

ATHLETIC FIELD AVAILABILITY & UTILIZATION

Arlington County, VA
Department of Parks and Recreation
July 2023



AGENDA



Project Purpose & Background



Athletic Field Availability Draft Framework



Athletic Field Utilization Examples



Drop-in Update



Share your Thoughts



PROJECT PURPOSE

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

Through this engagement we hope to hear your feedback on:

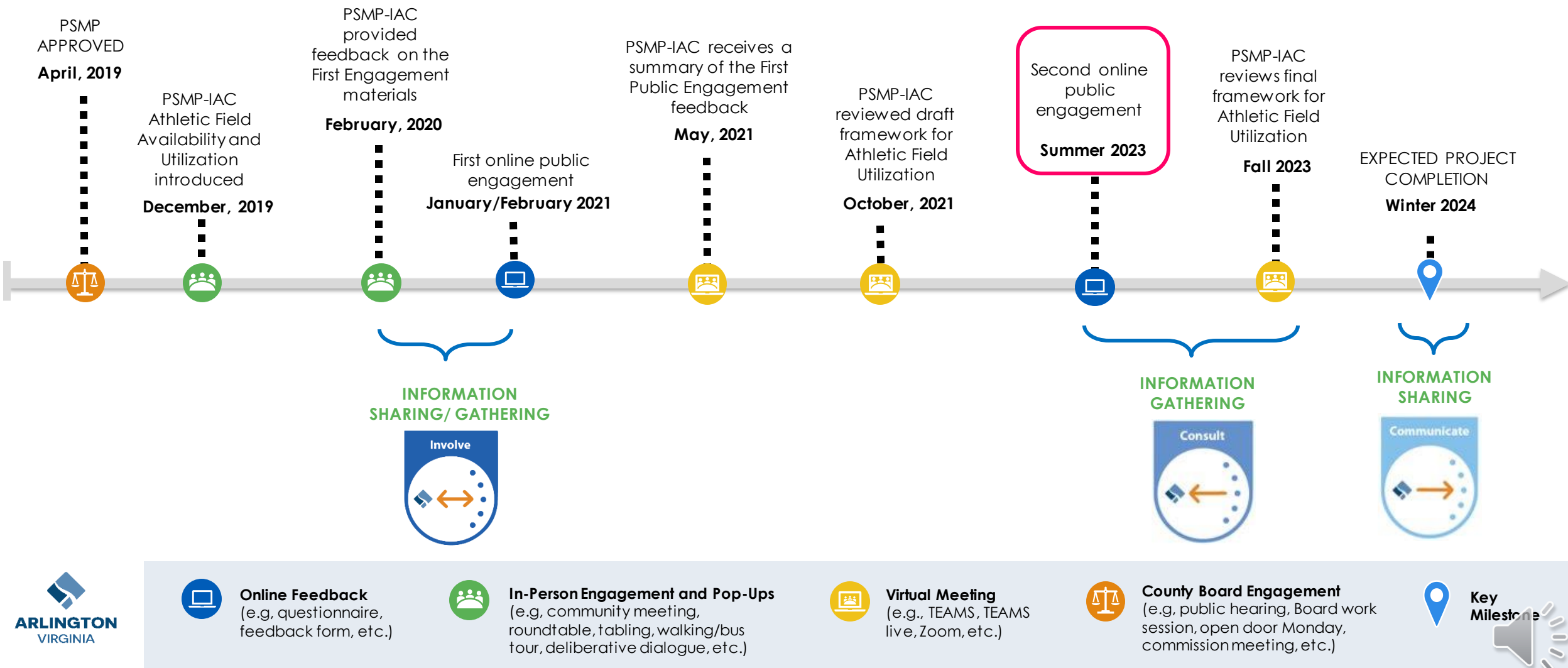
- The Athletic Field Availability Framework
- New approach to drop-in on athletic fields



Athletic Field Availability & Utilization Project Timeline

Origin: 2019 Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP)

Staff Contact: Greg Anselene
ganselene@arlingtonva.us



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.



TERMINOLOGY

Athletic Field Allocation

- Total amount of hours allocated per field, per season.

Athletic Field Availability

- The hours that athletic fields are available based on the field scheduling variables.

