



**GLEN ELLYN
PARK DISTRICT**



Newton Park Turf Field LIGHT PROJECT

PROJECT SUMMARY & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



www.gepark.org



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	Page 3
Project Scope.....	Page 5
Lighting Variance.....	Page 17
Construction	Page 18
Concerns	Page 19
Adjustment/Responses	Page 20
Frequently Asked Questions.....	Page 25



INTRODUCTION

The Park Board recognizes the need to balance the community recreational expectations and demands with our attention to our parks and open space. Our mission identifies the need to do both:

The Glen Ellyn Park District is driven to foster diverse, community based leisure opportunities, through a harmonious blend of quality recreation programs, facilities and open space which will enhance the quality of life into the future

In recent years, the District has focused heavily on environmental stewardship. Efforts have included re-establishment of the Oak Savannah at Maryknoll Park; restoration of Manor Park; sustainable landscape at Lake Foxcroft Park; establishment of several no-mow zone areas including Ackerman Woods and Lake Ellyn Park; restoration and creating walking trails at Ackerman Woods; ongoing restoration at Churchill Park along with the installation of an environmental sensitive boardwalk within the trail system; the in-house ability to perform nature burns which we now do on a regular basis including Ackerman, Maryknoll and Churchill Park; improving Perry's Preserve; a tree replacement program to address the Emerald Ash Borer disease (resulting in nearly 200 trees being planted over the past twelve months); restoring the Boathouse with the goal of achieving LEED certification "Gold" level and finally the hiring of a full-time naturalist who oversees most of the previous items while also establishing an outdoor educational program.

The Glen Ellyn Park District represents and serves a diverse community with a variety of needs and expectations. The Park District athletic programs remain quite popular in both participation and commitment. Sports including boy's and girl's lacrosse, field hockey and rugby have recently emerged while established outdoor sports including football, soccer, baseball and softball continue to remain popular and well attended. As a result, meeting the growing demands has been challenging. Being a landlocked largely bedroom community, the availability of open space and specifically athletic fields is very limited. Recognizing the athletic field deficiency, the Park District has been researching means to both improve and better utilize existing fields over the years. Efforts to address the expanding demand includes use of District 87 and District 41 property when available, repurposing baseball (three at Newton Park) and softball fields (two at Ackerman Park) into open space which can be used by soccer and lacrosse and developing a long-term plan for Ackerman Park. After review, it was also identified that the existing upper field at Newton Park presented an opportunity to help address the increasing demand. In its present condition, the upper field, despite its amenities including spectator bleachers, press box, restrooms and a scoreboard, was only available for use approximately 30 days per year. By converting a long

standing, existing athletic field to synthetic turf, the property became more available, helping satisfying the demand while providing a quality field and encouraging outdoor, recreational and active play. It is also less expensive to maintain, and in many ways more environmentally friendly (no watering, no emissions from lawn cutting, and no fertilizer or chemical treatments). While improved, our community is faced with a shortage of active quality field play space. The upper field at Newton has the advantage of being able to handle activities back to back without rest. Already during the late spring, summer and early fall months, activity there extends well into the evening but is limited based on darkness particularly in the fall and early spring. Lights will allow the District to further address the need for play space in the spring and fall and still have the field quiet and dark by a reasonable hour. Finally, use of the rest of the Newton Park- playground, tennis courts, Skate Park, basketball court, walking paths, green space, baseball field, gazebo, outdoor skating, sled hill and shelter does not become unusable because of the synthetic turf field being lit.

Over the years, Newton Park has served as a community park and has been a primary location for many of the athletic programs. We believe that by increasing the availability of an existing recreation asset is consistent with the previous and present use of the property. We believe our parks should remain open, active and available to our community. The synthetic turf field is a park amenity similar to the playground, Skate Park, outdoor basketball court, tennis courts, outdoor skating area, sled hill, and shelter that is currently present at the Park. The Park District strives to be a respectful neighbor, and a responsible environmental steward, while providing services and amenities that are consistent with the Park District mission. Newton Park has been a central location for athletics for over 60 years and the expectation is to continue utilizing the park as such, remaining compatible with the neighborhood and the community while meeting the recreational needs of the Glen Ellyn residents.



PROJECT SCOPE

NEWTON PARK UPPER FIELD DIRECTIONAL LIGHTS

LIGHTING SYSTEM INCLUDES:

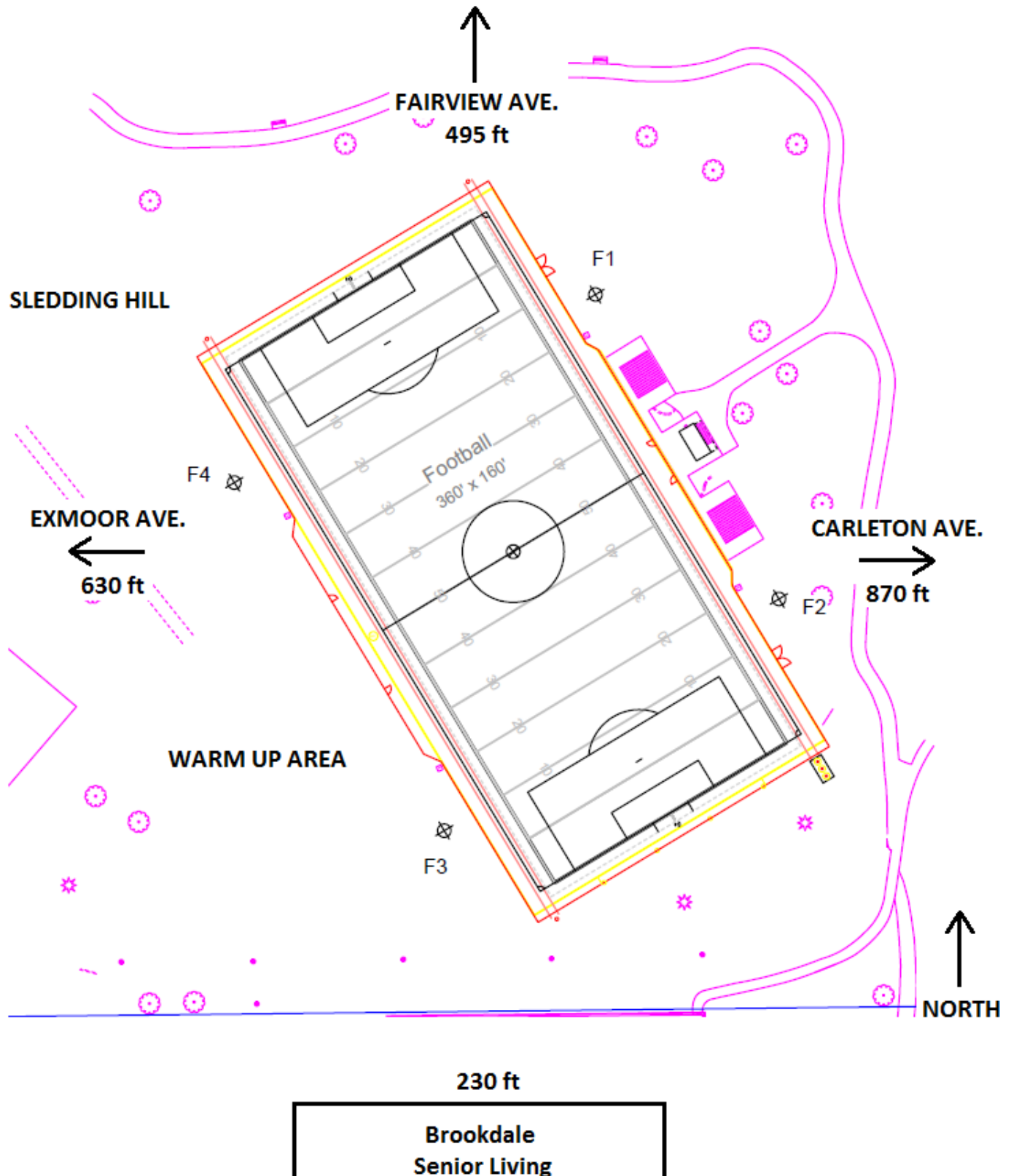
- Four (4) Poles
- 70' High
- Three Zones (each which is able to be operated independent of the others)
 - Synthetic Turf Multi-Use Field
 - Warm Up Area (adjacent to southwest corner of the synthetic turf field)
 - Sled Hill
- Eleven (11) fixtures per pole with two additional lights (20' high) on the west poles for Warm Up and Sled Hill areas.

