



Town of Wayland

Fields Presentation and Community Forum to Discuss Current and Future Field Needs


BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2021

Field's Forum, Monday, August 30, 2021

A description of the state of the fields in Wayland, includes most recent data from field permits issued between August 2020 and August 2021, with some comparisons to prior years, and some projections for the out years. We'll finish with some recommendations to aid in capital planning.


Rectangles (18)	Diamonds (15)
Alpine Field	Art King Baseball
Town Building Field	Cochituate 1 & 2 Softball
Oxbow Meadows	Alpine Tee Ball (offline)
Cochituate Football	Schwartz Baseball, Cage
Claypit Hill (7 fields)	WHS Varsity Baseball, Batting Cage
WHS Wetlands	WHS JV Baseball
WHS Bennett 'Rock'	WHS Softball
Middle School (Back)	Middle School Baseball
Middle School (Front)	Middle School Softball
WHS Field Hockey	Claypit 1 & 2 Softball
JV Football / Boys Lax	Loker Baseball (2)
WHS Turf	Happy Hollow Baseball

Field Inventory



The Rec Department also operates 44+ other sites that are not included in this slide deck. (i.e. tennis courts, basketball courts, gymnasias, trails, parks & playgrounds.)

Looks like 33 reserve-able playing fields

Rectangles (18)	Diamonds (15)	
Alpine Field	Art King Baseball	<h2>Field Inventory</h2> <p>Overlaid Fields in red</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ Some sites have multi-sport field markings or are so close together that the fields cannot be used safely, simultaneously ◀ Creates major scheduling conflicts ◀ 27 sites available at once 
Town Building Field	Cochituate 1 & 2 Softball	
Oxbow Meadows	Alpine Tee Ball (offline)	
Cochituate Football	Schwartz Baseball, Cage	
Claypit #10	WHS Varsity Baseball,	
WHS Wetlands	WHS JV Baseball	
WHS Bennett 'Rock'	WHS Softball	
Middle School (Back)	Middle School Baseball	
Middle School (Front)	Middle School Softball	
WHS Field Hockey	Claypit 1 & 2 Softball	
JV Football / Boys Lax	Loker Baseball (2)	
WHS Turf	Happy Hollow Baseball	

Cochituate Football conflicts with CBP Softball #1 and #2

Claypit #10 conflicts with CPH SB #1 and CPH SB #2

Note: Claypit has 7 fields that are numbered #5 to #11. There are not 11 fields.

Alpine Tee Ball cannot be used for Little League while Alpine soccer is use

Middle School Front conflicts with WMS SB and WMS BB

JV Football conflicts with JV Baseball in the Fall, goal posts in the infield

The Turf is striped for 5 activities, used one at a time.


Middle School Fields



Note: 4 highly requested fields, which cannot be used simultaneously.



Same site: All 4 cannot be used during Micro Soccer on Saturday mornings...over 300 families

Rectangles (18)	Diamonds (15)	Field Inventory 
Alpine Field	Art King Baseball	
Town Building Field	Cochituate 1 & 2 Softball	
Oxbow Meadows	Alpine Tee Ball (offline)	
Cochituate Football	Schwartz Baseball, Cage	
Claypit Hill (7 fields)	Claypit 1 & 2 Softball	
WHS Wetlands	Loker Baseball (2)	
WHS Bennett 'Rock'	Happy Hollow Baseball	
Middle School (Back)	Middle School Baseball	
Middle School (Front)	Middle School Softball	
WHS Field Hockey	WHS Varsity Baseball,	
JV Football / Boys Lax	WHS JV Baseball	
WHS Turf	WHS Softball	

WPS Athletic Department is home to up to 94 teams WHS/WMS school (41 of which use fields)

Middle, Freshmen, JV, Varsity, for both genders = 8 teams per activity!

Only 15 Available afterschool: 2:30 pm - dark

Rectangles (8): Alpine, Oxbow, CPH6 (WHS uses TB)

Diamonds (7): AK, Schwartz, CPH1, CPH2, Lok2, HH (WHS uses Coch)



School Start & Dismissal Times

- School times were adjusted in 2020:
 - Now older students sleep longer and are dismissed later in the day.
 - Younger students are shifted earlier.
- Youth organizations were shifted off upper school fields until after dark.
- WHS teams have priority on school fields
- WHS teams also use non-school sites like Town Building + Cochrane
- WHS teams also reserve weekend times
- Youth Lacrosse practices, as young as Grade 2 are starting practice at 7:00 p.m.
- By Oct 15 it is dark at 6:00 p.m.