Field Scheduling Variables

- Participant Age
- Field Size
- Field Amenities
- Total Weeks Per Season
- Start & End Times

Field Utilization

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

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

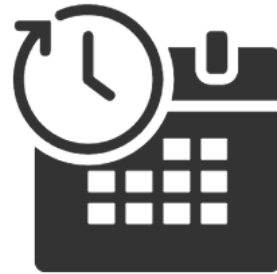


**Field
Utilization**

First Engagement Overview



102
Arlingtonians
shared their input



Feedback
open from
1/25/21
to
2/28/21



The engagement
opportunity focused
on three areas:

- 1) Drop-In Field Use
- 2) Activity Start-Times on Athletic Fields
- 3) Activity End-Times on Athletic Fields

The full list of feedback results are available on the project website visit [here](#).



ATHLETIC FIELD

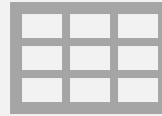
AVAILABILITY



ATHLETIC FIELD AVAILABILITY DRAFT FRAMEWORK



A draft framework has been developed for Athletic Field Availability.



The draft framework includes criteria and field scheduling variables



The criteria and field scheduling variables create a total number of hours fields are available for use per season in the spring and fall.



ATHLETIC FIELD AVAILABILITY DRAFT DEFINITION

Athletic Field Availability is determined by the following variables:

- Participant Age
- Field Size
- Field Amenities (Lights)
- Weekday Start Times
- Saturday Start Times
- Sunday Start Times
- Total Weeks Per Season
- Activity End Times on Lighted Fields
- Activity End Times on Unlit Fields



ATHLETIC FIELD AVAILABILITY DRAFT 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.

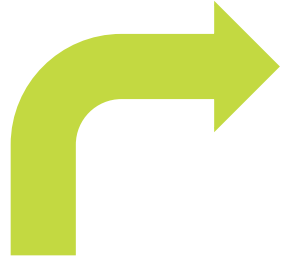
* End times are based on the latest sunset of each month.



ATHLETIC FIELD UTILIZATION



FIELD UTILIZATION PROCESS



Step 1: determine field availability:
total number of hours fields are available for use per season in the spring and fall based on the Athletic Field Availability Framework.



Step 4: confirmation of field utilization:
using real-time data and technology to compare actual versus reserved field use. This will inform future availability and drop-in opportunities.

Step 2: schedule and reserve fields:
fields are permitted for use based on allocation guidelines and user requests.



Step 3: calculate field utilization:
annual comparison of athletic field reservations to the athletic field availability



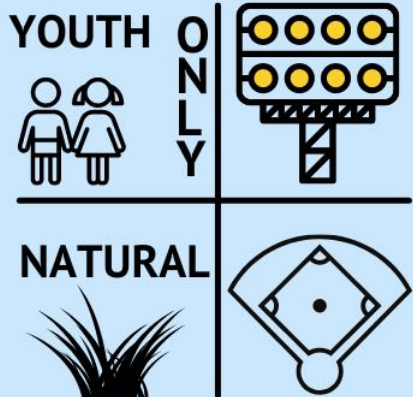
DRAFT UTILIZATION SNAPSHOT – BARCROFT PARK FIELD #1

BARCROFT FIELD #1

4200 S. Four Mile Run Dr.



- Permit only
- Primarily used for baseball
- Preferred for youth aged 12 and younger
- Practice, game and tournament field



2021-22
UTILIZATION

98%

FALL 2021

Aug. 30 - Nov. 14 (11 Weeks)

HOURS

700

600

500

400

300

200

100

487 AVAILABLE HOURS

411
SCHEDULED HOURS

84%

SPRING 2022

Mar. 14 - June 12 (13 Weeks)

