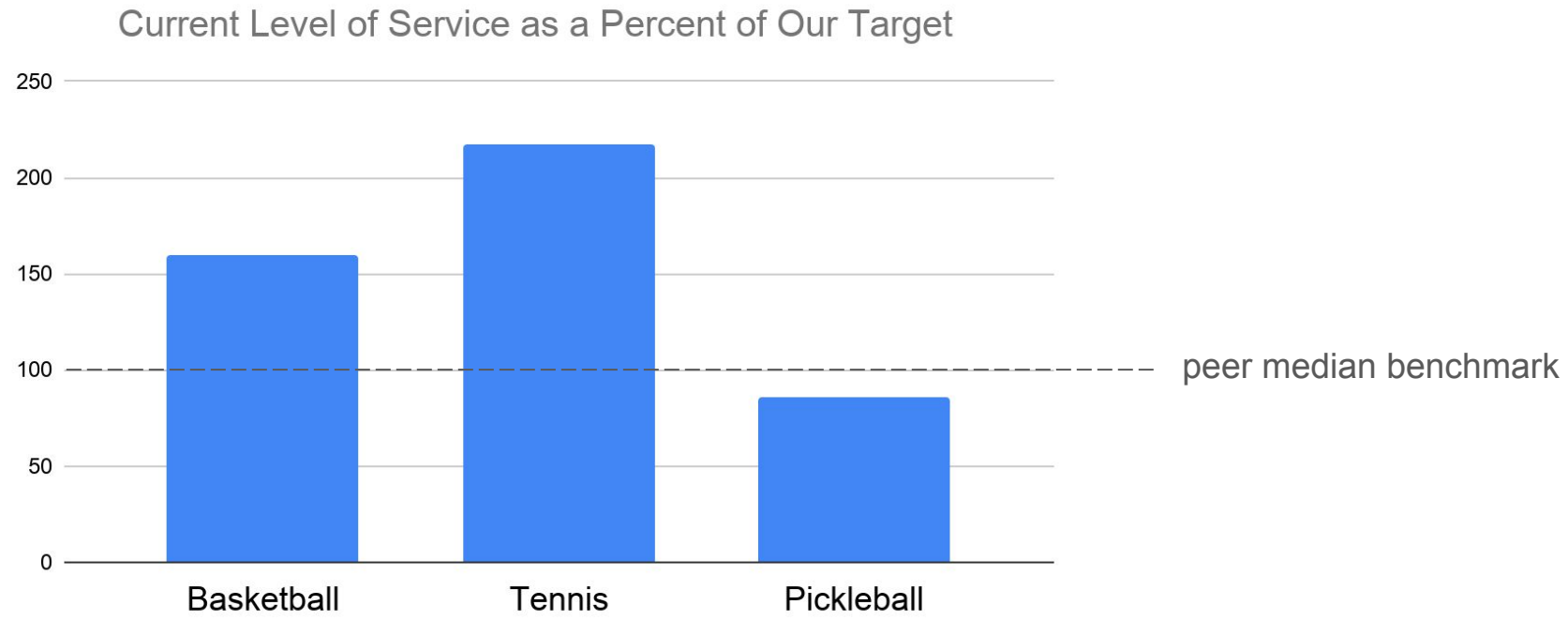


peer median:

0.84 pickleball courts per tennis court

Arlington Treats Pickleball Differently Than Other Sports

Tennis in Arlington has ***over two times the number of courts as the peer median benchmark***
Basketball has ***over 50% more courts than the peer median benchmark***
Pickleball is ***under-served*** - there are long lines to play at overcrowded courts
Basketball and Tennis can give up courts to pickleball and would still be meeting the peer median benchmark



Path Forward

A letter from the Sports Commission recommending two Action Items:

(1) **Increase the number of dedicated and shared pickleball courts** in Arlington such that tennis and pickleball are treated equitably - both should meet or exceed their Target Level of Service by the same percentage. Recognize that dedicated courts are the best way to provide drop-in pickleball.

