

ATHLETIC FIELD AVAILABILITY & UTILIZATION

**Public Spaces Master Plan-Implementation Advisory
Committee (PSMP-IAC)**

November 2, 2023

Agenda



Project Purpose & Background



Athletic Field Availability Draft Framework



Online Feedback



Pop-Up Feedback



Next Steps

Project Purpose

Develop **field availability framework** to better understand **field utilization** to improve data on the current use and assess future athletic field needs.

Athletic Field Allocation (Total amount of hours allocated per field, per season)

Athletic Field Availability (Available Hours based on field scheduling variable)



**Field
Utilization**

Field Utilization & Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP)

Priority Action 4:

1.2.5. Analyze athletic field utilization to improve data on the current use and assess future athletic field needs.

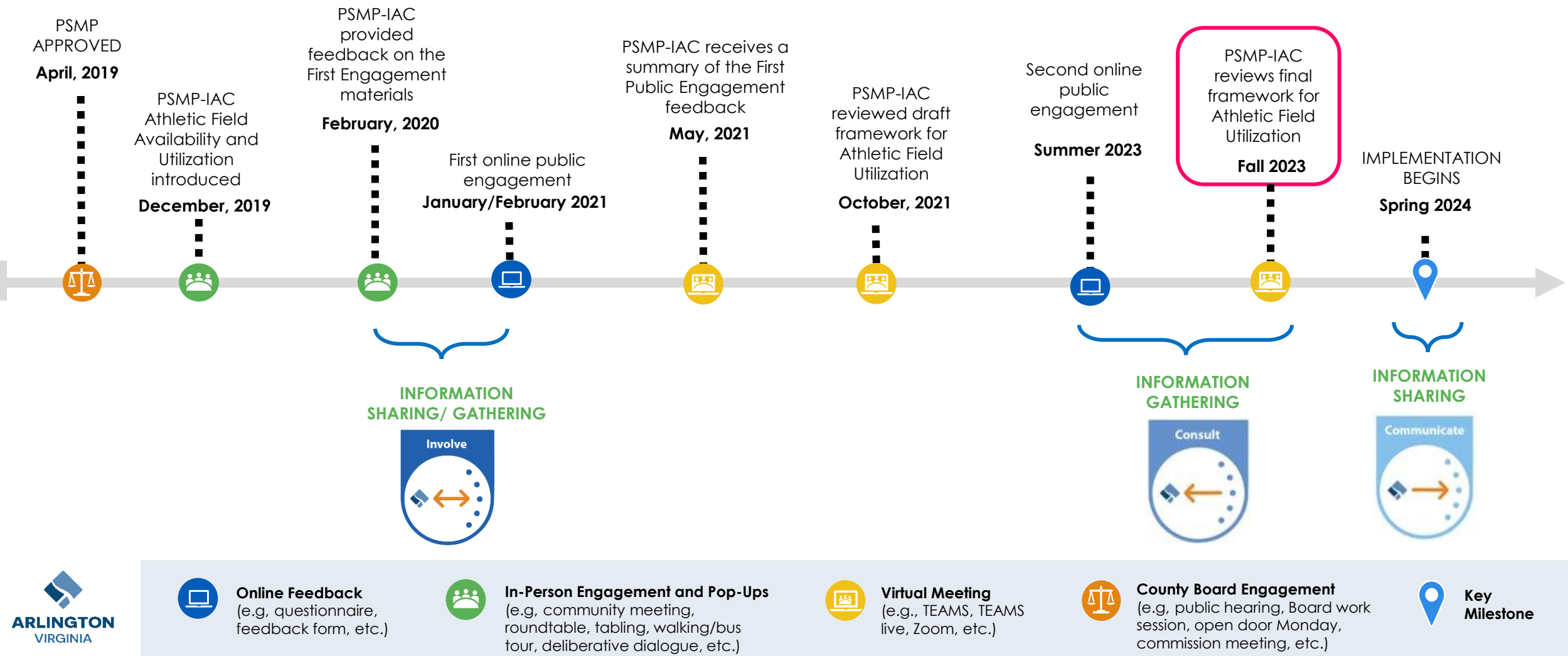
1.2.4. Conduct a public space needs assessment, including a statistically valid survey and Level of Service analysis, on a 5-year cycle.