639.5

SCHEDULED HOURS

581 AVAILABLE HOURS

110%



DRAFT UTILIZATION SNAPSHOT – BOEING FIELD #3 AT LONG BRIDGE PARK

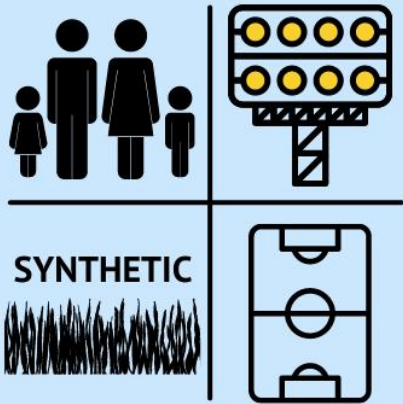
BOEING FIELD #3

AT LONG BRIDGE PARK

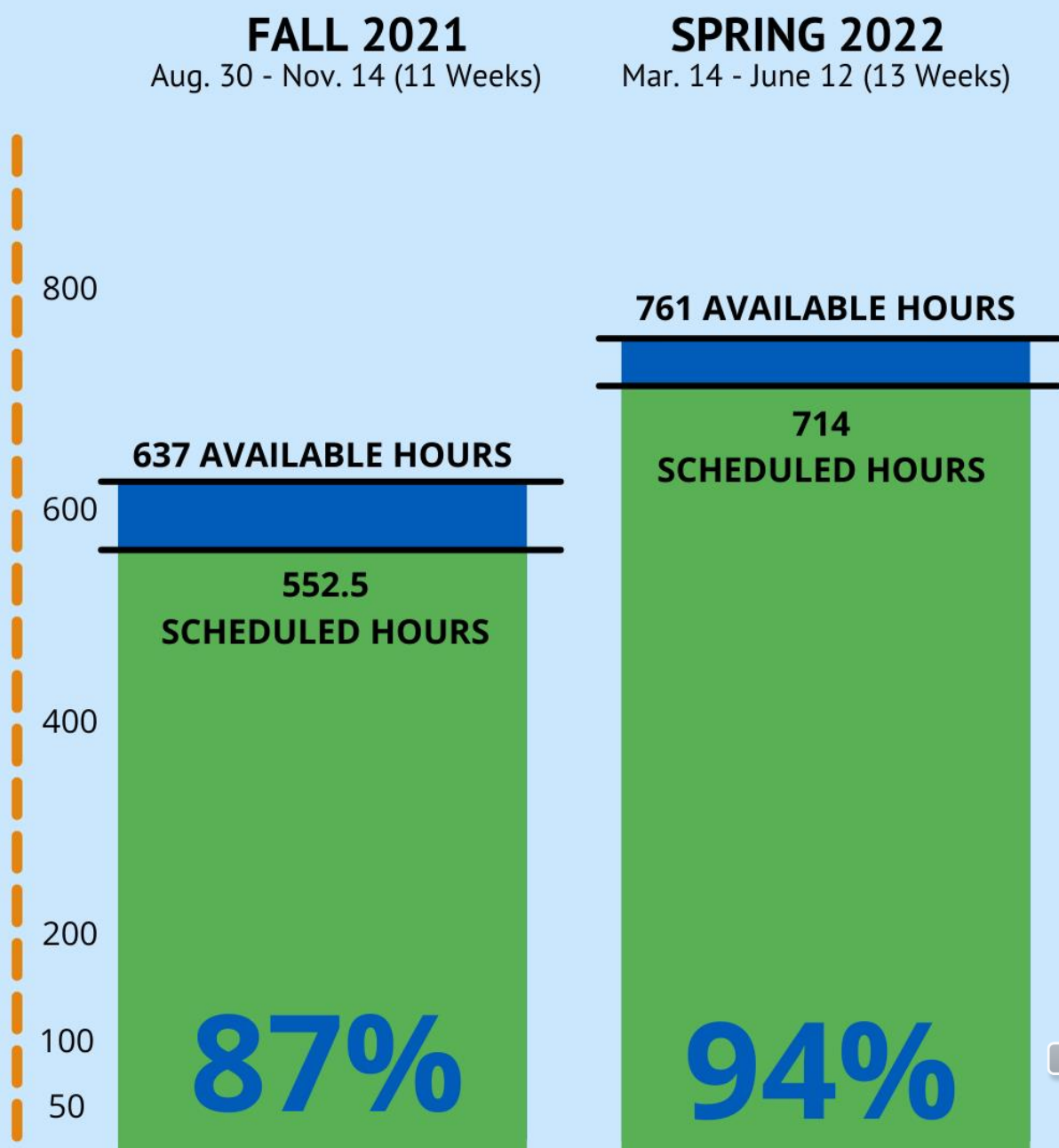
475 Long Bridge Drive



- Permit Takes Priority
- Primarily used for soccer, ultimate, and lacrosse
- Preferred by youth and adults ages 9 and older
- Practice, Game, Event and Tournament Space