About 1,800 youth group users who are not on the WPS Athletics teams left to share those 15 fields afterschool on weekdays, and some weekend activity

Who holds a field permit?

2021

44 User Groups
with over **10,000** participants
who played
6,012 activity sessions
on **33** playing fields
for over **36,000** hours



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User Groups

- Wayland Public School Athletic Department
- not-for-profit organizations (WAYS, Little League, etc.)
- Other amateur sports clubs (WayCo, Men's Softball etc)
- registered 501(c)3 organizations (OTHSL, EMWSL, EMASS)
- Wayland Recreation programs
- Summer Camps & Clinics
- Passive Users

Non-Wayland Users

Minimal Usage

- Non-Residents only receive permits after ALL Wayland groups have been issued permits
- Non-Resident groups permits have dropped from about **10% to 0%** of all rectangular permits since 2016
- Mixed groups that are considered non-resident:
 - Youth groups with less than 80% residents
 - Adult groups with less than 60% residents
 - Senior groups with less than 15% residents

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MYTH

Example: 12 kids on a club soccer team, 9 are from Wayland and they're considered non-residents.

Very few groups if ANY made up entirely of non-residents

Claypit Soccer Camps in summer serve Wayland residents and non-residents.

Why we issue permits

Issued by the Recreation Department

- To ensure play areas are **safe**
- To manage field use in a **fair and equitable** way
- To provide most **efficient** use of the limited resources
- To create a user priority system for **Wayland residents**
- To **minimize conflicts**
- To provide **guidelines** for user groups
- To **protect the investment** that the Town makes in its facilities with playability guidelines

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Lay use does not require a field permit, organized and/or regular private usage by groups requires a permit.

Wayland Field Permits

Important Safety and Security Functions

We require that organizations:

- Are insured for the activities they provide (and additionally insure the Town)
- Meet residency requirements
- Pay fees for the care, goals and nets, utilities and maintenance of the field
- **NEW** in 2020-2021, groups were required to provide a COVID-19 Control Plan
- Are able to background check parents & volunteers who have access to minors
(M.G.L. Chapter 385 of the Act of 2002 – §172H)
- Are licensed by MDPH to meet the minimum safety standards for camps and clinics
(MDPH 105 CMR 430.000: (State Sanitary Code, Chapter IV, where applicable)

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Other Uses

Impact Field Availability

- **Public School Activities**

- Graduation, Physical Education, Outdoor Learning

- **Annual Town Meetings & Town Elections**

- **Maintenance**

- Time needed to stripe, mow, fertilize, seed, aerate, irrigate and repair

- **Carnivals, Campouts, Community Events**

- **Memorial and Veterans Day Services**

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Town Meeting in May 2021 closed 17 reserve-able spaces on one of the first sunny Sunday in May- post pandemic
There were 26 "away" lacrosse games that day.
We may have to do it again in October.

Scheduling Challenges Beyond Our Control



Weather	Drought Days	Routine Maintenance	E.E.E & West Nile	COVID-19
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RAIN DAYS IN 2021