(2) **A flagship facility for pickleball** (Quincy Park: CIP FY 2030-2034). *The tennis flagship facility at Bluemont Park could hold 36 pickleball courts*

Recommend timely action - delaying with e.g. two years of studies is not appropriate

Appendix: source data

Alexandria VA

source: https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/outdoor-ball-courts

Park	Pickleball Courts
Armistead Booth	4
Cameron Run R	1
Chambliss Park	4
Chinquapin Park	5
Eugene Simpsor	4
Lee Center	4
Minnie Howard A	1
Mount Vernon R	1
Potomac Yard P	4
William Ramsay	2
sum	30

Park	Tennis Courts
Armistead Booth	2
Carlyle Dog Parl	2
Chambliss Park	2
Chinquapin Park	4
Eugene Simpsor	2
Fort Ward Muse	2
Hooff's Run Park	2
Lee Center	2
Minnie Howard A	1
Montgomery Par	4
Mount Vernon R	1
Potomac Yard P	2
Powhatan Park	1
William Ramsay	2
sum	29

Bellevue WA

sources:	https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/parks/sports-and-athletics/pickeball-courts
	https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/parks/sports-and-athletics/outdoor-tennis-courts

Location	Outdoor Pickleball Courts
Cherry Crest Mi	1
Crossroads Cor	4
Eastgate Park	4
Hidden Valley Sp	2
Highland Comm	4
Hillaire Park	3
Lakemont Comn	4
Lewis Creek Par	2
Norwood Village	2
Spiritridge Park	2
International Sch	6
sum	34

Location	Tennis Courts
Cherry Crest Mi	1
Cherry Crest Pa	3
Crossroads Cor	3
Eastgate Park	2
Enatai Neighbor	2
Hidden Valley Sp	1
Highland Comm	2
Hillaire Park	2
Killarney Glen P	2
Lakemont Highla	1
Lakemont Comn	2
Norwood Village	2
Robinswood Ter	8
Silverleaf Park	2
Spiritridge Park	1
Sunset Park	1
Westwood Highl	1
Zumdieck Park	2
sum	38

Berkeley CA

source: https://berkeleyca.gov/community-recreation/parks-recreation/facilities/sports-fields-and-courts

Location	Tennis Courts	Pickleball Courts
Cedar Rose Par	2	4
Grove Park	3	0
James Kenney F	2	1
Live Oak Park	2	0
Rose Garden	3	0
San Pablo Park	6	0
Strawberry Cree	1	0
Willard Park	2	0
sum	21	5

Plano TX

source	https://www.plano.gov/2018/Pickleball-Tennis-Courts	
Location	**Tennis Courts**	**Pickleball Courts**
Haggard Middle	2	0
Hendrick Middle	4	0
Jasper High Sch	4	0
Otto Middle Sch	4	8
Rice Middle Sch	4	8
Robinson Middle	4	8
Shepton High Sc	4	0
Williams High Sc	4	0
High Point Park	21	16
sum	51	40

St Paul MN

source	https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks/find-park-or-amenity

location	pickleball courts
Arlington Arkwright Park	2
Assembly Union Park	3
Baker Park	1
Carty Park	1
Clayland Park	2
Duluth and Case Recreation Cent	2
Eastview Park	1
Edgcumbe Recreation Center	4
Hazel Park Recreation Center	2
Homecroft Park	2
Langford Recreation Center	2
Linwood Community Recreation C	2
Martin Luther King Recreation Ce	1
Mattocks Park	2
North Dale Recreation Center	2
Orchard Park	4
Rice Recreation Center	2
South Saint Anthony Park	1
Prosperity Park	1
Webster Park	2
West Minnehaha Recreation Cent	2
sum	41

location	tennis courts
Arlington/Arkwright Park Tennis Courts	2
Baker Park Tennis Courts	2
Battle Creek Rec Center Tennis Courts	2
Burns Avenue Park Tennis Court	1
Carty Park Tennis Courts	2
Central Village Park Tennis Courts	2
Cherokee Regional Park Tennis Courts	2
Clayland Park Tennis Courts	2
College Park Tennis Courts	2
Conway Rec Center Tennis Courts	2
Desnoyer Park Tennis Courts	1
Duluth and Case Rec Center Tennis Courts	2
Dunning/Bucky Olson Tennis Courts	6
Eastview Park	7
Edgcumbe Recreation Center	4
Groveland Tennis Courts	2
Hayden Heights Rec Center Tennis Courts	2
Hazel Park Rec Center Tennis Courts	2
Homecroft Park Tennis Courts	2
Langford Park Rec Center	2
Linwood Rec Center	2
Martin Luther King Rec Center Tennis Courts	2
Mattocks Park Tennis Courts	2
McQuillan Park Tennis Court	1
Merriam Park Rec Center Tennis Courts	2
North Dale Rec Center Tennis Courts	2
North End Community Center	2
Orchard Park Tennis Court	2
Phalen Regional Park Tennis Courts	2
Prosperity Heights Park Tennis Courts	2
South Saint Anthony Park Tennis Court	1
St. Clair Park Tennis Courts	2
West Minnehaha Rec Center Tennis Courts	2
Wiçahapi Tennis Courts	2
sum	75

