

Northbridge Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Committee – Summary of Playing Fields (5/10/14)

This summary was prepared from information provided by Bob Parker and Parks & Recreation; updated with information from the School Dept.

Current Field Location	Facilities/Capacity	Notes	Issues
Linwood Field On Providence Road (Rt.122) in Linwood	2 basketball fields 2 softball fields Another (3 rd) softball field is being created by the Youth Softball Organization		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A backstop will need to be put up after the field is finished. 2. Basketball courts are in very bad shape and are a safety issue. The surfaces need to be redone which is expensive. 3. Irrigation is needed for the softball fields.
Vail Field On Crescent Street, in front of Balmer School	1 small baseball field 1 big baseball field 1 small (U10) soccer field		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water runoff from parking lot has to be fixed. The water after heavy rains washes away the dirt from the base-paths and has made the field a safety issue. Teams have refused to play on this field. Parks & Rec. have put money into the field to fix it and the money has basically been washed away by the water runoff. We need a catch basin tied into the water line that currently runs under the field. Temporary fixes have been attempted but they have not corrected the problem. 2. Vandalism is also an issue on these fields.
Rockdale Field On Church Ave, next to and behind the American Legion Hall	3 small baseball fields		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Irrigation is this field's biggest problem. There is no shade for the fields and the grass gets burned up. We've put a lot of money into reseeding because there is no irrigation. 2. The snack shack has 2 bathrooms but they need a tie-in to the sewer to be able to use them. This would allow Parks & Rec to get rid of the porta-potty's at this field which would save money. 3. Vandalism is also an issue on these fields.

<p>Riverdale Fields</p> <p>To the west of Rt. 122, just south of the intersection with Riverdale Street (aka Goulet Playground)</p>	<p>1 small softball field 1 open field</p>	<p>The softball field is not needed anymore with the building of the 3rd field at Linwood. It could be converted to a soccer/lacrosse only field and get rid of the softball diamond. The field would need to be dug up and leveled and irrigation added.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of available parking makes this field very limited in what we can do with it. Not enough parking for parent stay for games and practices. 2. The privacy of this field is a problem. Because it is so hidden it leads to people using the parking lot and field for drug and alcohol use, sex and vandalism. The waste and garbage that is left behind from these activities is often found in the parking lot and field. 3. This field also lacks irrigation.
<p>Plummer's Park</p> <p>On Church Street Extension, near the intersection of Rt. 122</p>	<p>1 small baseball field Skate park</p>	<p>The softball field is not needed anymore with the building of the 3rd field at Linwood.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of parking relegates this to a practice only field. 2. Field needs irrigation.
<p>Tot Lot</p>	<p>Small playground in the Church parking lot</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nothing needs to be done for this space.
<p>High School Upper fields</p> <p>Off Linwood Avenue, behind Northbridge High School</p>	<p>1 softball field, 1 baseball field, space for 3 soccer, lacrosse fields, 1 football field with goal posts</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Field w/ goal posts is over used and needs to be sodded in the high traffic areas. 2. Still have drainage issues in right center field (just beyond the infield) 3. No facilities; only handicap parking
<p>Lasell Field</p> <p>On Linwood Avenue, adjacent to Northbridge Middle School</p>	<p>1 Football/soccer/lacrosse field, 1 Field hockey field (fall only) 1 softball and 1 baseball field, 1 track</p>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continued maintenance is necessary on the main, lighted playing field. (grass does not last forever) This is the one legitimate game field in town and should be treated as such. 2. The track is in such bad shape that we are unable to host any track meets. Needs to be resurfaced. 3. Baseball/Softball fields need infill for the infields to address drainage issues.

Notes from Lorraine Langille, Chair, Open Space and Recreation Plan Update Committee:

On April 29, 2014 I met with Nancy Spitulnik, Superintendent of Schools, Selena Livingston, School Committee member/Secretary, and Paul Halacy, Director of Buildings and Grounds for the school department. The purpose of the meeting was to review the schools' need for open space.

I had sent ahead two questions which Al Richards, Athletic Director, sent responses to (see below). Nancy, Selena and Paul agreed that while the schools are making do with the fields they have, these fields are also used by town sports and the combination had resulted in over utilization.

- Overall, another multi-use field for football, soccer, field hockey and lacrosse is needed.
- The track at Lasell Field had deteriorated to the point of being unsafe and needs major resurfacing and drainage repairs.
- While another baseball diamond could be used, it is not as much of a priority.
- A cross-country course would be nice and there is hope that the Whitinsville Christian School would allow school teams to use their course, although the school department's request for this was denied.
- Tennis courts would also be nice to have so that tennis could be offered in the curriculum.

There was also some discussion of the fact that as a town, we should be more aggressive in going after developers to donate land and/or build fields. Westboro and Grafton have both had success with this approach. For information about town teams, I was referred to Dave Scichilone, chair of the town's Playground and Rec Committee.