49

HAZE OR HIGH HEAT

29

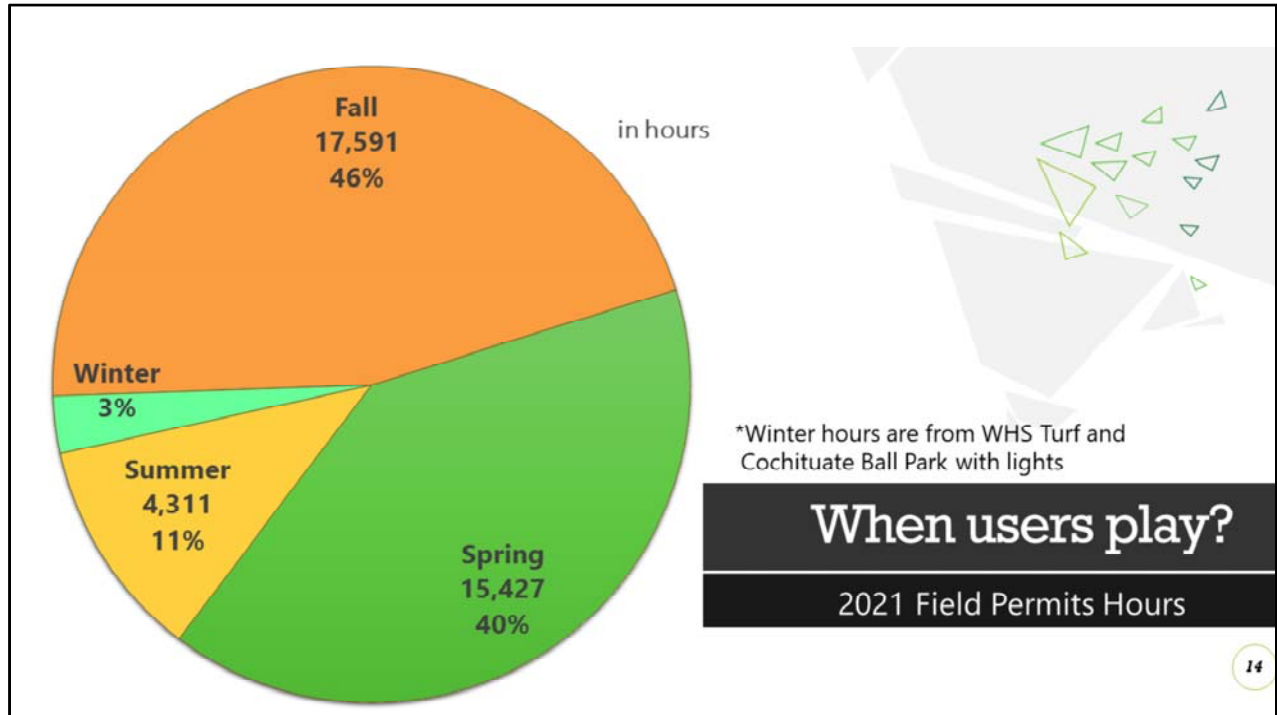
ALL FIELDS NEEDS WEEKLY,
SEASONAL AND ANNUAL
CARE

DAYS IN RISK LEVEL

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SPREADING OUT &
CAPACITY RESTRICTIONS
MAX 25 / FIELD






Impacts

WINTER = 22 weeks, Some activity into November on lighted fields, Thanksgiving Day football game, Some Turf activity into December, and as early as February

SPRING = 9 or 10 weeks field opening dates average April 15, most seasons begin scheduling games about 10 days earlier – very wet in spring

FALL = 13 weeks, lose day light beginning mid October

Summer = 9 weeks



Wayland extends play time
with Sports Lighting

- **Cochituate Ball Park**
 - lit 303 hours in 2021 (15%)
- **WHS Stadium**
 - lit 1,880 hours in 2021 (70%)
- **Lights on grass rectangular fields can lead to overuse -- generally not recommended unless fields can be rotated or rested.**
- There were 54 days in the Fall where the sun set before 6:30 p.m.

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Latest technology allows the playing field to be lit for player safety, without spillage or glare reaching the surrounding areas.

Lights can be controlled remotely to shut the off when games are cancelled or it's raining. Typically sports lighting curfews are 10:00 p.m., generally off earlier.

1. Cochituate Ball Park
2. WHS Turf



Challenges to rotation:

-- Fencing, irrigation, permanently installed goals, topography, tree lines, proximity to roadways, sunsets

Diamonds: Do not rotate

-- It is desirable that the line from home base through the pitchers plate to second base shall run East/Northeast (sunset)