HOURS



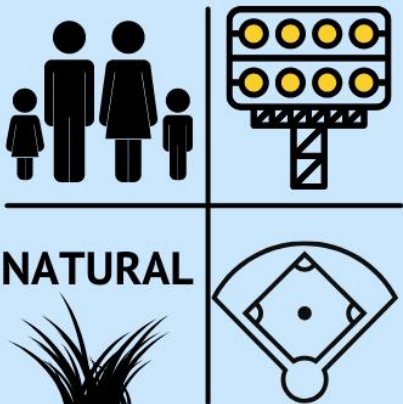
DRAFT UTILIZATION EXAMPLE – VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS FIELD #3

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS #3

1600 S. Hayes St.



- Permit Takes Priority
- Primarily used for softball and community use
- Preferred by youth and adults ages 10 & older
- Practice, Game, Event and Tournament Space



2021-22
UTILIZATION
82%

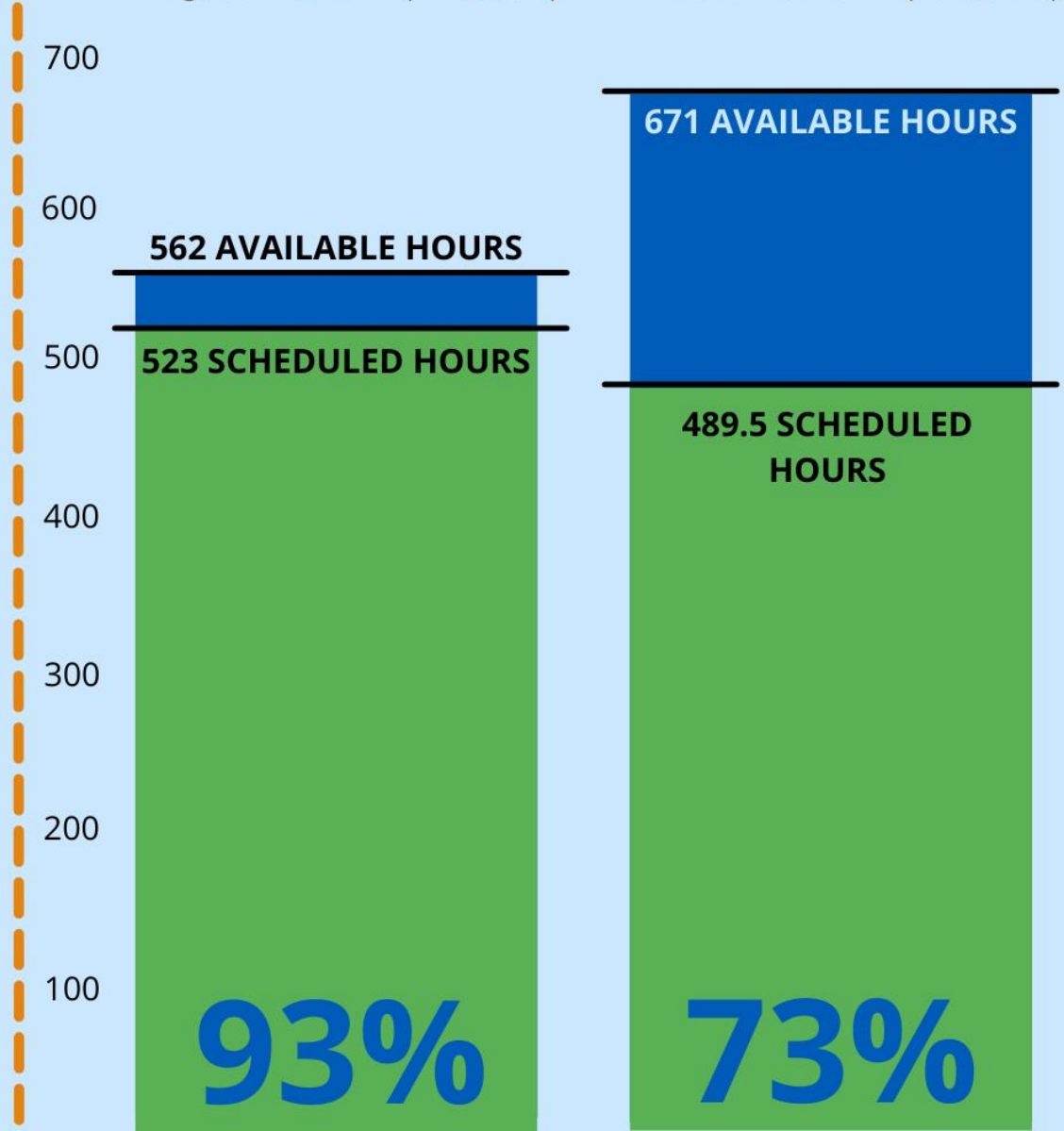
HOURS

FALL 2021

Aug. 30 - Nov. 14 (11 Weeks)

SPRING 2022

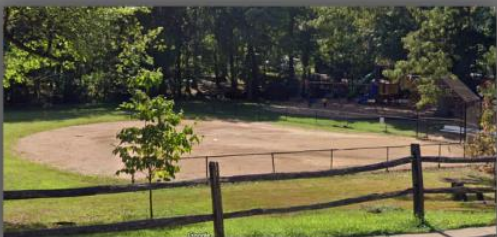
Mar. 14 - June 12 (13 Weeks)



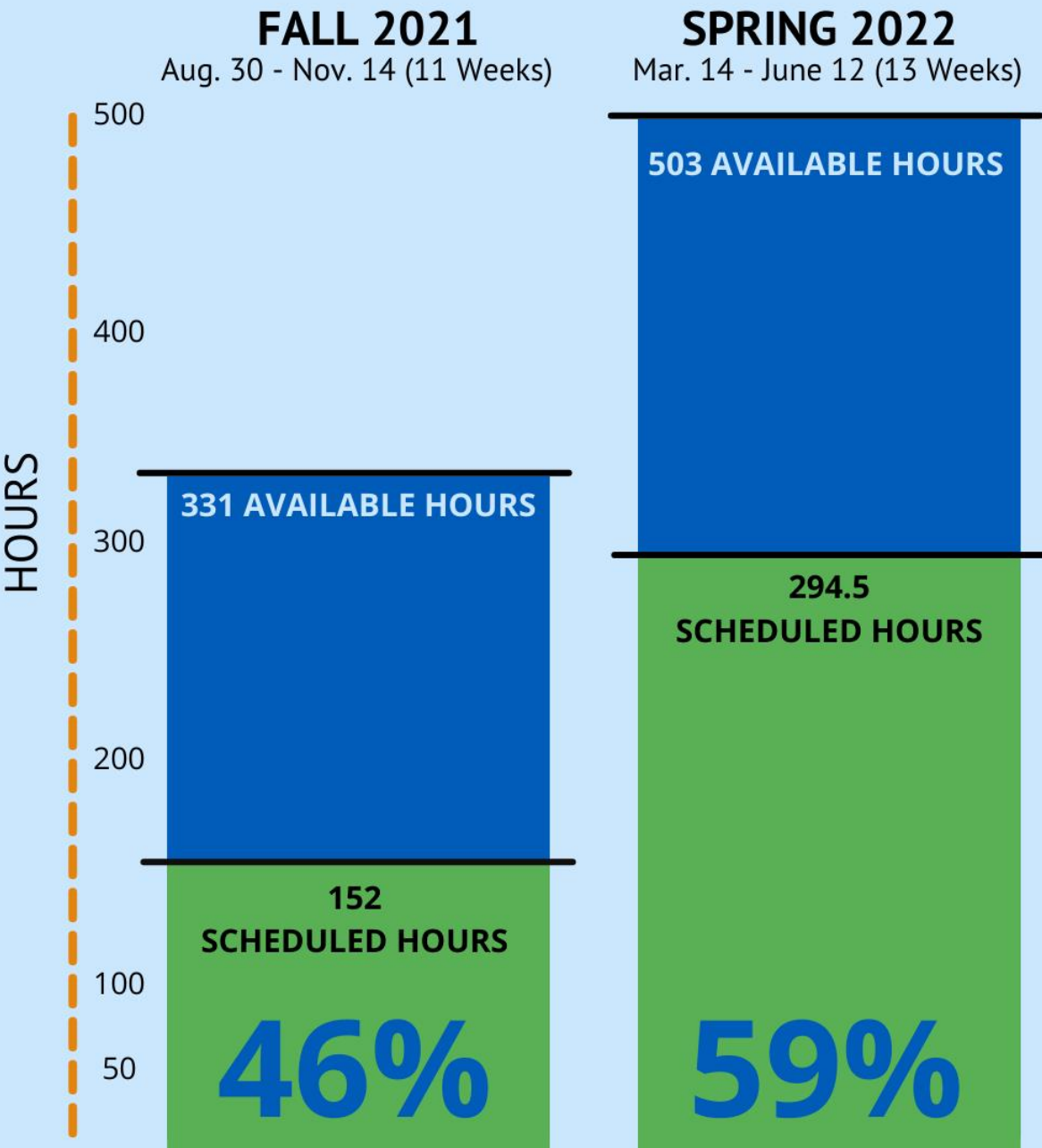
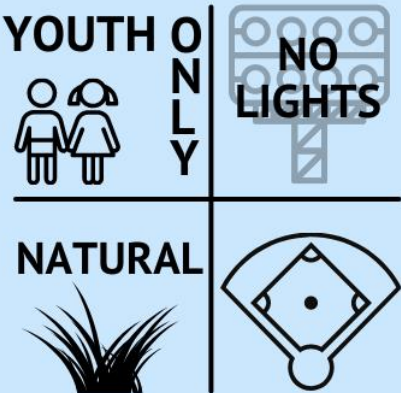
DRAFT UTILIZATION SNAPSHOT– ALCOVA HEIGHTS