LIGHTING TECHNOLOGY:

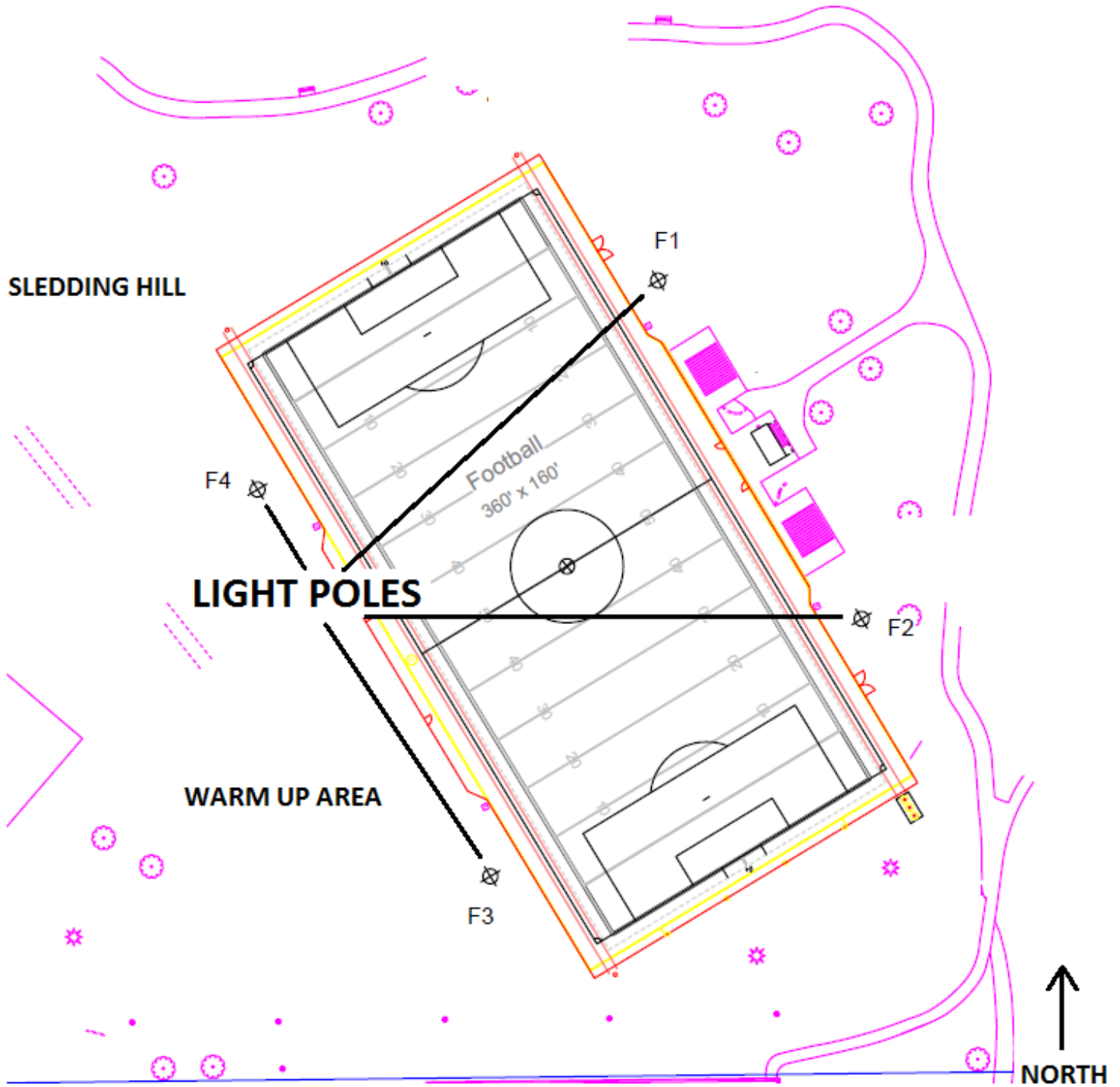
Musco – Structure Green LED Lighting

- Reduces Light Spill
- Provides Guaranteed Light Levels
- Reduces Operating Costs
 - Ten (10) Year Warranty
 - Monitoring System (Control Link)
 - Cost: \$220,000

NEWTON TURF MULTI-USE ATHLETIC FIELD: DISTANCE OF TURF FIELD TO SURROUNDING STREETS



NEWTON TURF MULTI-USE ATHLETIC FIELD: LIGHT POLE LOCATIONS IN REGARD TO THE TURF FIELD



FOOTCANDLES

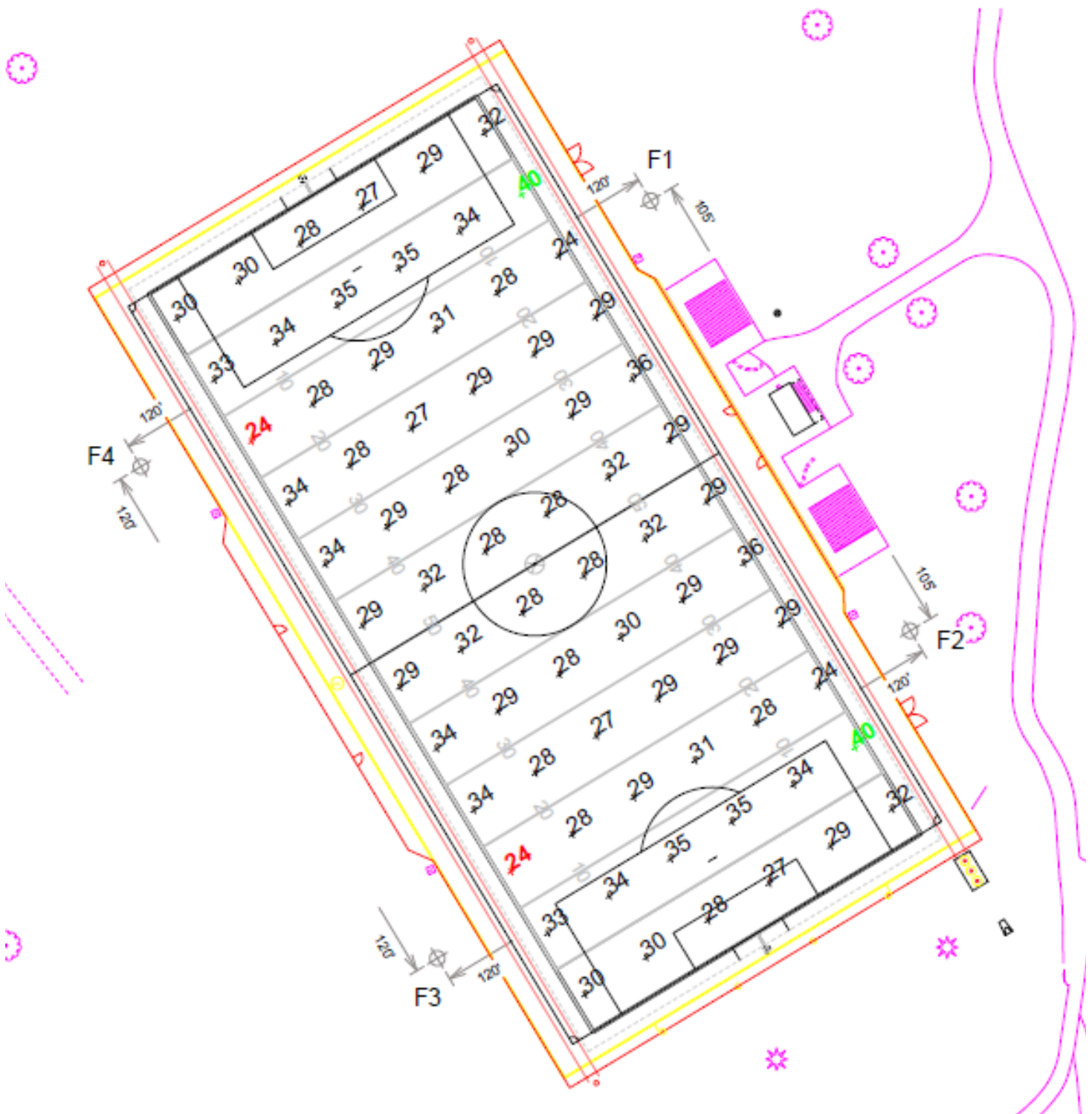
- Athletic field light levels are measured in Footcandles.
- Footcandle: Unit of luminance or illumination, equivalent to the illumination produced by a source of one candle at a distance of one foot.

TYPICAL FOOT CANDLE LEVELS

Office.....	30 fc
Shopping Mall.....	30 fc
Class Room.....	50 fc
Basketball Court (Indoor).....	75 fc
Parking Lot.....	4 fc