Pictured: Claypit #11, on Thursday, August 26, 2021

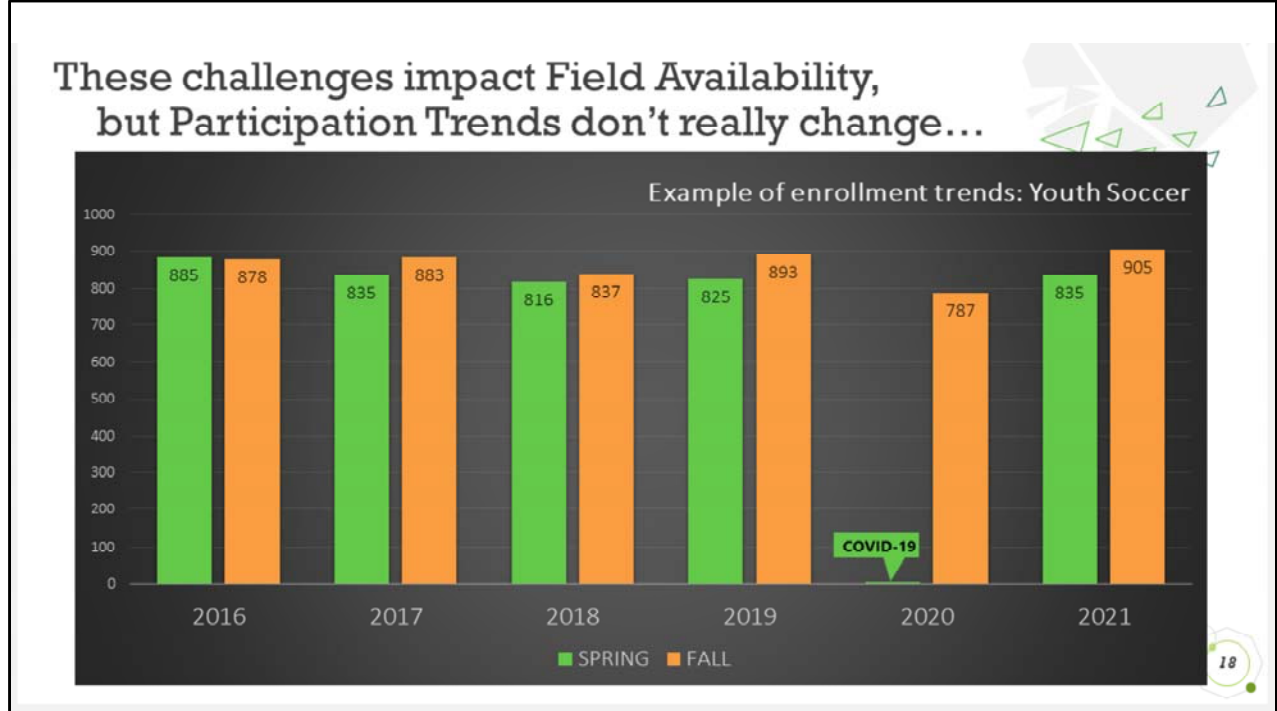
Currently only feasible at Alpine, WHS JV Football



Actual aerial view of Claypit in September 2020, after drought.

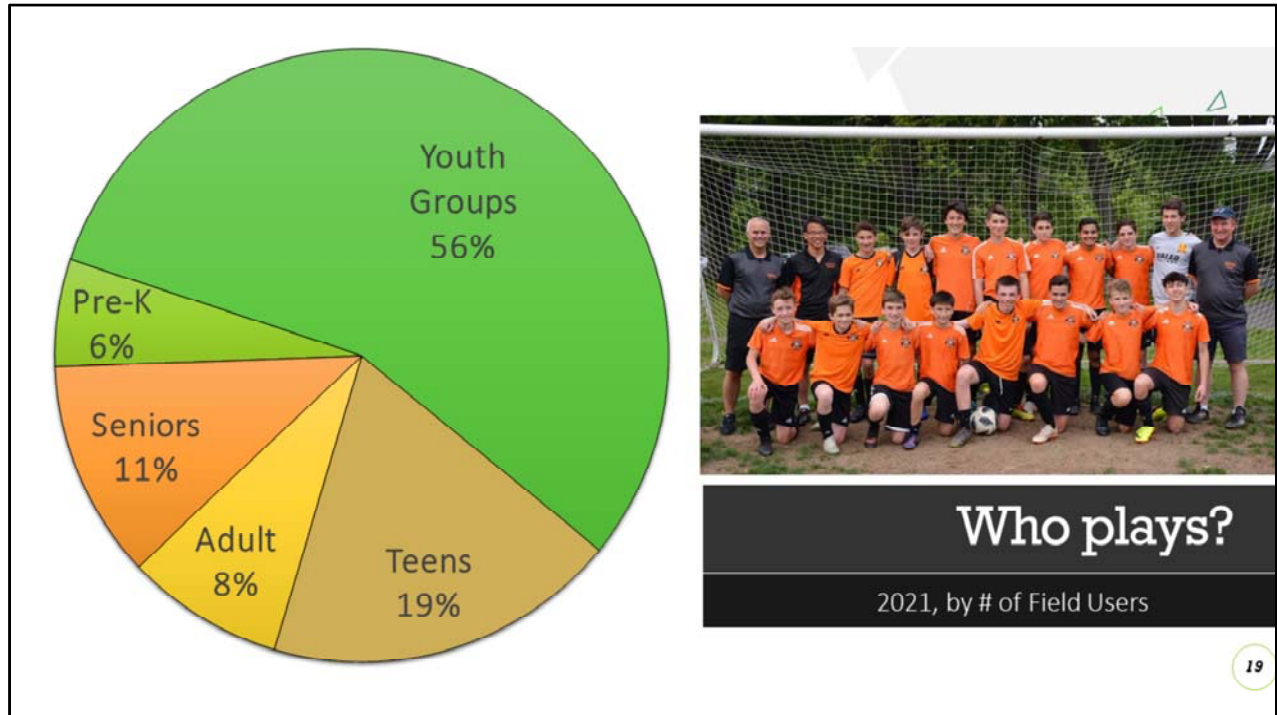
Irrigation needed:

1. Middle School (rehab)
2. Claypit Hill #5-#11
3. JV Football (capable, upgrade)
4. JV Baseball
5. Happy Hollow & Loker (upgrade)
6. Schwartz @ Riverview
7. Bennett (too close to wells)



WAYS Enrollment, pretty flat, but record enrollment in Fall 2021.

Participation Example: Popularity of lacrosse surged in late 1990s, and baseball participation dropped. About half of all baseball players switched to lacrosse. With recent concerns re: concussions, kids stopped playing tackle football and helmet sports but they switched to flag football, ultimate, they did not simply stop playing. Today, common trends are for youth to participate in multiple, simultaneous athletic activities and numerous sports have become multi-seasonal or offer year-round play.



Not just kids, we see users as young as **2-years-old** in our Recreation programs, and as experienced as **91 years-old**, a gentlemen who plays on Tuesdays in our EMASS Senior Softball League. More and more adults are participating in organized active recreation.

User Trends

Projections

- Total public school district enrollment is forecasted to increase by 109 students, or **4.0%**, between 2019 and 2025. Total enrollment will increase by 61 students, or **2.2%**, from 2024 to 2030.

Source: Population and Enrollment Forecasts For The Wayland Public Schools 2020-21 through 2029-30 *McKibben Demographic Research, LLC* Jerome McKibben, Ph.D. Rock Hill, SC, October 2019.

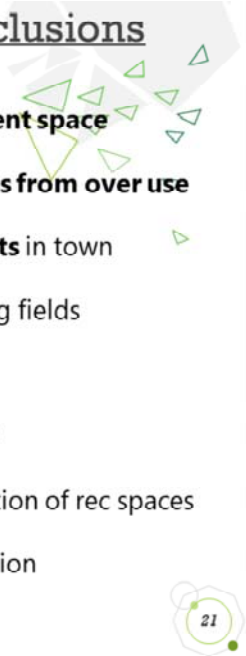
- Wayland's senior population is expected to grow by **22%** between 2020 and 2030.

Source: Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) Metro Boston Population and Housing Demand Projections Executive Summary, 2014, Regional Projections and Municipal Forecasts; U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990 and 2000.

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(Seniors projected from 2,790 to 3,414) <https://www.mapc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Wayland.pdf>

Completed Studies	Common Conclusions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>1995 Open Space and Recreation Plan</u> • 2010 Town Master Plan & 2014 Review • 2010 & 2014 Gale Athletic Field Master Plan • <u>2016-17 Open Space and Recreation Plan</u> • 2017 Wayland Real Asset Planning Report (WRAP) • 2017 WHS Athletic Facility Strategic Master Plan • 2018-2019 Town Wide Rec Facilities Strategic Plan • 2019 Finance Committee 5 Year Capital Plan • <u>2024 Open Space and Recreation Plan (soon)</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • documented insufficient space • compacted conditions from over use • a general lack of courts in town • rehab and rest existing fields • install new fields • renovate playgrounds • improve geo. distribution of rec spaces • invest in active recreation