Athletic Field Availability & Utilization Project Timeline

Origin: 2019 Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP)

Staff Contact: Greg Anselene
ganselene@arlingtonva.us



Athletic Field Availability Framework

Seasons

Season*	Number of Weeks
Spring (mid-March – mid-June)	13
Fall (September – mid-November)	11

*Most youth league seasons are based on a national governing body and can't be changed or altered

Activity End Times – Lighted Fields

Age	End* Time
14u	9:00 pm
18u	10:00 pm
Adults	11:00 pm

*End times on fields with lights do not change based on season.

Activity Start Times

Day of Week	Start* Time
Weekday	5:00 pm
Saturday	8:00 am
Sunday	9:00 am

*Activity Start Times do not change based on season or age.

Spring and Fall Activity End Times – Unlit Fields

Month	End* Time
March	7:30 pm
April	8:00 pm
May	8:30 pm
June	8:30 pm
September	7:30 pm
October	6:45 pm
November	6:00 pm

NEW!
End times have been adjusted since the first engagement. These new times more accurately reflect latest sunset of each month.

* End times are based on the latest sunset of each month.

Who Participated?

321 Participants

321



ONLINE FEEDBACK FORM

**321 Online Feedback
Form Responses**

*Through these responses, we
received 225 comments*

60

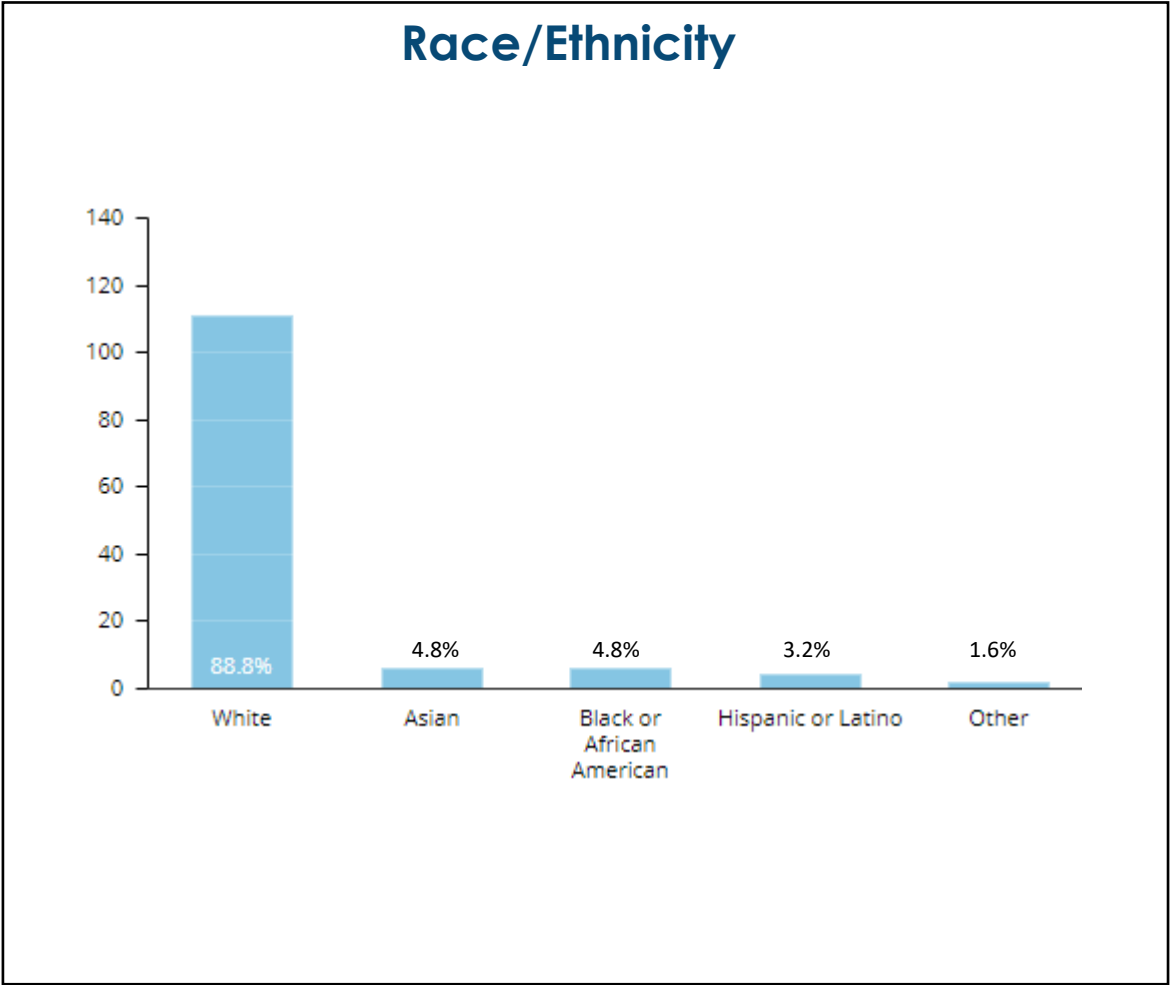
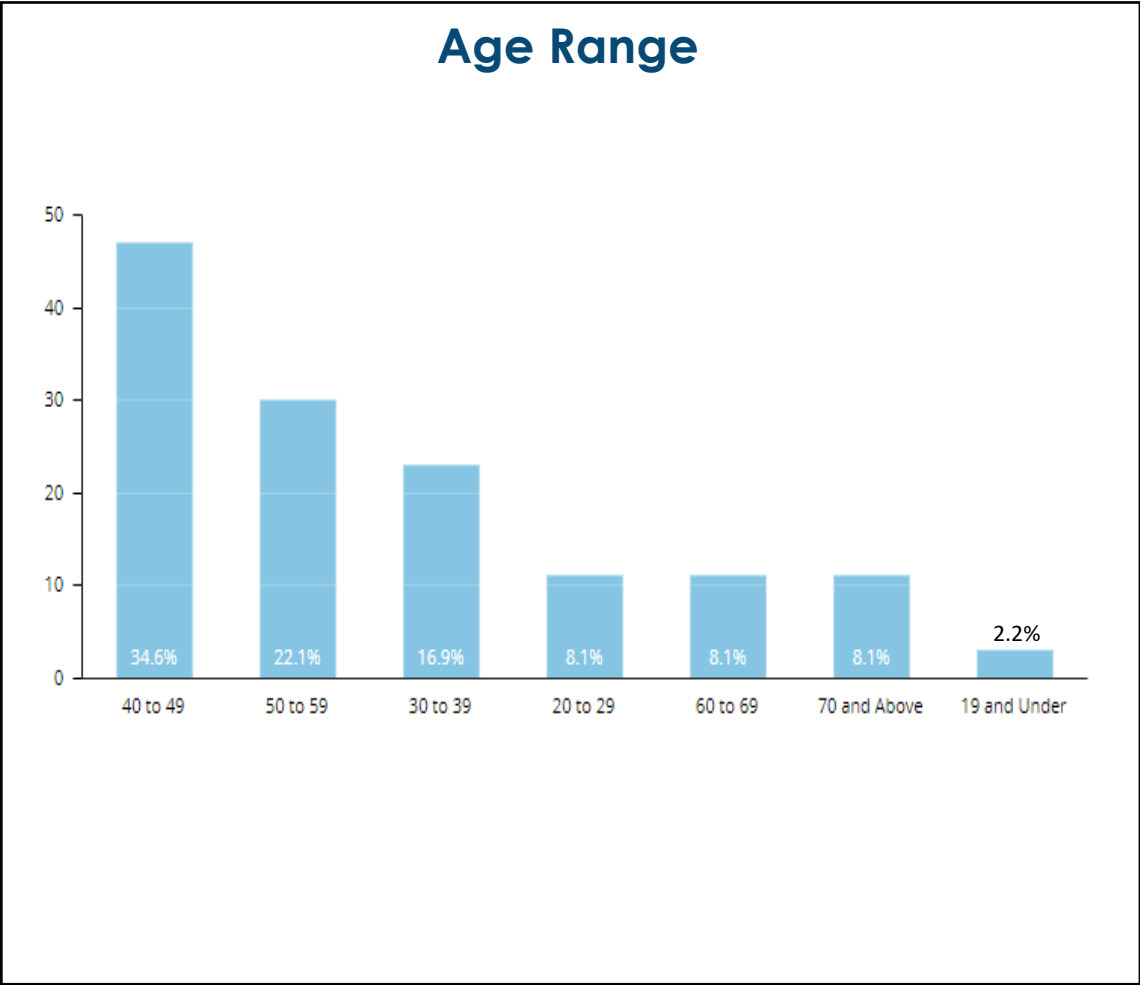