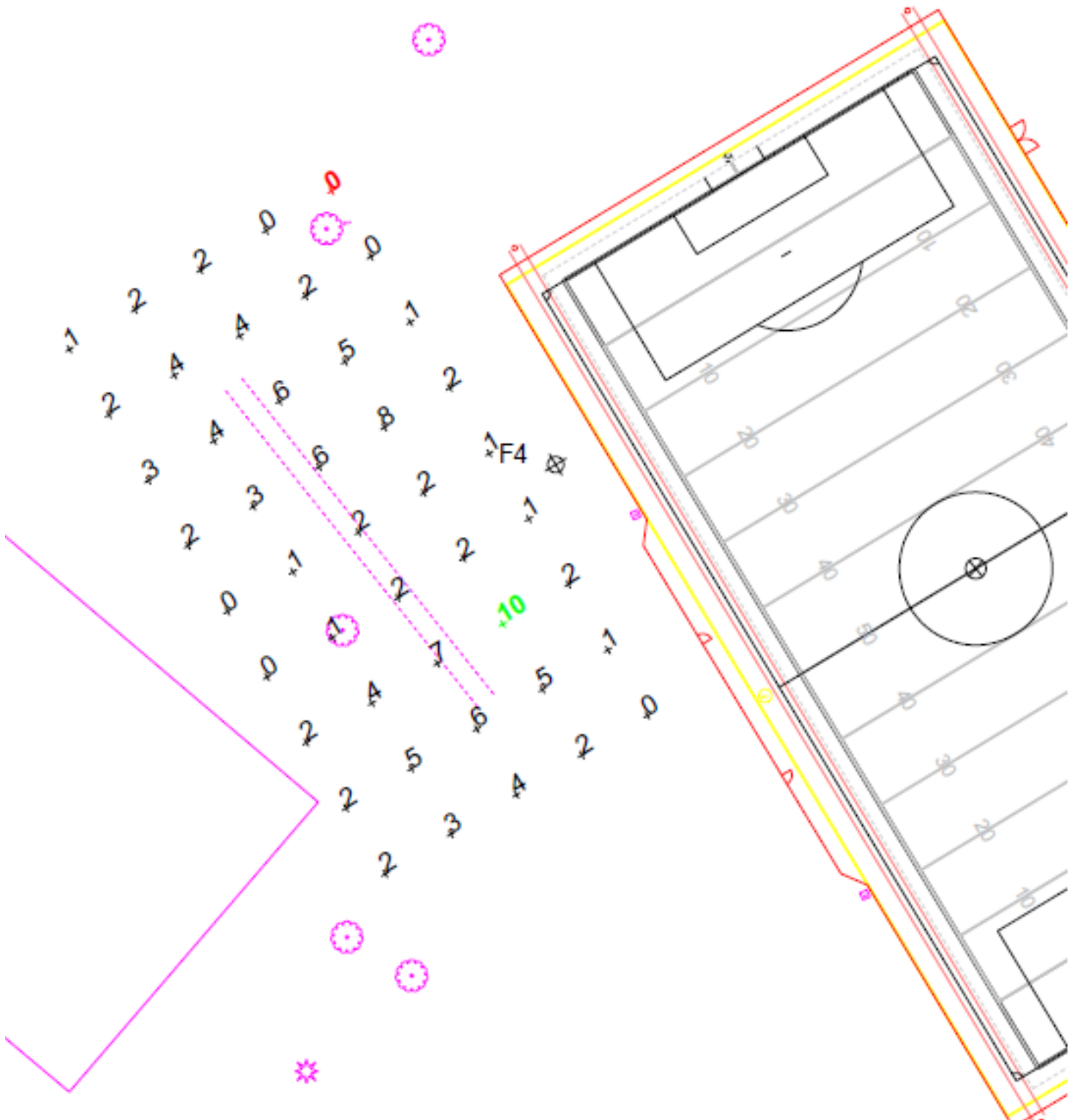
NEWTON PARK LIGHT LEVELS: MULTI-USE FIELD: FOOT CANDLE LEVELS WITH PROPOSED NEW LIGHTS

High..... 40 fc
 Low..... 24 fc



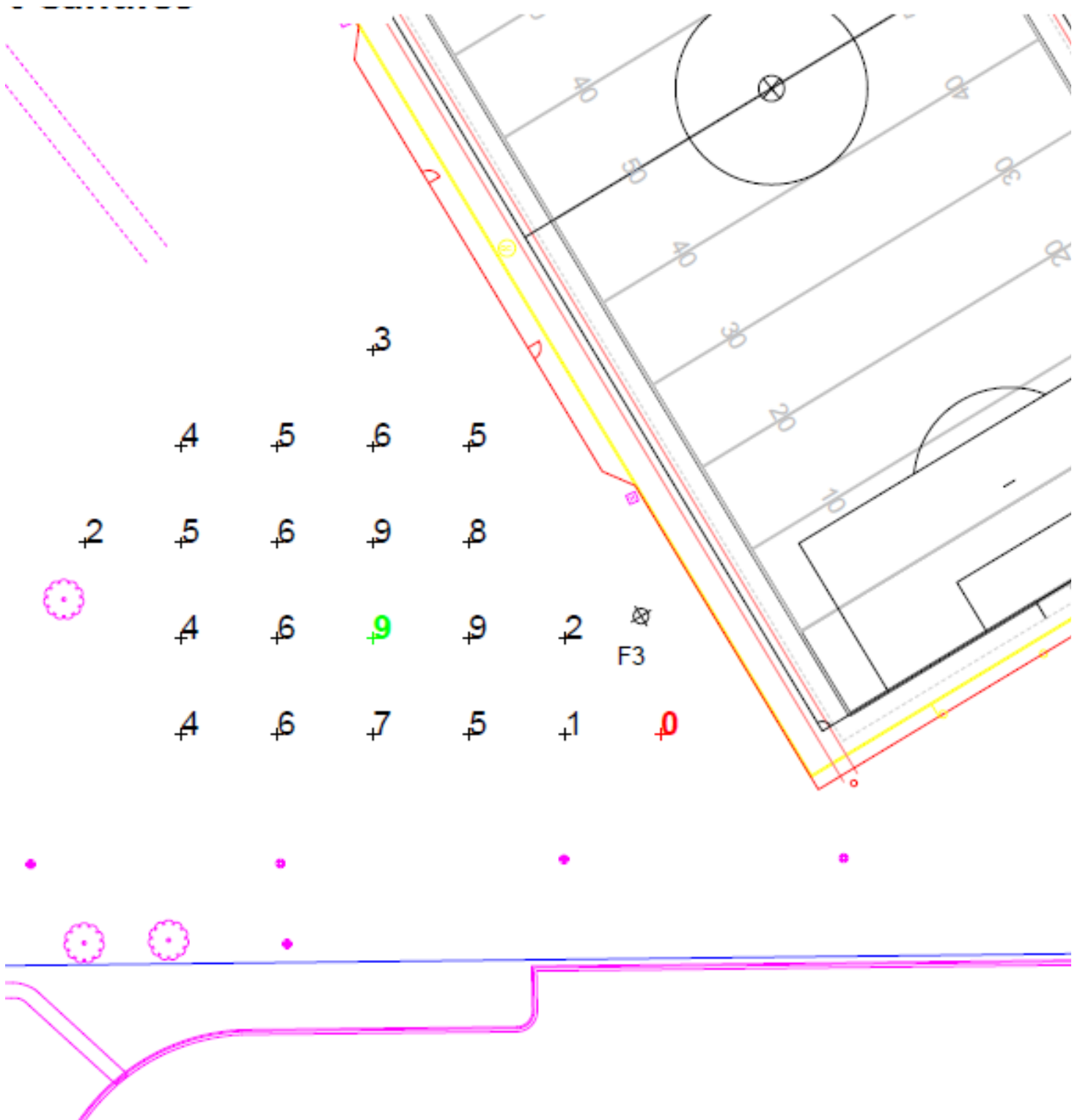
NEWTON PARK LIGHT LEVELS: SLEDDING HILL: FOOT CANDLE LEVELS WITH PROPOSED NEW LIGHTS