OSRP – every 7 years, tool to assess the needs for Open Space, Conservation and Recreation;


An approved plan qualifies the Town for certain grants, due again for 2024

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SAY PARKS AND RECREATION IS A SOLUTION

TO SOME OF THE TOP ISSUES FACING THEIR COMMUNITIES
(INCLUDING PREVENTING YOUTH CRIME AND COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE)

BUT ARE LESS LIKELY TO VIEW PARKS AND RECREATION AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR #1 CONCERN: ATTRACTING & RETAINING BUSINESS

In 2019, the Wayland Economic Development Committee (EDC) issued a memo to the Board of Selectmen with recommendations For Use of Parcels of Land, based on the information in the 2017 WRAP report.

TOP ISSUES: childhood obesity and screen time. “Green Time over Screen Time”

Invest in fields – Town Meeting closed 17 fields on one the first sunny Sunday post pandemic


There were 26 away lacrosse games that day. 26 home games would have brought lots of families from other communities.

Source: Mowen, A. J., Barrett, A. G., Graefe, A. R. and Roth, K. (2017). *Local Government Officials’ Perceptions of Parks and Recreation*. Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)

<https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/local-government-officials-perceptions-of-parks-and-recreation/>

Source: Wayland Economic Development Committee, 2019

https://www.wayland.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf4016/f/uploads/recforuse_ofparcels2019ws.pdf

Number of Hours per Field	Rectangles (18)	2021 Hours
		Alpine Field
Town Building Field		1,308
Oxbow Meadows		405
Cochituate Football		125
Claypit Hill (average of 5)		1,566
WHS Wetlands		1,591
WHS Bennett 'Rock'		1,710
Middle School (Back)		1,390
Middle School (Front)		1,784
WHS Field Hockey		1,167
JV Football / Boys Lax		1,490
WHS Turf		2,612

Data includes physical education classes, B.A.S.E. Programs, PTO events, etc. on school sites for 80 school days. (100/180 days fields are closed in off-season). This is part of an on-going effort to ensure 'permitted hours' more accurately reflect 'usage hours'.

Previous published data from the Rec Dept did not include school day usage, because a civically active resident requested the data be omitted because it was more difficult to quantify actual usage.

If you take out WHS Turf, our grass rectangles average over 1,200 hours per field. Claypit #5 and #6 were rested/renovated in 2020-2021.

TURI Report re: Marblehead – they maintain fields in a very similar way to DPW, they get very similar usage when you compare apples to apples, and they're fields also look very similar to Wayland's.

Looks like a 29% increase in 2021 (pandemic year) over prior years – COVID-19 did not impact enrollment, it just forced players to spread out (max 25 per field including spectators and coaches!) It's a 29% increase over 2019 which was a E.E.E impacted year – virtually all Fall use was reduced due to E.E.E.

Wear & Tear

Table 1. Expected Field Condition Based on Hours of Field Use per Year

Expected Field Condition	Field Use (Hours per Year)
Sustained good field conditions	200 hours or less
Good field conditions with some thinning of the turf and localized wear areas	400 to 600 hours
Fair field conditions; expect significant thinning and wear.	800 to 1,000 hours
Significant turf loss, field surface damage, increased potential for athlete injury	More than 1,000 hours

Source: *Maximizing the Durability of Athletic Fields* by Grady L. Miller, Professor and Extension Specialist Department of Crop Science, North Carolina State University Published by North Carolina Cooperative Extension



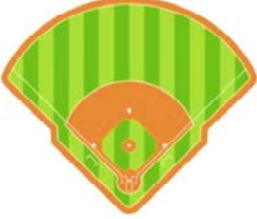
Experts recommend that well-maintained grass fields with irrigation have **200 group uses**¹ and between **400-600 hours of use per year**.²

¹ *Gale Associates assessed Wayland Town fields demand and usage in July 2010.*

² *Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. completed the "Town Wide Recreation Facilities Strategic Plan" in 2018*

Table 1. Maximizing the Durability of Athletic Fields by Grady L. Miller, Professor and Extension Specialist Department of Crop Science, North Carolina State University Published by North Carolina Cooperative Extension