In-Person Pop-ups

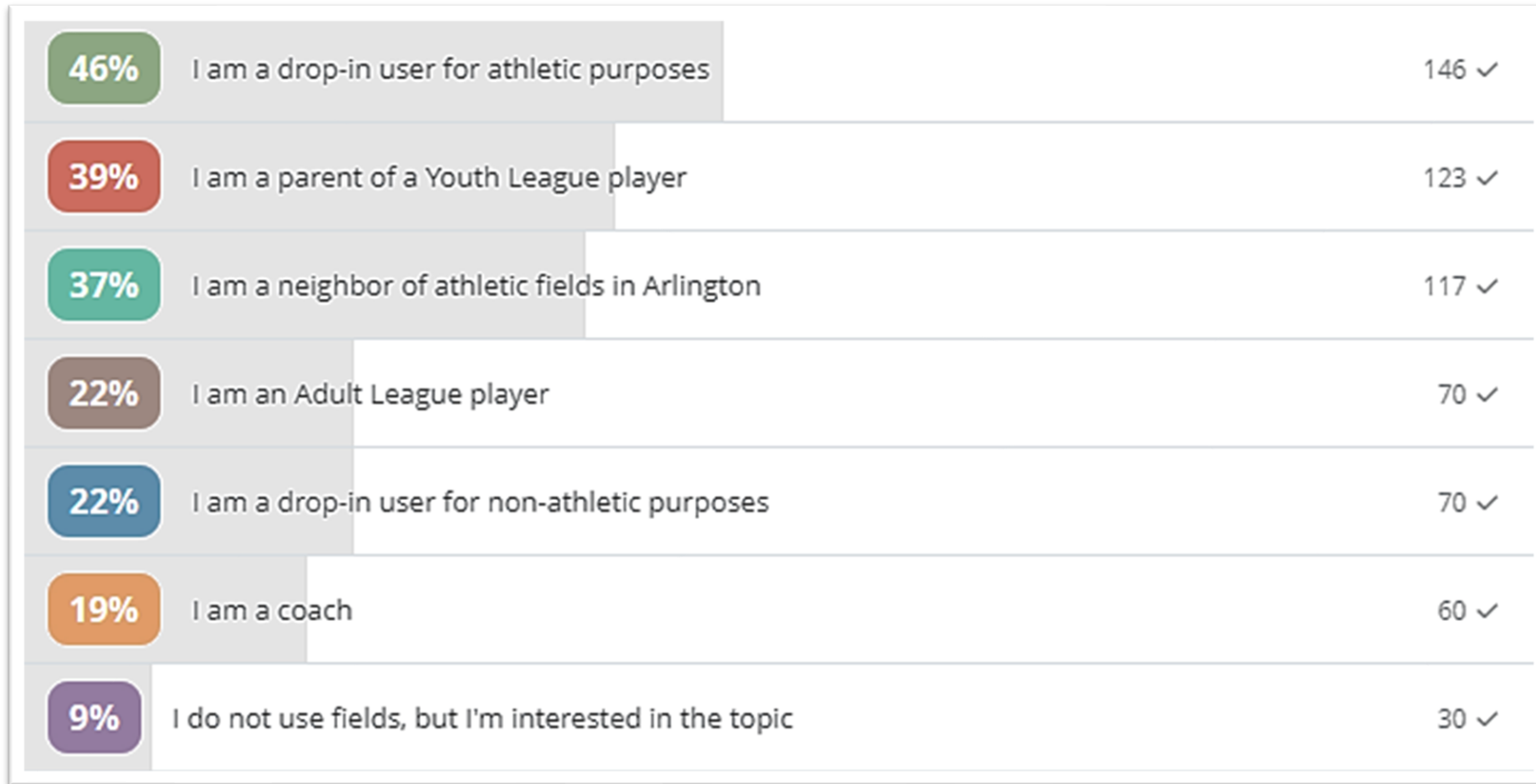
60 Participants

*Participants engaged at
Rocky Run Park, Gunston
Park, Barcroft Park, and
Tyrol Hill Park*