High..... 10 fc
Low..... 0 fc



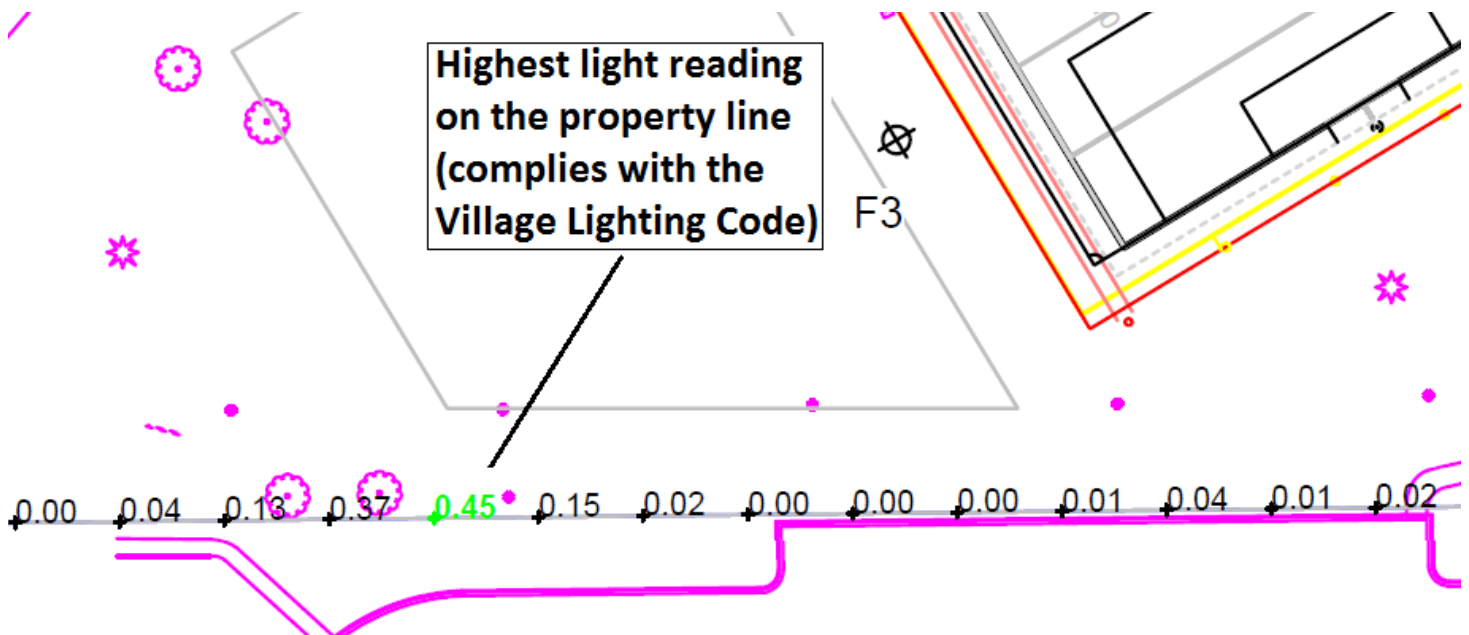
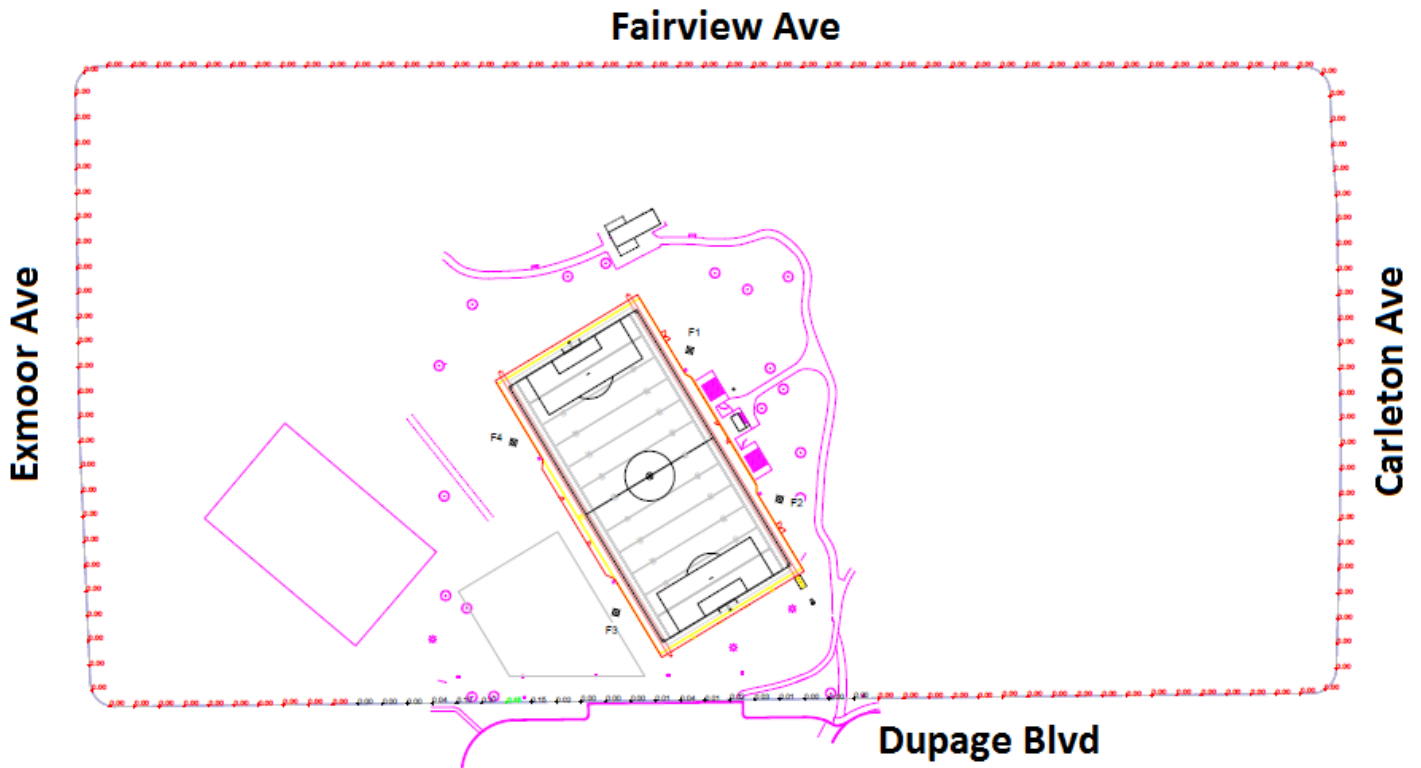
NEWTON PARK LIGHT LEVELS: WARM-UP AREA: FOOT CANDLE LEVELS WITH PROPOSED NEW LIGHTS

High..... 9 fc
 Low..... 0 fc



NEWTON PARK LIGHT LEVELS: GEPD PROPERTY LINE

Exmoor Avenue	0 fc
Fairview Avenue.....	0 fc
Carleton Avenue	0 fc
DuPage Boulevard	0.43 fc



