



# Athletic Fields Study Committee

Athletic Field Utilization Report

November 2013

Revision 3

# Field Utilization Conclusions

- School Teams and Youth Teams need access to outdoor athletic fields between 3pm-7pm Monday through Friday during the 8 week fall & 8 week spring sports seasons. The fields we have do not adequately support the teams we field and have not done so for over 10 years.
- School teams play games & practice on weekdays. They do occasionally play games on Saturdays. Youth teams typically practice weekdays and play games on weekends. Fields are not currently used all day, every Saturday & Sunday in the fall or the spring season. The utilization rate is on the order of 25%-50% on weekends ( assuming 8am-6pm both days ). Natural surface fields can not be used all the time and if so, they will be reduced to dust in dry conditions and mud in wet conditions.

# Field Utilization Conclusions

- The school teams can get by, but they are short 2 practice fields in the fall & spring season.
- Travel soccer used to have access to two fields and starting spring 2014, they have none in the fall during the week and limited in the spring during the week. Games & practices could be supported on Saturdays & Sundays between Mile La & Green St in the fall only. Travel soccer needs two fields for their fall program. These same two could be used for the spring program.
- Youth Lacrosse needs two more fields
- Youth Football needs two more fields

# Fall 2013 Field Utilization

## WHERE CAN TRAVEL SOCCER PRACTICE & PLAY?

- The school teams use Mile Lane field until 6-6:30pm most week nights.
- Youth football uses the field at Green St on Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays, so Mondays & Thursdays are open.
- Green St is available Saturdays.
- Mile la fields are available Saturdays and Sundays except when the school teams are practicing.
- The IHS Stadium field could be available, but only if it was an artificial surface.

# Ipswich Field Utilization

- See the following slides for the details.

# Athletic Playing Fields Inventory

## **1. Bialek Park-Cemetery & Parks Dept.**

Two 60' baseball diamonds

One 60' softball diamond

One 90' baseball diamond

## **2. Pavillion Park-Cemetery & Parks Dept.**

One small practice field

## **3. Green Street-School Dept.**

Three 60' baseball diamonds

One full sized multipurpose field

## **4. Mile Lane-School Dept.**

Two full sized multipurpose fields

One small sized multipurpose field

One 90' baseball diamond

## **5. Doyon School-School Dept**

Two 60' softball diamonds

One 90' baseball diamond

## **6. High/Middle School-School Dept.**

One 60' softball diamond

One full sized multipurpose field

Two small practice fields

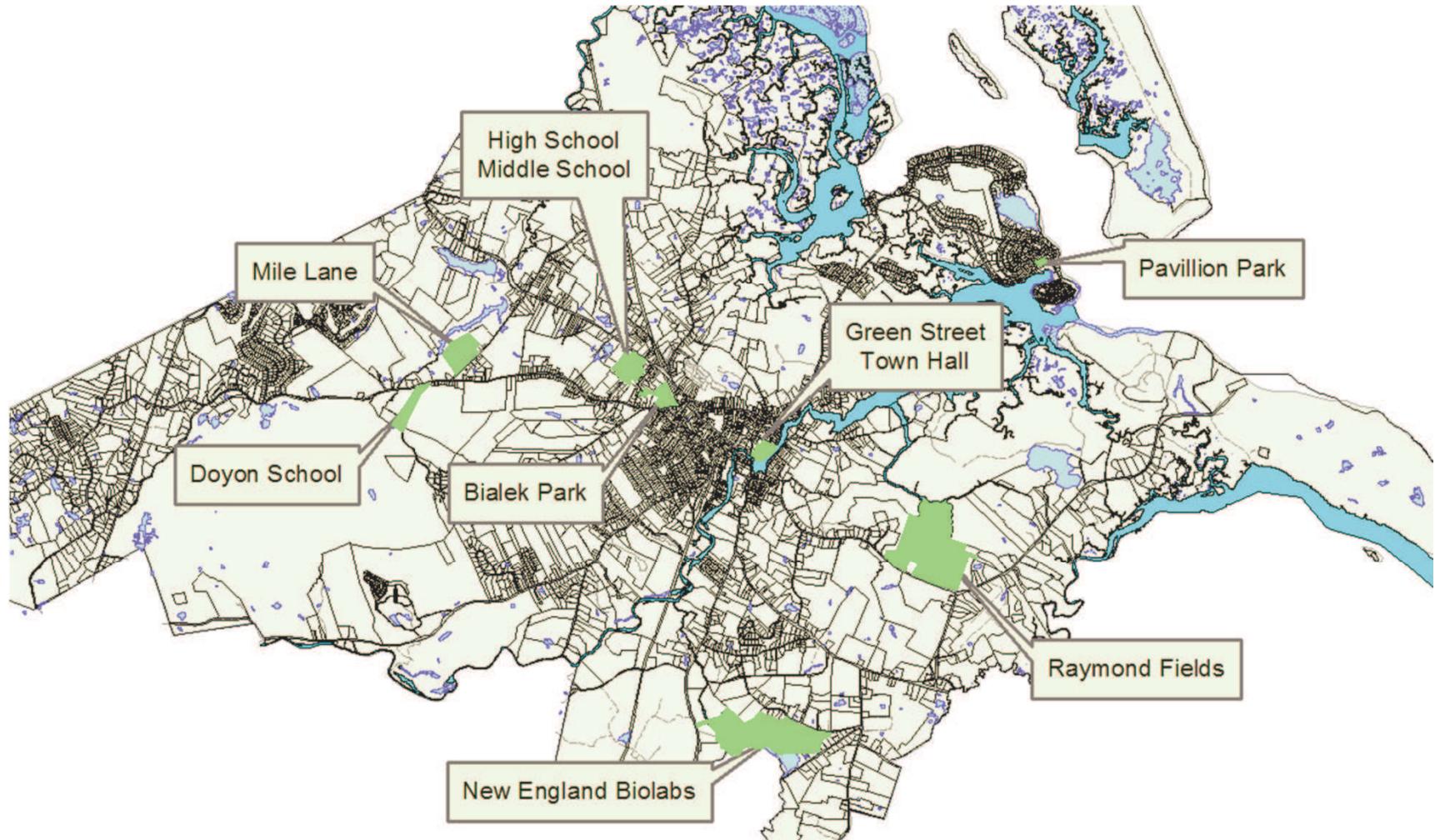
## **7. Maplecroft Farm-Privately owned**