Tampa FL

sources:	https://www.tampa.gov/parks-and-recreation/activities-recreation/athletics/pickleball
	https://www.tampa.gov/parks-and-recreation/activities-recreation/athletics/tennis

Park	Outdoor Pickleball Courts
Al Barnes Park	4
Copeland Park	4
Cuscaden Park	6
Davis Islands	2
Forest Hills	2
Foster Park	2
Highland Pines F	4
Julian B. Lane R	6
Macfarlane Park	8
Madison Street F	1
New Tampa Spo	4
Rowlett Park	8
Skyview Park	2
Vila Brothers Pa	2
sum	55

Park	Tennis Courts
Al Barnes Park	1
Cal Dickson	8
Copeland Park	3
Forest Hills Park	2
Highland Pines F	1
Himes Avenue S	4
Julian B. Lane R	6
MacFarlane Parl	2
Port Tampa Park	2
Rowlett Park	4
Sandra W. Freed	8
sum	41

Arlington VA

sources:	https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Rentals/Tennis-Courts
	https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Programs/Sports/Pickleball
	https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Rentals/Tennis-Courts/Tennis-Court-Practice-Walls
	DPR claims 87 courts - we can only account for 86, which includes practice walls at TJ, VA Highlands, and Towers

Location	Tennis Courts
Barcroft Park	2
Bluemont Park	9
Bon Air Park	2
Carver Community Cente	3
Fort Scott Park	3
Glebe Road Park	3
Greenbrier Park/Yorktown	6
Hayes Park	2
Jamestown Park	2
Jennie Dean Park	2
Kenmore Middle School	4
Langston Community Cer	1
Lyon Village Park	2
Madison Manor Park	2
Marcey Road Park	3
Maury Park	2
Quincy Park	6
Stratford Park/HB Woodla	2
Swanson Middle School	0
Thomas Jefferson Comm	4
Towers Park	4
Tuckahoe Park	2
Virginia Highlands Park	6
Wakefield High School	7
Walter Reed Park	0
Williamsburg Middle Scho	2

Location	Pickleball Courts
Walter Reed	6
Fort Scott Park	4
Glebe Road Park	4
Hayes Park	4
Lubber Run Park	4
Marcey Road Park	4
Virginia Highlands	2
sum	28

BRIEFING FOR THE ARLINGTON SPORTS COMMISSION

Unlocking evening field capacity in North Arlington-Williamsburg MS

Frank DeMarco, Executive Director
Arlington Soccer Association

October 22,2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A County zoning study is one step standing between Arlington and hundreds of new field hours

Situation

Youth outdoor sports demand has outgrown the field inventory. Lighting existing synthetic fields is the County's lowest-cost way to add hours, and County policy has called for lighting synthetic fields since 2005.

Complication

Modern low-spill lighting needs ~80-ft poles; S-3A zoning caps structures at 64 ft. The 2017 County Manager Manager recommendation to light Williamsburg MS depended on a zoning amendment that was never started. Phase started. Phase 3 of the zoning study was slated for CPHD's FY26 Work Program, yet its listed topics omit field lighting, omit field lighting, and the County's field lighting process is on hold until the study is done.

Resolution

The Sports Commission formally urges CPHD to start the Phase 3 study now, resolve lighting and height standards first, and position lighting projects for funding in the next capital planning cycle.

Sources: County Manager Recommendation (June 30, 2017); PSMP Implementation Advisory Committee (May 2025); ASA letter to County Board (Feb 19, 2026)

THE NEED · DEMAND

Youth outdoor sports grew 62% in six years, and 80% of that play happens on rectangular fields

+62%

Youth outdoor sports participations, FY11 to FY17: **15,033 → 24,326. FY26 - 26,000**

~8%

Average annual growth the County projected to continue

80%

Share of youth participation in rectangular sports: soccer, lacrosse, football, ultimate