LED LIGHTING VERSUS HID LIGHTING: NASHAMINY HIGH SCHOOL, LANGHORNE, PA

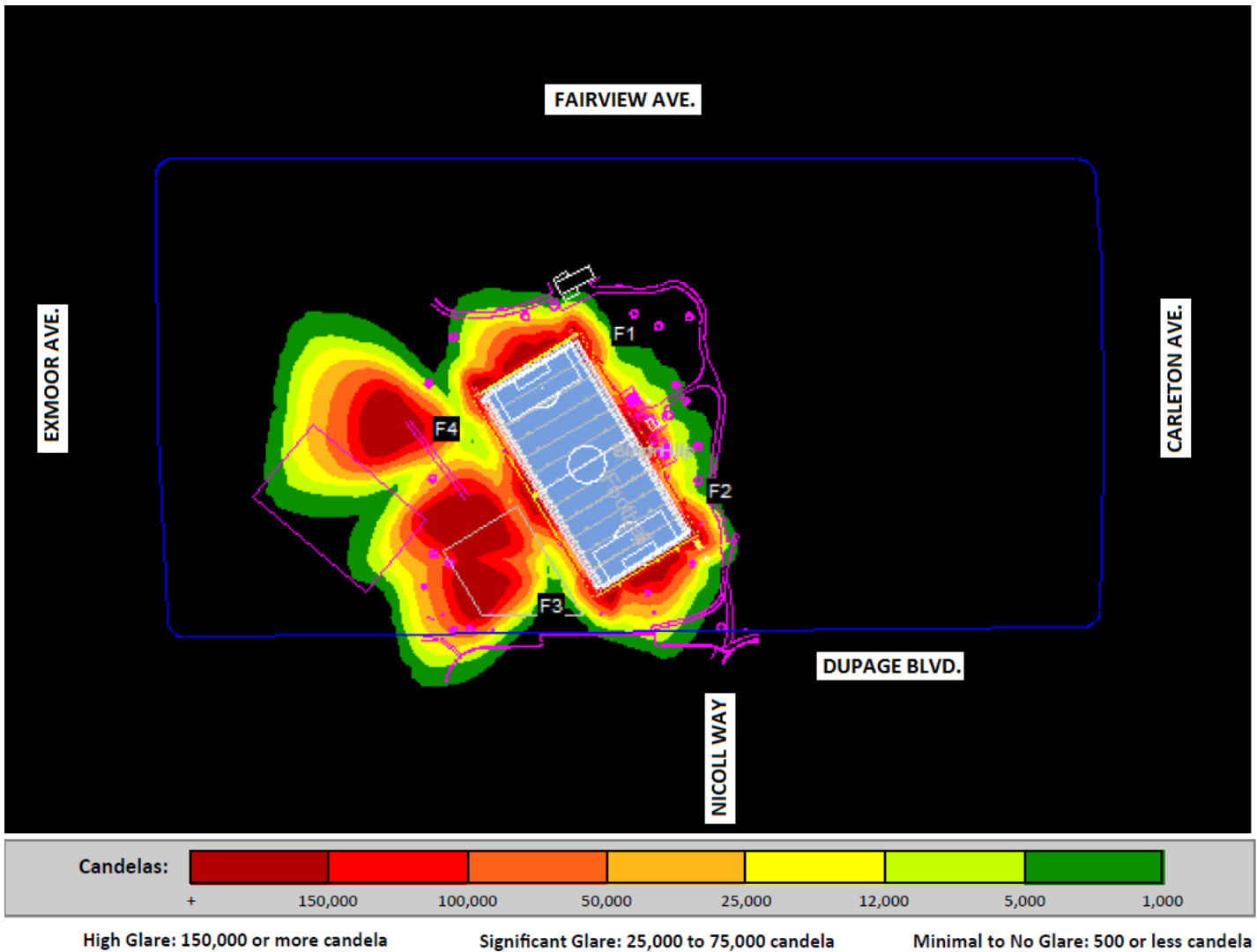
After — Musco LED Lighting



Before — HID Light Source



GLARE READINGS WITH PROPOSED NEW LIGHTS



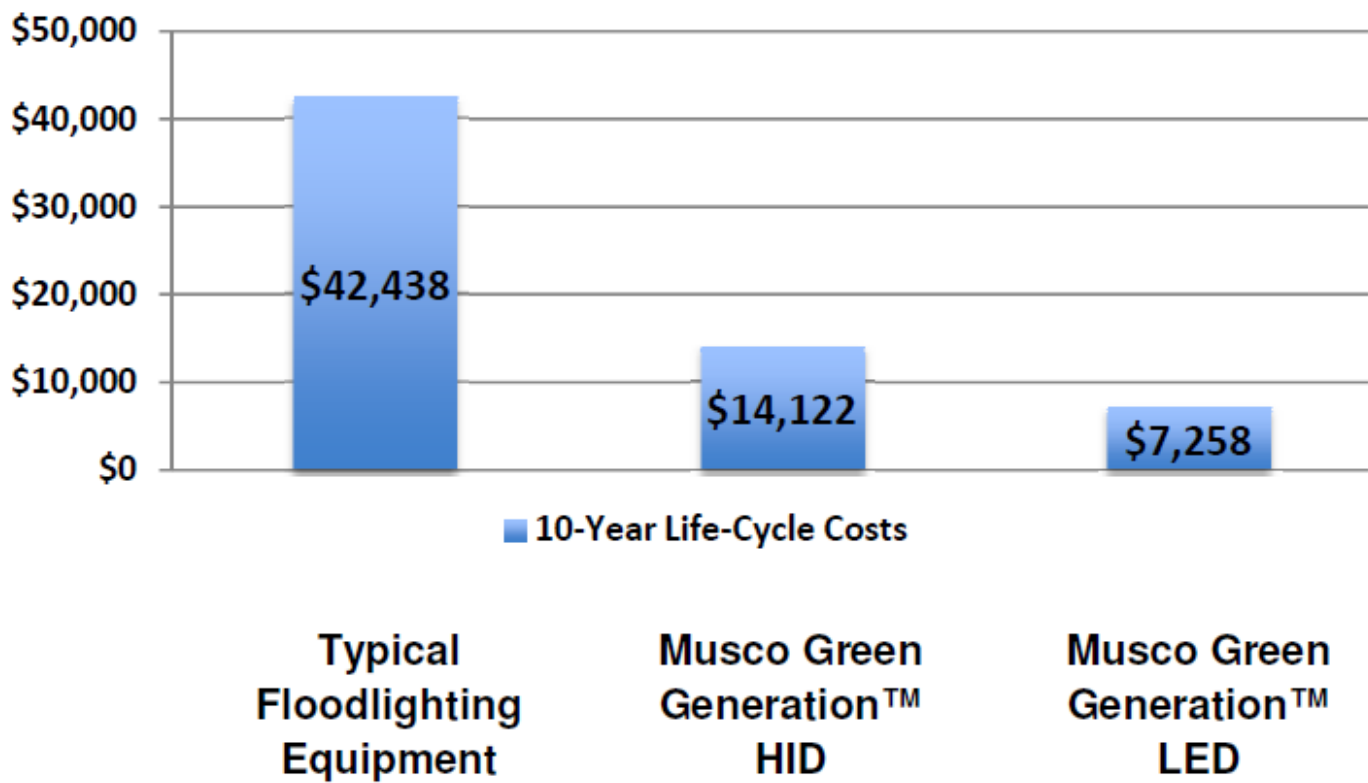
10-YEAR LIFE-CYCLE COST COMPARISON

Newton Park Multipurpose

Football Field

September 14, 2016

Warranty Period: 10 Years



LIGHT MONITORING SYSTEM

CONTROL-LINK®

- Control-Link® is the reliable, cost-effective system that helps control, monitor, and manage lighting.
- Control-Link Central team is staffed 24/7 to assist with scheduling and reporting needs.
- Control-Link Central® provides three options for management and control of your facilities:
 - Directly control fields via website
 - Enter, edit, and update your schedules from a smart phone
 - Contact Control-Link Central's team directly to enter schedules and request last minute changes



LIGHTING VARIANCE

VARIANCE

POLE SPACING

- The minimum spacing between poles is four (4) times the mounting height required by Section 10-5-13(M)2(b)1 of the Zoning Code.

POLE HEIGHT:

- The height of the proposed poles may not exceed the height of the principle structure (Concession Building), Section 10-5-13(M)2(c) of the Zoning Code.

ILLUMINATION LEVELS:

- Complies with the Village Zoning Code.

VARIANCE PROCESS:

- Meet with Village Planning & Development (Completed)
- Create a Newton Park Lighting Variance packet requesting approval of zoning variations with regard to the installation of 4 light poles at Newton Park (1 month)
- Submit variance packet and await the Village's response (3 weeks)
- Make changes if needed and resubmit variance packet to the Village (2 weeks)
- Once approved the variance request will be place on the agenda for the next available Plan Commission meeting (1 month)
- The Park District will present a formal variance request to the Plan Commission and answer any questions
- If approved the variance request will be placed on the agenda for next available Village Board meeting (3 weeks)
- The Village Board makes the final decision on whether the variance request will be granted



CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

- **BIDDING PROJECT (JANUARY 2017)**

- Formal Bidding Process
- Cooperative Purchasing

- **SUBMIT PERMIT APPLICATIONS (APRIL 2017)**

- Village of Glen Ellyn
- ComEd

- **BEGIN CONSTRUCTION (JULY 2017)**

- **PROJECT COMPLETION (BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS)**



CONCERNS

• PARKING

- Parking within the cul de sacs as a result of Newton Park activities
- Safety within the cul de sacs including parking on both sides of the road
- Parking violations (in front of fire hydrant, blocking driveways, etc.)
- Parking demands will be extended into the later evenings due to nighttime park activity
- Inability to utilize cul de sac by the residents
- Littering

• TRAFFIC

- Fairview Avenue is a busy thoroughfare
- Drop-off for Park events occur on Fairview Avenue and the Park
- Turn around within the cul de sacs
- Distracted drivers

• CHARACTER OF PARK

- Newton Park is not an athletic park
- Taking away green space

• ALTERNATE SITE

- This project and/or activities can be relocated to Ackerman Park and/or Village Green

• NOISE

- The Park will have increased opportunity for noise

• FUTURE PLANS: WHAT IS NEXT?



ADJUSTMENT/RESPONSES

PARKING

The Park District recognizes the impact that park activity has on the cul de sacs on occasions. In order to improve and address the activity, it is proposed to do the following:

Village/Police

The Village of Glen Ellyn and Glen Ellyn Police are willing to meet with residents who reside within cul de sacs (Exmoor, Milton, Montclair, Nicoll, Taylor and Carleton) to develop mutually agreed parking rules.

Glen Ellyn Park District

The District will implement a parking plan that will direct parking into the designated lots and out of the cul de sacs.

Newton Park activity parking will be directed to designated areas only.

There are four (4) parking lots located within Newton Park (168 total spots):

- Northwest corner of park adjacent to the playground (Fairview Ave. & Exmoor Ave.)
- Northeast corner of the park adjacent to the tennis courts (Fairview Ave. & Carleton Ave.)
- East side of the park adjacent to the basketball court (Carleton Ave.)
- South side of the park across from Brookdale Glen Ellyn (DuPage Ave.)

In addition, park users will be directed not to park or use the cul de sacs for drop-off/pick-up or turn around within the following cul de sacs:

- N. Milton Avenue
- Montclair Avenue
- Nicoll Avenue
- Taylor Avenue
- Carleton Avenue
- Exmoor Avenue

PARKING CONTINUES

Overflow parking is available at Stahelin Properties to the south of the park off of DuPage Boulevard on evenings and weekends.

Patrons are directed not to park in the Post Office, Brookdale Senior Living or Atria Park properties. Violators are subject to issuance of tickets and may be towed. The District is in discussion with Atria regarding formal use of the small east lot.

School Bus parking related to park usage is limited to the northeast lot (Fairview Avenue & Carleton Avenue). No idling of buses is permitted. If parking is limited, buses will be directed to park at the Spring Avenue Recreation Center, Sunset Pool or Baker Hill properties during practices/games.

Directional signage will be installed and information regarding parking and drop-off/pick-up procedures will be posted on the Glen Ellyn Park District website, program websites, and will be distributed by print or electronic means to program participants, Glenbard West and all visiting teams.

Staff and program volunteers will provide oversight to ensure that the plan is being adhered to.

TRAFFIC

As part of the parking and park etiquette procedure, no drop off along Fairview Avenue will be designated. It will also be reiterated not to use cul de sacs for that purpose either.

No drop-off/pick-up signs will be added along Fairview and Newton Park.

To encourage use of East parking lot, a walking path will be installed from lot to concession building (installation date to be determined).

Add turnaround in West lot at south end which can be used for drop-off (installation date to be determined).

PARKING & PATHWAY IMPROVEMENTS



CHARACTER OF PARK

Newton Park is community park that hosts a variety of activities including special events, camps and many athletic related programs. The park was developed in 1957 with the specific intention of hosting sports having three baseball/softball fields, outdoor skating area, tennis courts and open space which became a football field in 1963. It also included parking within the park property. The first nearby homes were built in the vicinity in the 1960's with the majority in the 1970's. The other park amenities were added over time well after the original development, transitioning the park to serve both the Glen Ellyn community and the neighborhood that was constructed after. It is certainly a walk to park for some but Newton Park (previously South Park) has always from the outset been a recreation and athletic asset serving the entire community.

ALTERNATIVE SITES

Several years ago, the Park District was tasked to improve the quality of it's athletic fields.

The primary challenge was the overuse and cross use of the natural grass fields; i.e. football using baseball fields, not resting soccer fields, use of softball outfield.

Recommendations included moving football off of baseball fields, developing a Master Plan for Ackerman Park, increase the availability of Upper Newton Park field, create additional opportunities for rectangular shaped fields. At no time was the direction or recommendation to place further demand at Ackerman Park and Village Green with additional sports.