Two full sized multipurpose fields

## **8. New England Biolabs-Privately owned**

Two and a half full sized multipurpose fields

# Athletic Playing Fields Inventory



# Athletic Fields Compared

- In our town, approximately 21% is salt marsh
- 10% is freshwater swamp
- Approximately 10% is owned and managed by the Trustees for the Reservations. Appleton Farms, Greenwood Farms and Cranes
- 10% is owned by the state, Willowdale and Plum Island
- Less than 0.3% of the land in town is currently used for organized athletics. This includes school and town owned land.

# Raymond Fields

- Travel soccer has used Raymond Fields off of Essex Road for over 20 years.
- In 2010, the Town purchase a conservation restriction for the Maplecroft Farms which included the soccer fields commonly referred as Raymond Fields
- The last 3 1/2 years, the agreement to allow use the soccer fields has been through a formal lease between Ted Raymond and IYS
- IYS has been told that the fall of 2013 will be the last season where they will be able to practice and play on these fields.

# New England Biolabs

- In Town Youth Soccer had historically used the fields off of County Road that became “front yard” of New England Biolabs in 2005.
- An agreement between the NEB and the Town formalized continued use of those fields by in town youth soccer.

# Overall Fields Inventory

- 4 Multipurpose (School)
- 9 Baseball/Softball (School & Town)
- 4 Small Practice (School & Town)
- 4.5 Soccer Fields (Private)

# Athletic Leagues-Town & School

Youth Football				High School Sports:
Youth Soccer-Travel & Intown				Field Hockey
Youth Baseball				Softball
Youth Softball				Baseball
Youth Lacrosse				Soccer
Adult Baseball				Track
Ultimate Frisbee				Cross Country
EBSCO Softball				Lacrosse
				Football
				Middle School Sports:
				Field Hockey
				Cross Country
				Soccer
				Track

# Total Athletic Participants-Fall 2011-Spring 2012

- Youth Soccer- In Town/Travel- 554
- Youth Football- 141
- Youth Lacrosse- 262
- Youth Baseball ( Little League & Babe Ruth) 308
- Youth Softball- 120
- High School Field Sports- 341
- Middle School Field Sports- 148
- Adult Soccer- 0
- Adult Baseball/Softball- 76
- Adult Frisbee- 20
- **TOTAL PARTICIPANTS= 1950**

# Spring 2013 Field Utilization

## YOUTH LACROSSE

- Uses the Mile Lane multipurpose fields and Green Street multipurpose field for practice and games for 15 lacrosse teams.
- Green St had 2 small lined fields ( 60 yds long each ). The 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade boy's teams practices there on Wed & Fri from 5:30-7pm. These teams play 8 v 8. There were 41 boy's that needed to share these 2 fields.
- Mile La had 2 full sized field and one small field. Boy's teams utilized all 3 fields on Wed & Fri from 5:30-7pm.