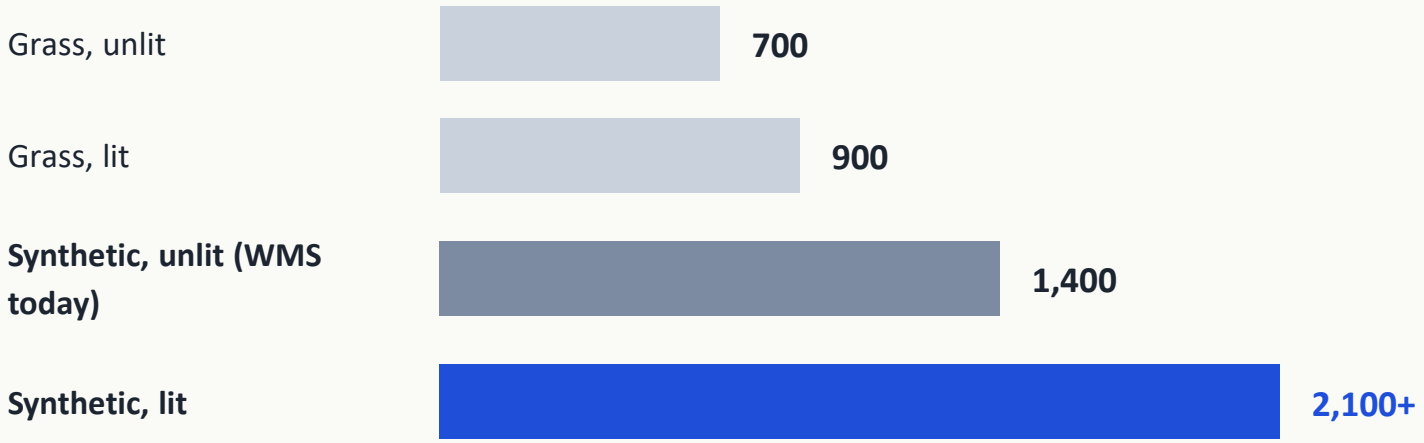
> Arlington cannot build its way out: land is scarce, and every new field takes years. The fastest capacity is **more hours on fields we already have**.

Source: Arlington County, Williamsburg Field Lights: County Analysis and Recommendation (June 30, 2017)

THE NEED · CAPACITY

Lighting a synthetic field adds ~700 playable hours a year on land the County already owns

Average programmed hours per field per year



Weekday prime-time hours, same story: Gunston #2 (synthetic, lit) 823 vs. Williamsburg #1 (FY13, unlit) 389

+50%

more capacity per field, with no land purchase, no new turf and no new impervious surface

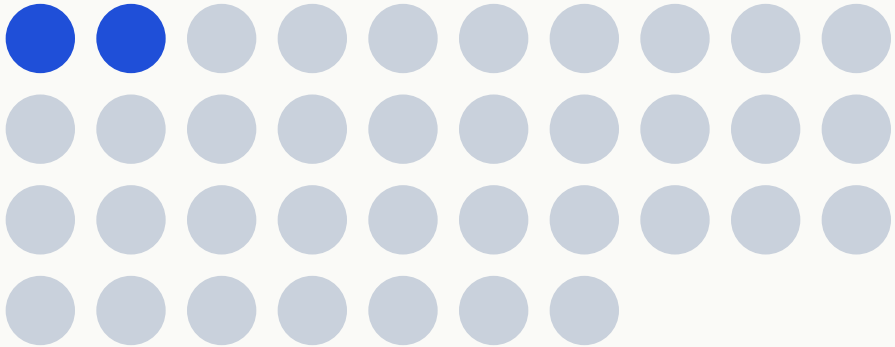
At WMS's two fields: roughly **1,200–1,400 added hours a year**, even with a 9:30 pm curfew

Sources: County Manager Recommendation (2017), citing POPS; Arlington DPR Field Usage Comparisons

THE NEED · EQUITY

North Arlington holds just 2 of the County's 37 lighted fields, despite dense youth demand nearby

Arlington's 37 lighted athletic fields



Blue: North Arlington, 2 fields (Yorktown, W&L), about 5%

Gray: South and Central Arlington, 35 fields, about 95%

~45%

of ASA participants live within one mile of the Williamsburg fields

~1,500

recreational soccer players (25% of the County total) live within 1.5 miles (2017 Work Group)

Sources: ASA analysis of County field inventory (96 fields, 37 lighted); ASA registration data; Williamsburg Fields Evaluation Work Group report (2017)

Zoning is the binding constraint: S-3A caps structures at 64 ft, but low-spill lighting needs 80 ft



Taller poles mean less light in the neighborhood

- Height lets fixtures aim straight down onto the field, cutting spill and glare
- 2017 engineered design: six 80-ft poles, shielded 4500K LEDs, dimmable
- Modeled spill at the property line: **0.00 fc average, 0.03 fc max**, against ~31 fc on the field
- The County Manager's 2017 recommendation itself called for amending the Zoning Ordinance to allow 80-ft poles; that step was never taken

Sources: Musco engineered design #166262E (Jan 2017); County Manager Recommendation (2017); County staff via ASA meeting (Nov 2025)

THE BARRIER · HISTORY

The County vetted and recommended WMS lighting in 2017; it stalled at the zoning step only CPHD can take