ATHLETIC LIGHT CURFEW

- Athletic lighting shall be available until 9:30 p.m. with shut off at 10 p.m. Monday-Saturday
- The athletic lighting shall be available until 8:00 p.m. with shut off at 8:30 p.m. Sunday
- Blackout months for athletic lights will be December – February and July
- Sledding Hill light will be on until 9:00 p.m. (consistent with outdoor skating lights) and only when the conditions are appropriate for sledding
- **Lighting will remain off at times/dates when the field is not in use**
- No portable lights will be used for athletic activities throughout the year

AMPLIFIED SOUND

Use of amplified sound for sports programs utilizing the synthetic turf field is prohibited except during Golden Eagles Football games, Golden Eagles Football Jamboree and Cheerleading Showcase and is limited between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. (Sunday-Saturday).

- Golden Eagles tackle football games are scheduled on weekends from late-August through mid-November at the discretion of the Bill George Youth Football League
- Football Jamboree is traditionally held the 2nd or 3rd weekend in August (depending on the calendar)
- Cheerleading Showcase is held during the week in mid-August

Events unrelated to use of athletic fields including Park District special events such as Movies in the Park (or other family events) and the Hephzibah 5K race may use a sound system with permission of the Park District.

FUTURE PLAN OF NEWTON PARK

With the exception of maintaining and improving existing assets, there are currently no plans to implement further significant improvements.

Provisions restricting these types of potential improvements along with the restrictions may be included as a requirement by the Village for variance approval.

CREATE NEWTON PARK UPPER FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the committee is to revise and discuss any issues related to the use of the upper Newton Park synthetic turf field that may impact Newton Park neighborhood with a specific focus on the use of lights at the upper field. The Committee would meet three times a year or as needed.

Committee will consist of:

- 3 members from neighborhoods as appointed by GEPD Director
- 2 Glen Ellyn Park District Staff members as appointed by GEPD Director
- 1 Village of Glen Ellyn Police Representative appointed by the Village
- 1 GEPD Board of Commissioner Member



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1) Will there be rentals to outside user groups e.g. men's adult soccer league?

The field usage under lights is to be used only by Glen Ellyn Park District affiliated programs and Glenbard West High School. The High School has use of the field into the evening (9:00 p.m.) on Wednesday in the fall and Wednesday and Friday evening (9:00 p.m.) in the Spring. It is not anticipated that Glenbard West will have heavy usage under the lights as they are primarily interested in after school opportunities and will also prioritize use of on campus Memorial Field before Newton Park.

2) Why do the light poles have to be 70 feet in height?

The poles are set at 70' high to maximize the foot candles on the playing field without adding glare and light spillage beyond the intended area. Also, poles need to be 70' high for safety, so athletes can see during high kick offs, punts, etc. during games and practices. If the poles were set at 50' the lights would have to be set at a higher angle which would increase the likelihood of seeing the actual bulbs creating heavy glare and spillage. The intent is to have a well lit field with as minimal glare and spillage as possible (Dark Sky).

3) Why the need to go until 9:30/10:00 p.m.?

We agree that the majority of the Park District programs will end earlier. The District wants to retain the ability to utilize the lights on those few occasions that are necessary to go beyond 9:00 p.m. Keep in mind the lights will not be turned on when not required and will be turned off after the scheduled use.

4) Why can't current portable lights be used?

The portable lights are less expensive but are just that portable and not meant for continuous long-term usage. While smaller, the portable lights actually provide much greater light pollution

creating more glare and spillage well beyond the fields. Additionally, the units run on diesel so they generate pollution and noise when in operation. Finally, the lighting that is being provided does not meet what the industry would qualify as a minimal standard. Obviously, football and soccer programs have been able to manage previously but it was due to need and lack of alternative space. Portable light towers have not been used for such activities such as lacrosse as the ball/stick nature of those programs rely on much more consistent, appropriate and safe lighting conditions.

5) Is this project fiscally responsible?

The Park District is extremely fiscally responsible. Over the past several years it has established independent commitments such as playground replacements, parking lot repairs, hvac improvements and Sunset Pool upkeep in addition to funding larger improvements including Lake Ellyn Park and Boathouse and athletic field upgrades. The Newton Park upper field is a great example of this fiscal responsibility and accountability. The synthetic turf project was identified as a means to help improve the overall athletic field inventory and quality. A funding component was created in collaboration with Glenbard High School District 87, Golden Eagles Football, Lakers Soccer and the Park District to offset all related expenses. Included was a funding component for the installation and future replacement which was reviewed and vetted by the Citizen's Finance Committee as well as for athletic lights should they be installed at the field at a later time. While the District would fund the initial installation expense of the lights, over the life of the lights, the cost will be recouped by an increase in revenue from the Intergovernmental Agreement with District 87. The outcome is that a previously underutilized community resource has been improved to increase accessibility while paying for itself. It also serves as mutual benefit for both the Glen Ellyn Park District and Glenbard West High School, an excellent example of maximizing public resources to better serve shared constituents. Citizens Finance Committee, achieved a AA+ bond rating (of which there are only five other park districts with that rating), increased and met its 25% fund balance policy, increased the annual operating surplus to over \$1 million per year which in turn gets reinvested back into the District and community, and created an ongoing business plan for the Ackerman Sports and Fitness Center increasing the operating net from \$50,000 to nearly \$500,000 with over 5,000 members amongst many initiatives. In 2017, the Glen Ellyn Park District will have the lowest tax rate amongst comparable DuPage County Park Districts. (Currently it is the 3rd lowest among 19).

The Park District has established a fluid five year capitol replacement/improvement plan identifying ongoing commitments such as playground replacements, parking lot repairs, hvac improvements and Sunset Pool upkeep in addition to funding larger improvements including Lake Ellyn Park and Boathouse and athletic field upgrades. The Newton Park upper field is a great example of this fiscal responsibility and accountability. The synthetic turf project was identified as a means to help improve the overall athletic field inventory and quality. A funding component was created in collaboration with Glenbard High School District 87, Golden Eagles Football, Lakers Soccer and the Park District to offset all related expenses. Included was a funding component for the installation

and future replacement which was reviewed and vetted by the Citizen's Finance Committee as well as for athletic lights should they be installed at the field at a later time. While the District would fund the initial installation expense of the lights, over the life of the lights, the cost will be recouped by an increase in revenue from the Intergovernmental Agreement with District 87. The outcome is that a previously underutilized community resource has been improved to increase accessibility while paying for itself. It also serves as mutual benefit for both the Glen Ellyn Park District and Glenbard West High School. An excellent example of maximizing public resources to better serve shared constituents.

6) The Park District is in the process of installing lights at Ackerman Park and has existing athletic lights at Village Green Park?

The current lights which are being replaced at Ackerman Park within the lower area just north of the softball hub are nearly 40 years old and are well past their useful life. The antiquated lights are being replaced with a similar number of poles but will be significantly more efficient and economical while serving the soccer and softball programs. These improvements along with park usage and demand were identified in the Ackerman Park Master Plan which was drafted and approved a few years back. The replacement of the athletic lights and the removal of two softball fields closest to the Great Western Trail were the first recommendations from the Master Plan that have been implemented.

The District presently has athletic lights at Village Green which primarily serves the youth baseball program (spring, summer, and fall) and Glenbard West High School baseball program (spring, summer) along with some football activity (practices) in the fall.

7) Is there declining enrollment in youth sports within the Park District programs?

Enrollment has declined in some programs and increased in others while new sports have emerged. Football remains consistent with increased participation in flag and slowing growth in tackle. Boy's lacrosse and rugby continue to grow, as does girl's field hockey. Baseball has stabilized at approximately 1,000 participants, while softball experienced increased participation this past year. As participants are specializing and choosing to participate in only one or two sports, enrollment has to be viewed differently. Each athletic program has many more opportunities and commitments than in years past (including offseason training and multiple seasons during a calendar year) causing athletes to commit to only one or maybe two sports. Finally, athletics remains the largest revenue producer amongst all recreation programs for the park district producing funds to self support while reinvesting back into their respective areas such as baseball contributing to field improvements (irrigation, infield mix, dugout covers) at Village Green and football funding the synthetic turf installation and purchasing new helmets. The programs then also contribute to the general fund which largely goes towards capital projects that benefit the

entire community.

The full report is available at www.gepark.org -> News -> [Newton Park Light Project](#)

8) I am concerned on the effect the lights could have on the immediate neighborhood?

The proposed lighting is for one field that is considerable distance from any single family residence. The after dark usage is confined to one field where as during daylight hours the entire park is available for use and programming. The directional lighting that is recommended is LED and has no spillage and lights the field in play (and nothing else) while conforming to current Village code. Lighting within the property has been occurring over time, as portable lights have been used throughout the park to allow for night usage in late fall. Additionally, outdoor ice skating in the winter goes until 9:00 p.m. Lighting is used at both the hockey rink and the skating area. A light curfew regarding light usage on the synthetic turf will be created along with possible blackout months in which the lights will not be turned on.

Again, the District is well aware of the activity that already takes place at Newton Park (even without lights), as the property has served as a community gathering spot for events and athletic programs for years. It is popular precisely because it provides tremendous open space and recreational opportunities for the both the immediate neighbors and the greater community. Newton Park has always been considered an athletic recreation park since early 1957 with four (4) ball diamonds, two football fields, and two tennis courts. Over the last 20 years, the Park District has added a skate park, outdoor basketball court, walking paths, outdoor shelter and improved concession building.

9) Community Park vs. Athletic Facility?