Who Participated: Online

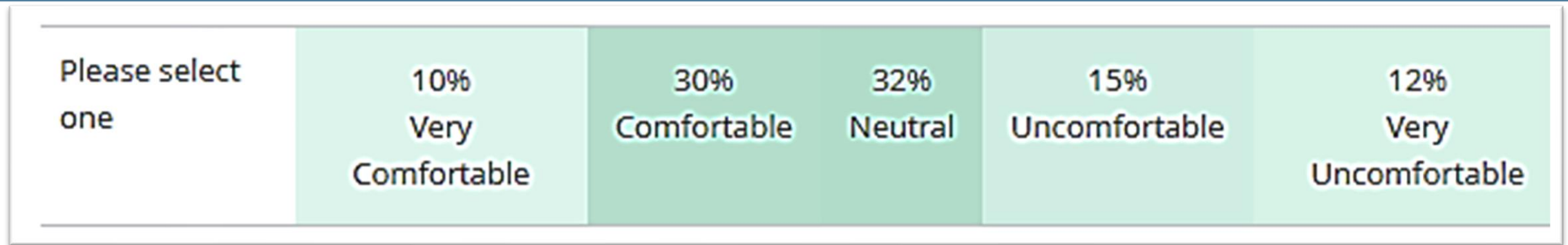


How do you use athletic fields in Arlington?



The goal of this project is to develop a field availability framework that enables consistent evaluation of field utilization. After reviewing the presentation, **how comfortable are you with the Athletic Field Availability Draft Framework and its ability to meet the project goal?**

Use of this framework would include the review of field scheduling variables such as age, start time, end time and lights to define athletic field utilization.



- General themes heard in the comments received
 - General Satisfaction
 - Lights
 - Community Use
 - Demand (for permitted activity)
 - Opportunities for Youth
 - Balanced Between Sports

The County will use annual field utilization data to help create more opportunities for community time at more athletic fields around the County. **What is your level of comfort with this approach?**

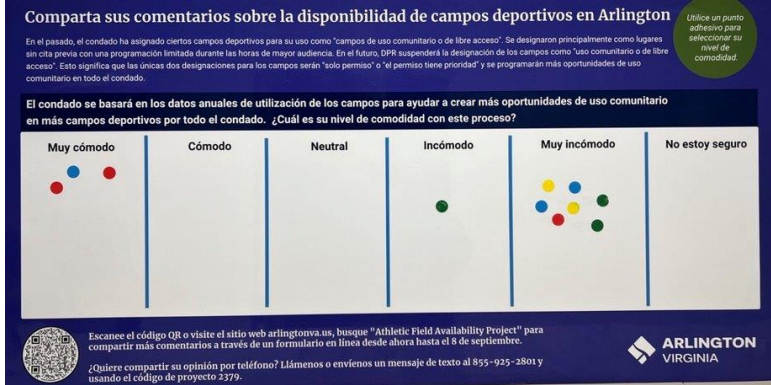
	Very Comfortable	Comfortable	Neutral	Uncomfortable	Very Uncomfortable
Please select one	15% Very Comfortable	31% Comfortable	17% Neutral	14% Uncomfortable	18% Very Uncomfortable

- General themes heard in the comments received.
 - Drop-in use vs. Permits
 - Field Designation Issues
 - Access to Information/Improved Scheduling System
 - Reservation vs Actual Needs (Monopolization of fields)
 - Access to Casual Use/ Drop-In
 - Demand for Field Space/ Play Time

What We Heard: Pop-Ups

The County will use annual field utilization data to help create more opportunities for community time at athletic fields around the County. What is your level of comfort with this approach?

Language	Participants
Spanish	11 (18%)
English	49 (82%)
60 Total Participants	



Responses

Very Comfortable	Comfortable	Neutral	Uncomfortable	Very Uncomfortable	Unsure
30%	40%	12%	2%	17%	0%

Next Steps

- **Begin Implementation of the framework**
- **Eliminate drop in field classification**
- **Preserve community use time at fields throughout the County**
- **Educate community on availability of community use time**
- **Pilot check-in methods at select fields to compare actual use against scheduled use (start in Spring 2024)**
- **Utilization reports (first report in Winter 2025)**
- **Find opportunities for efficiencies**