2005

Public Spaces Master Plan: synthetic conversions should include “dark sky” lighting; WMS listed for conversion

2013

Two WMS fields converted to synthetic turf; lights deferred for further study

2015–17

Work Group holds 17 meetings; County completes health, traffic, tree and lighting reviews

2017

County Manager recommends lighting lighting both fields, fields, CIP funding, and a zoning amendment for 80-ft 80-ft poles

2023–26

Zoning study Phases 1–2 done (2023); Phase 3 slated for CPHD’s FY26 Work Program

Next

Missing step: CPHD initiates the zoning study for S-3A / PS districts

> The delay has been about sequencing priorities, not feasibility or need. With Kenmore’s turf work well underway, the timing is right. the timing is right.

Sources: County Manager Recommendation (June 30, 2017); 2005 PSMP; PSMP Advisory Committee (May 2025); ASA letter to County Board (Feb 2026)

THE BARRIER · COUNTY BOARD GUIDANCE

The County's own PSMP tracker puts field lighting on hold until the Phase 3 zoning study is done

PSMP ACTION 1.5.10

Update zoning for parks in S-3A and PS districts

Scope named by the Board includes **athletic field lighting**, height, setbacks, parking and signage

Phases 1 & 2: complete (2023)

→

PHASE 3 · CPHD FY26

Comprehensive study with consultant support

Listed topics: definitions, **new height and setback standards**, sign rules, by-right parks outside S-3A

In the FY26 Work Program

→

PSMP ACTION 1.5.5

Civic engagement process for adding field lights

Progress: none to date. Next step, per the County: **"contingent upon the Zoning Study"**

On hold: waiting on Phase 3

> **The gap:** the Board's recommendation names athletic field lighting, but Phase 3's listed topics do not. The Commission can ask that it be named explicitly.

Source: Arlington County, PSMP Implementation Advisory Committee meeting, draft presentation (May 2025), slides 8–9

THE BARRIER · COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Neighbor concerns already have tested answers, and a zoning study can codify them countywide

Concern	What the County's 2017 analysis found
Light spill and glare	Shielded LEDs on 80-ft poles; modeled property-line spill averages 0.00 fc. Draft POPS standard: at most a 1 fc increase at homes
Health	Public Health: minimal to no risk of light entering homes; glare and sleep disruption not expected for neighbors
Traffic	125–150 added trips per night spread over 3.5 hours; peak of ~ 55 trips, 9–10 pm (assumes play until 11 pm)
Operations	Proposed MOA with the civic association: standing committee, lights on only when scheduled, on-site monitor, limited special events
Trees	One to three trees possibly affected by one pole; mitigable by relocating it during design

Source: County Manager Recommendation (June 30, 2017): DES transportation, Public Health, DPR Urban Forestry and lighting analyses
analyses

THE ASK

We ask the Sports Commission to formally urge CPHD to start the zoning study now

1

Initiate

Send a Commission letter urging CPHD to launch the Phase 3 study, resolving lighting and height in S-3A/PS first

2

Define

Confirm Phase 3's status and timeline, and name athletic field lighting explicitly in its scope

3

Align

Tie the outcome to the next capital planning cycle so WMS WMS and other unlit synthetic synthetic fields can be funded funded

4

Engage

Seek a Commission seat in engagement with civic associations, APS and DPR

Proposed next step: Commission vote on the letter at its next meeting date

2027 Sports Commission Meeting Schedule (Proposed)

Meeting Format: 6 Virtual Meetings, 6 In-Person Meetings
Special Session: DPR Budget Presentation Joint Meeting with the PRC (Tentatively scheduled for March)

Month	Date	Format / Notes
January	January 28, 2027	Virtual
February	February 25, 2027	Virtual
March	March 25, 2027	**Tentative Joint Meeting with PRC for DPR Budget Presentation** (In-Person)
April	April 22, 2027	In-Person
May	May 27, 2027	Virtual
June	June 24, 2027	In-Person
July	July 22, 2027	Decision to be made on holding a virtual meeting or maintaining the traditional summer recess
August	August 26, 2027	Field Trip
September	September 23, 2027	In-Person
October	October 28, 2027	Virtual
November	November 18, 2027	In-Person (Third Thursday)
December	December 16, 2027	Virtual (Third Thursday)

Notes

- The proposed schedule includes an even balance of **six virtual** and **six in-person** meetings.
- A **joint meeting with the PRC** is tentatively planned for **March 25, 2027**.
- The **July meeting** remains under consideration and will be determined based on the Commission's preference for either a virtual meeting or a summer recess.
- The **August meeting** is proposed as a field trip in lieu of a traditional meeting.