Newton Park has been a property that has hosted significant athletic activities since the 1950's beginning with baseball and quickly becoming the home to the Glen Ellyn Golden Eagles youth football program. Activities have evolved over the years and the park has changed to serve the community and its' recreational needs. Adding lights allows the Park District to continue to serve its mission and provide recreational opportunities for the entire community, while enabling the park to continue to provide green space and park amenities to the immediate neighbors and park district residents.

10) Effect on the essential character of the neighborhood?

The proposed lighting is for one field that is considerable distance from any single family residence. As mentioned above, the after dark usage is confined to one field where as during daylight hours the entire park is available for use and programming. The directional lighting

that is recommended is LED and has no spillage and lights the field in play (and nothing else) while conforming to current Village code. Lighting within the property has been occurring over time, as portable lights have been used throughout the park to allow for night usage in late fall. Additionally, outdoor ice skating in the winter goes until 9:00 p.m. Lighting is used at both the hockey rink and the skating area. A light curfew regarding light usage on the synthetic turf will be created along with blackout months in which the lights will not be turned on.

Again, the District is well aware of the activity that already takes place at Newton Park (even without lights), as the property has served as a community gathering spot for events and athletic programs for years. It is popular precisely because it provides tremendous open space and recreational opportunities for the both the immediate neighbors and the greater community. Newton Park has always been considered an athletic recreation park since the early 1960's with four (4) ball diamonds, two football fields, and two tennis courts. Over the last 20 years, the Park District has added a skate park, outdoor basketball court, walking paths, outdoor shelter and improved concession building.

11) What are the future plans for Newton Park?

With the exception of maintaining existing assets such as the playground, and other park amenities, there are currently no plans to do further significant improvements such as installing synthetic turf at lower Newton. There are also no plans for the sale of land to Glen Ellyn School District 41 or any other potential buyer. Newton Park has been integral to supporting the Park District mission since 1957.

Provisions restricting those types of potential improvements may be included as a requirement by the Village for variance approval of the project to further assure the neighbors.

12) Is this an athletic hub?

However one defines the property, Newton Park has been a property that has hosted significant athletic activities since the 1950's beginning with baseball and quickly becoming the home to the Glen Ellyn Golden Eagles youth football program well before there were any nearby residences. Activities have evolved over the years and the park has changed to serve the community and its' recreational needs. Adding lights allows the Park District to continue to serve its mission and provide recreational opportunities for the entire community, while enabling the park to continue to provide desirable green space and park amenities to the immediate neighbors and park district residents.

13) Will the Village of Glen Ellyn require the installation of lighting in the Newton Park

parking lots?

Based on Village code, there are not requirements for parking lot lights. The Park District does not plan on installing lights based on that. Keep in mind, the park is currently used at night for activities including the synthetic turf field and outdoor skating and does not have parking lot lights.

14) What are the projected utility costs for the additional lights?

\$800 per year based on 300 hours of use (usage is anticipated to be lower than that). Additionally, the proposed LED lighting system has a 25-year maintenance warranty.

15) Is this effective use of the available fields including Ackerman Park and Village Green?

The additional available hours provide needed field space while relieving the need for crossover use of fields elsewhere. Several years ago, the Park District was tasked to improve the quality of its athletic fields. It was quickly recognized that one of the challenges was overuse and cross-use of existing fields along with scheduling sports on. An example by having football practice on baseball fields in the fall, the baseball fields are not able to be maintained at a minimal level in order to be prepared when the spring programs begin. Ackerman Park, a tremendous resource but never truly developed as a soccer facility was evaluated and it was determined that the current soccer/softball demand was significant and suggested immediate improvements included resting fields, upgrading athletic lighting and creating more green space for rectangular shaped field (soccer) while implementing longer term steps in the near future such as upgrading drainage, improving turf quality, soil remediation, and site grading. At no time did the report advocate adding additional sports and/or demand to the property.

Another component was replacing the natural grass field at Upper Newton to increase the availability of that field which in previous years was extremely limited. This would help move football off of fields at Village Green Park and also provide increased opportunities for lacrosse, field hockey, rugby and better serve Glenbard West who relies heavily on Park District fields.

16) The Park District is taking away green space?

Lighting the existing field certainly does not take away green space. It actually increases the recreational opportunities. Additionally all the amenities within the park remain accessible and usable and the installation of the lights does not restrict access to those areas.

17) What is Glenbard West anticipated usage for the evening times they are allotted?

Glenbard West has access to the field in the fall until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday only and in the spring until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday and Friday. The times and evenings can be used for practice and games. Football does not play games on Wednesday so the potential games would involve field hockey and soccer (Boys). In the spring, the field could serve lacrosse (boys and girls) and soccer (girls). It is important to note that Glenbard West will first schedule Memorial Field as it is on their campus and their goal is to have the high school events at times closer to the end of the school day.

18) What are the specifications for the portable lights that have been previously used at Newton Park?

Technical Data LTN 6L

6.2 Generator

Item Number:		LTN 6L 0620297 0620117 0620550 0620553 0620554 0620561	LTN 6L 0620727
Generator			
Frequency	Hz	60 ± 2	
Continuous output	kW	6.0	
Output	volts/ phase	120, 1Ø	120/240, 1Ø
Amps	A	50	
Excitation type		Capacitor / Brushless	
Power factor		1.0	
Voltage regulation - no load to full load	%	± 6.0	
Speed (no-load)	rpm	1800	

6.3 Machine

Item Number:		LTN 6L
Machine		
Operating weight (GVWR)	kg(lbs.)	768 (1693)
Travel Dimensions (l x w x h)	mm (in.)	4600 x 1500 x 1900 (180.4 x 59.3 x 73.2)
Height - tower extended	m (ft.)	9 (30)
Lighting system (1000W)		4
Ballast		Coil and core
Max. lighting coverage @ 0.5 ft. candles	m ² (acres)	Metal Halide - 30,400 (7.52)
Sound level at 7 m (23 ft.)	dB(A)	67
Tires	size	ST175 / 80D13

19) What Chicagoland parks and fields have athletic lights?

This list is not meant to reflect all of the parks and athletic fields that have athletic lighting.

Glenbard West Memorial Field (Glen Ellyn)	Chicago Park District (multiple locations)
Glenbard South (Glen Ellyn)	Montini Catholic High School (Lombard)
Glenbard East (Lombard)	Rolling Meadows High School
Glenbard North (Carol Stream)	Conant High School (Hoffman Estates)
College of DuPage (Glen Ellyn)	Schaumburg Park District (multiple locations)
Wheaton College (multiple locations)	Schaumburg High School
Wheaton Warrenville South	Lake Park High School (Roselle)
St. Francis High School (Wheaton)	Stevenson High School (Lincolnshire)
Wheaton Academy (West Chicago)	Northfield Park District
Wheaton Park District (multiple locations)	Naperville North High School
Downers Grove Park District (multiple locations)	Naperville Central High School
Willowbrook High School (Villa Park)	Northbrook Park District
Elmhurst Park District Berens Park	Lake Zurich High School
Immaculate Conception High School (Elmhurst)	Wheeling Park District
York Community High School (Elmhurst)	Lyons Township High School (2)
Oak Brook Park District	Northwestern University (multiple locations)
Downers Grove South High School	Elmhurst College
Downers Grove North High School	Glenview Park District (multiple locations)
Hinsdale Central High School	Glenbrook South High School
Hinsdale South High School	Glenbrook North High School
Oak Park River Forest High School (3 fields)	Park District of Highland Park (multiple locations)
Winnetka Park District	Wilmette Park District
New Trier High School	Palatine Park District (multiple locations)
Benedictine College (Lisle)	Palatine High School
Naperville Park District (multiple locations)	Wilmette Park District (multiple locations)
North Central College (Naperville)	Skokie Park District (multiple locations)
Highland Park High School	Lombard Park District (multiple locations)
Deerfield High School	Hoffman Estates Park District (multiple locations)
Lake Forest High School	

20) What is the master plan for Newton Park?

The Park District does not recommend expending financial resources having a master plan developed for Newton Park as it is in good condition and for the most part fully developed. The

installation of synthetic turf took place at a long standing athletic field which already included amenities such as spectator bleachers, press box scoreboard and close proximity to a concession stand, restrooms and parking. The existing natural grass playing surface was converted to synthetic turf enabling the existing athletic field to be available more often while providing a better quality field. The outcome was an improved recreational asset that has been within the park for decades and serving the Glen Ellyn athletic community during that entire time. The lights would be for the same purpose – enhancing an existing asset and increasing the recreational opportunity for community.

21) Did the field usage at Ackerman Park and Village Green decrease as a result of the synthetic turf field at Newton Park?

Both parks remain heavily programmed and utilized. Field usage has actually increased at Ackerman as youth softball has experienced increased participation this past season. Village Green has remained consistent as some football has been able to be shifted to Newton. However fall baseball participation has increased and was able to utilize some of the available times that the relocated football teams have created.

22) Were lights considered at the time of the installation of the synthetic turf field at Newton Park?

At that time the Park Board prioritized the conversion of the existing field to synthetic turf. However, it certainly was always a possibility and discussed throughout the three (3) years prior to the installation of the synthetic turf. It was included in the ongoing and public discussion of the I.G.A. with Glenbard High School District 87 and mentioned as a future possibility during the public meetings (powerpoint presentation) shortly before the construction began.

23) What is the parking impact on the neighborhood? Is there a solution?