Gold Standard for grass usage is 400-600 hours OR 250 uses per site. Gale Associates, Weston & Sampson, and NCSU

Number of Hours per Field	Diamonds (15)	
	Diamonds (15)	2021 Hours
	Art King Baseball	700
	Cochituate 1 & 2 Softball	1,936 each
	Alpine Tee Ball (offline)	0
	Schwartz Baseball	849
	WHS Varsity Baseball	1,626
	WHS JV Baseball	1,880
	WHS Softball	1,002
	Middle School Baseball	1,126
	Middle School Softball	1,045
	Claypit 1 & 2 Softball	761 each
	Loker Baseball (2)	558
	Happy Hollow Baseball	584

Baseball/Softball fields tolerate usage better than rectangular fields
Without Alpine, averages 1,100 hour per field.

Loker and HH are very close to the school, and can only be safely used by youngest players

FACILITY	# SIMULTANEOUS FIELDS NEEDED	CURRENT TOTAL FIELDS	DEFICIT / SURPLUS
BASEBALL 90 ft	4	3	-1 diamond
BASEBALL 50/70	5	2	-3 diamonds
SOFTBALL	4	6	+2 diamonds
TEE-BALL	3	4	+1 diamond
SOCCER 11v11	8	7	-1 full
SOCCER 9v9	5	3	-2 9v9 (equal to -1 full)
SOCCER 7v7	10	6	-4 fields (equal to 2 full)
MICRO SOCCER	26	22	-4 (equal to half -1 full)
LACROSSE MEN	5	4	-1 full
LACROSSE WOMEN	4	4	0
LACROSSE GIRLS	4	3	-1 U9 (equal to half -1 full)
LACROSSE BOYS	4	3	-1 U9 (equal to half -1 full)
FOOTBALL	3	3	0
FOOTBALL YOUTH	3	2	-1 full
ULTIMATE	1	1	0
FIELD HOCKEY	3	3	0

of fields needed are based on common scheduling conflicts, use trends, # of players assigned to the wrong field.

This deficit is consistent with previous studies, including Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. and Gale Associates conclusions which estimated a need for between 7 and 10 grass fields.

Recommendations

FACILITY	DEFICIT/ SURPLUS
BASEBALL 90 ft	-1 diamond
BASEBALL 50/70	-3 diamonds
SOFTBALL	+2 diamonds
TEE-BALL	+1 diamond
SOCCER 11v11	-1 full
SOCCER 9v9	-2 9v9 (equal to -1 full)
SOCCER 7v7	-4 fields (equal to 2 full)
MICRO SOCCER	-4 (equal to half -1 full)
LACROSSE MEN	-1 full
LACROSSE WOMEN	0
LACROSSE GIRLS	-1 U9 (equal to half -1 full)
LACROSSE BOYS	-1 U9 (equal to half -1 full)
FOOTBALL	0
FOOTBALL YOUTH	-1 full
ULTIMATE	0
FIELD HOCKEY	0

- **Convert 2 softball** diamonds to 50/70 youth **baseball diamonds** (not Cochituate)
- Address the offline **Tee Ball field**
- Evaluate **irrigation** opportunities
- Locate **1 full size rectangle** to be striped for two 9v9 and two 7v7
- Locate **1 full size rectangle** to be striped for 11v11 and two 7v7
- Locate **1 full size rectangle** to be striped for both U9 lacrosse (spring) and youth football (fall)

*Full Size Rectangle = min. preferred 115y x 75y;
(76,900 sq. ft; 1.76 acres)
does not include 10y safety run-off or room to rotate

OR shoot for the moon! If space and money were not a factor, we would build new 2 diamonds and 8 rectangles.



Where can we do this?

These are the most common vacant sites (as well as the **Loker Recreation Area** and **Claypit Hill**) that have been identified or recommended for development through a variety of the aforementioned studies dating back to 1995.

**Loker
Recreation
Area**
5.5 acres of
8.2 acres for
Recreation
(22+ acres for
Conservation)



Schematic.



Questions?
Comments?
Input?

WAYLAND
RECREATION DEPARTMENT
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE




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Wayland Recreation continues to be a mission based agency – we provide services to people – this photo is the **WHY**.
This slide-deck included lots of data and aerial photos of depreciating recreation facilities, but this is really what we're talking about.