ALCOVA HEIGHTS

901 S George Mason Dr.



- Permit Takes Priority
- Primarily used for T-Ball and Softball
- Preferred for youth aged 8 and younger
- Practice and Game Field



FIELD UTILIZATION CONTEXT



Light Curfews



Adult Use on High School Fields



Scheduling



Participant age



Programmatic Needs



Weather

NEXT STEPS IN FIELD UTILIZATION

- **Annually compile utilization rates for all fields each fall starting in 2024. Data will reflect the utilization rates for the previous fiscal year.**
- **Confirm Athletic Field Use**
 - Track & improve efficiency of field use after fields are allocated to users.
 - Explore technology solutions, and opportunities to partner with youth sports organizations to confirm field use.
 - In 2023-2024, initiate a pilot project on selected fields where coaches and teams will check-in to their practice using an app, or other electronic form.
- **Ensure equitable access to drop-in fields across Arlington**
- **Assess future athletic field needs**



DROP-IN TIME



HISTORY OF DROP-IN USE AND NEXT STEPS FOR COMMUNITY TIME

Drop-In History

(Pre 2021)

The following were designated as Drop-in fields with limited scheduling:

- Gunston 3
- Barcroft 5
- VA Highlands 2
- Westover
- TJ Lower Field
- Rocky Run



Drop-In History

(2021-2023)

Community feedback expressed a need for more drop-in time throughout the Count. Designated drop-in time was added to:

- Greenbrier Stadium
- Gunston 2
- Long Bridge 1 & 3
- Quincy Aux
- VA Highlands 3
- Wakefield Stadium
- W-L Stadium



Next Steps for Drop-In

(Fall 2024)

Community feedback also helped inform solutions to further expand drop-in time throughout the County. Solutions include:

- Field classifications adjusted to either “Permit Only” or “Permit Takes Priority”
- Increase the variety of locations, activities and times reserved by DPR for scheduled “Community Time” (definitions on the next slide)



UPDATED TERMINOLOGY –

- **Unscheduled/Open Field Time** – field time available for anyone's use when there is no scheduled/reserved time for athletic activities – *doesn't count toward field utilization*
- ***New* Scheduled community time** – field time throughout the county that DPR schedules to protect field time for anyone's use – *counts toward field utilization*
- ***New* Scheduled community sports time** – field time that DPR schedules or reserves specifically for drop-in sports activities (soccer, field hockey etc.) – *counts toward field utilization*



Engagement





Please provide your input on:

- The Athletic Field Availability Framework
- New approach to drop-in time on athletic fields

- Learn more:

- [Online Questionnaire](#)
- [Project Webpage](#)
- **Staff Contact:**

Greg Anselene

ganselene@arlingtonva.us

ATHLETIC FIELD AVAILABILITY & UTILIZATION

Thank you for your input!