As concerns were raised at the September 22nd neighborhood meeting regarding the parking impact on the six (6) cul de sacs (Carleton, Taylor, Nicoll, Milton, Montclair, Exmoor) that border the north edge of Newton Park by the park users, the Park District monitored the parking over the next ten weeks. The statistics are listed below. Programmed usage of the park during that period of time included Golden Eagles travel and flag football, Golden Eagles Cheerleading and Glenbard West High School.

Through ongoing discussion and observation over the past 2 ½ months, we believe the parking can be significantly improved with the existing amenities (along with some improvements). Initially, it was thought that the parking lot capacity should possibly be expanded but after feedback and observation, that thought has changed (other than possible dual use of basketball court.) The Park

District will be meeting with neighborhood representatives, the athletic groups and the police on development of a parking plan which will direct the park users to the interior lots and eliminate drop-off/pickup on Fairview Avenue. In monitoring the parking the past ten (10) weeks, there were certainly days/times that certain cul de sacs were impacted by park patrons, but what was interesting, at those same times, there was sufficient parking available in the lots within the park. Along with the parking program which would also include how it would be implemented and enforced, immediate improvements would be made to install a walking path from the east lot towards the center of the park and a turnaround at the south end of the west lot. In addition, the District has access to the Stahelin commercial parking lot just to the west of the post office for overflow parking as well. Keep in mind that a parking program, other than directing school buses and identifying where legal parking was available, has never been implemented. With the support of the main users – Golden Eagles, Bulldogs and GBW, the Park District is confident that beginning in spring, it will be much improved. Lastly, the addition of lights and the parking are really separate items as the evening use will be considerable less than the day time demand. Only about 10% of the property is in play at night while about 90% of the property is available during the daylight.

The full report is available at www.gepark.org -> News -> Newton Park Light Project

24) Is there an analysis that supports the needs for the lights?

The report in 2011 to the Board provided the initial recommendations for the field improvements. Since that time, there has been a concerted effort to improve the quality of the fields over the years. This includes negotiating a revised intergovernmental agreement with Glenbard High School District 87 that is mutually beneficial to both taxing bodies by maximizing the use of public assets for shared constituents, the installation of synthetic turf at Newton Park on a field that was previously available for use only 30+ days a year, the improvement of Village Green baseball fields and the back open space just west of the baseball fields, development of a master plan for Ackerman Park which has recently begun to be implemented, the creation of additional open green space by removing three baseball/softball fields at Newton, removing two softball fields at Ackerman and the ongoing reduction of cross use of fields such as baseball and football/soccer and softball.

The full report is available at www.gepark.org -> News -> Newton Park Light Project

25) Does the installation of lights at Newton Park remove all football activities, Golden Eagles and Glenbard West, from Village Green?

To state that there will never be a sport other than baseball on the baseball fields at Village Green would be short sighted and it would be improper to make that assurance should the need ever come about. The dependency on that property for other sports will be greatly if not entirely reduced as the effort begun with the installation of the synthetic turf field.

26) Would the park district consider conducting a traffic study for Newton Park that includes recommendations?

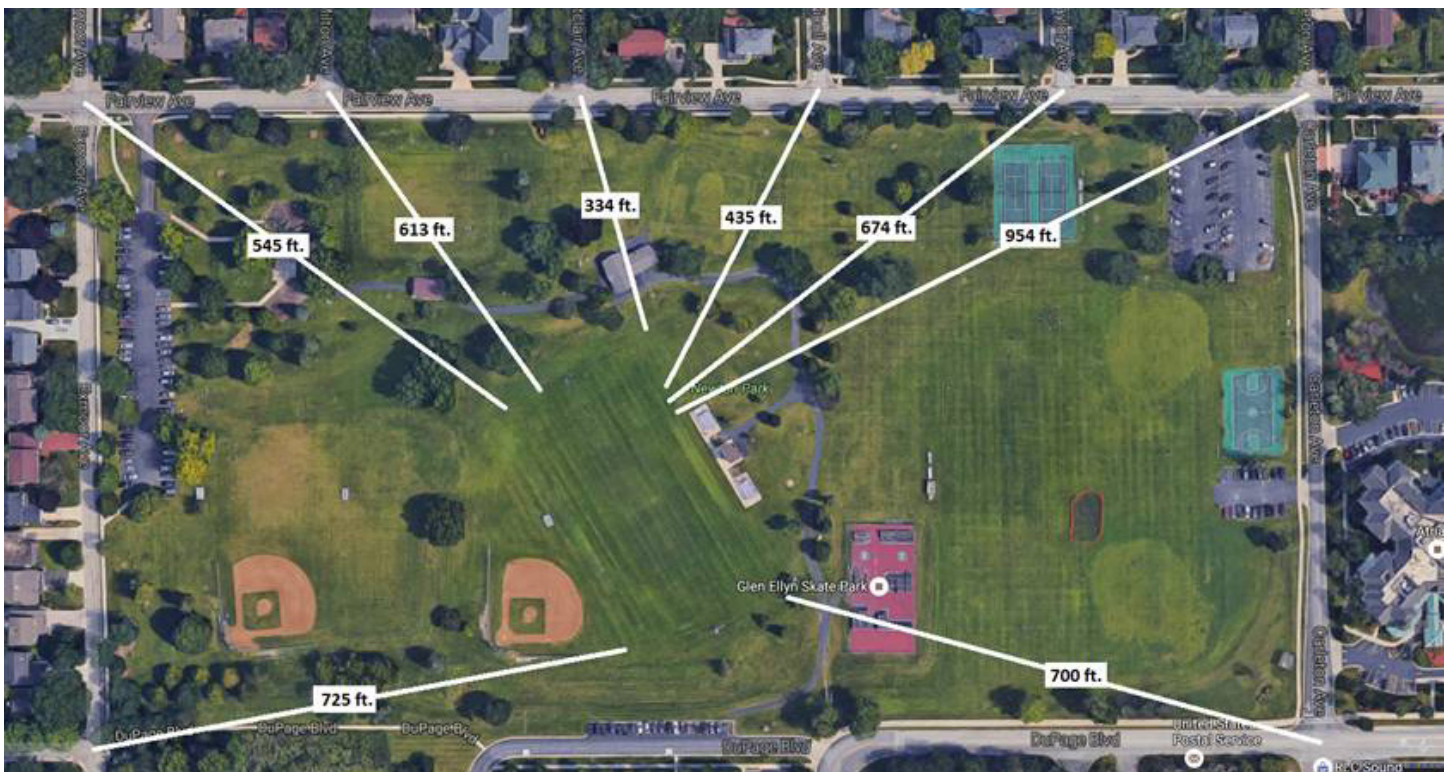
In previous discussions it was not favored as the Park District believes the traffic will not be significantly affected by the installation of the athletic lights. Fairview Avenue is a common through street from 53 to Lambert through Glen Ellyn bypassing Roosevelt Road and the addition of the lights will not significantly impact the current traffic.

27) Can the indoor turf field at Ackerman be utilized to accommodate some of the increased demand that has been expressed by the park district?

While the field is adequate when needed based on weather and extenuating circumstances , it is not ideal. The preference is to practice on an appropriate field under similar conditions as games will be played. It is difficult to replicate game conditions and spacing of a game played on a field 100 yards long in a space of 60 yards.

28) What are some of the distances from the proposed athletic directional lighting at Newton Park to the nearby homes?

Please see below for picture delineating the distance from the field to some of the nearby homes. Please keep in mind that the proposed lighted field is at significantly lower elevation then the surrounding homes on the west, north and east sides of the park.



29) What is the distance from the Ackerman Park athletic directional lighting to nearby homes?

On the northern border of the park, the nearest home is 212 feet. On the southern border of the park, the nearest home to an athletic directional light pole is 120 feet.

30) Has the use of Newton Park increased over the years particularly when the synthetic turf was installed?

The upper field usage did increase significantly after the installation of the synthetic turf field took place. However, the overall usage of the park has not. Three (3) baseball/softball fields were removed while the west baseball field remains. The removal of these fields obviously eliminated significant baseball and softball demand on the park. As the lower area became open space, the younger lacrosse teams now utilize the space that baseball and softball previously used. The older lacrosse teams use the synthetic turf for the most part. Youth rugby does the same. In the fall, Glenbard West High School now uses the upper field where as they previously used the lower grass area. Now, no high school teams use the lower area and that space remains unused until evenings and weekends at certain times. All of the Golden Eagles home games were held on the synthetic turf where as in years past, they would be hosted often on two fields simultaneously throughout the weekend. Finally, the Park District T-Ball program use to be staged entirely at Newton Park. Now only half the program uses the property in the late spring/early summer.

While the usage has evolved to reflect the changing youth athletic environment and to make greater use of the synthetic turf field, the overall programming of the park is comparable to previous years if not less.

31) What has been the experience/ reaction to the Memorial Field (just south of Glenbard West High School) directional athletic lights that were installed in 2009 after considerable debate?

In speaking with Glenbard High School District 87 representatives, Glenbard West High School staff along with Village and Police, they all state that there has been almost no negative outcome/ reaction since the lights were installed. A Memorial Field special advisory committee was created to monitor and take feedback regarding the property. The committee made up of nearby neighbors, school administrators and Village representatives have met on several occasions and have not received any negative feedback. The meetings are also open to the general public.

If the lights were to be installed at Newton Park, the Park District will initiate a similar advisory committee.