# Spring 2013 Field Utilization

## YOUTH LACROSSE

- The 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade boy's teams used one full size field. Normal play is 10 v 10 so there are 20 players on the field during normal play. There were 64 players in this age group sharing this one field.
- The 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade boy's teams used the other full size field. Normal play is 10 v 10 so there are 20 players on the field during normal play. There were 35 players in this age group sharing this one field.
- The 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade boy's teams used the small field. Their games are 8 v 8, so normally there are 16 on the field during play. There were 30 players in this age group sharing this one field

# Spring 2013 Field Utilization

## Youth Lacrosse

- Mile La had 2 full sized field and one small field. Girl's teams utilized all 3 fields on Tues & Thurs from 5:30-7pm
- The 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade girl's teams used one full size field. Normal play is 12 v 12 so there are 24 players on the field during normal play. There were 29 players in this age group sharing this one field.
- The 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade girl's teams used ½ of the other full size field. Normal play is 12 v 12 so there are 24 players on the field during normal play. There were 18 players in this age group sharing this ½ of a field.

# Spring 2013 Field Utilization

## YOUTH LACROSSE

- The 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade girl's teams used the other half of one full size field. Normal play is 8 v 8 so there are 16 players on the field during normal play. There were 32 players in this age group sharing this ½ of a field.
- The 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade girl's teams used the small sized field. Normal play is 8 v 8 so there are 16 players on the field during normal play. There were 20 players in this age group sharing this one field.
- Games for boys & girls are played on Sundays at Mile Lane when teams are home, and at other towns when the teams are away. Games starts are scheduled between 8am and 6pm. There may be zero to ten games at Mile Lane on any given Sunday during the 8 week season.

# Spring 2013 Field Utilization

## YOUTH LACROSSE

- In Addition to the 15 teams that play on Sundays, 3 other boy's select teams were formed with more than 50% Ipswich players on each. These teams alternated practices between the fields at Mile La on Mondays from 5:30-7pm and fields of other youth programs. Games for these teams are on Sat or Mon and only 3-4 games over the 8 week season are played at Mile Lane.

# Spring 2013 Field Utilization

## IPSWICH LITTLE LEAGUE

- Players in kindergarten through second grade ( Bubba Bat, A league & AA league ) use the three 60'baseball fields off of Green Street. In 2012, there were 13 teams with 9-12 players on each team that used these 3 fields Monday-Friday from 5:30-7pm over an 8 week season.
- Players in 3,4,5 grades play in the AAA league and use the Hopping Field at Bialek Park for practice and games Mon-Fri from 5:30pm-7pm for an 8 week game season. There are also games Saturdays, and practices Sundays

# Spring 2013 Field Utilization

## IPSWICH LITTLE LEAGUE

- Players in 4,5,6 grades play in the Major league and use the Bowen Field at Bialek Park ( one with the lights ) Mon-Fri from 5:30-9pm for an 8 week game season. There were 5 teams with 12 players per team. Games are also scheduled Saturdays and practices Sundays
- Additionally, teams in the Major League and AAA league use the front 60' baseball diamond at Doyon School for practices

# Spring 2013 Field Utilization

## YOUTH TRAVEL SOFTBALL

- Provides softball opportunities for girls from 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Uses the 60' softball field ( it too has lights ) at Bialek Park Mon-Fri from 5:30-7pm and also on Saturdays. In 2012, there were 7 teams with 12-14 girls per team

## Babe Ruth Baseball

- Provides softball opportunities for boys from 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Uses the 90' baseball field at Bialek Park on Tues-Fri 5:30-7pm.
- Uses the JV baseball field at Doyon School when the JV teams is not on it.
- Had 3 teams with 12-15 players on each team.

# Spring 2013 Field Utilization

## ADULT BASEBALL

- The Chief's is an adult baseball team that uses the 90' base baseball diamond at Bialek Park.
- They play their games on Mondays starting at 5:30pm

## IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

- The varsity Team uses the 90' baseball diamond at Mile Lane. They play games and practice Mon-Sat.
- The junior varsity team uses the 90' baseball diamond at Doyon School. They play games and practice Mon-Sat.
- The freshman team uses the 90' baseball diamond at Bialek Park. They play games and practice Tues-Fri from 3pm-5:30pm.

# Spring 2013 Field Utilization

## IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

- The varsity team uses the 60' softball diamond at Bialek Park. They play games and practice Mon-Fri from 3-5:30pm. They will usually practice Sat mornings
- The junior varsity team uses the 60' Hopping Field at Bialek Park. They play games and practice Mon-Fri from 3-5:30pm. They will usually practice Sat mornings

# Spring 2013 Field Utilization

## IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL LACROSSE

- There is a girl's varsity and junior varsity team and a boy's varsity and junior varsity team.
- All 4 teams practice at Mile La using the multipurpose fields until 5:30pm each week day.
- The teams will practice Sunday mornings at Mile La if they have a Monday afternoon game.
- They will practice on Saturday mornings if not practicing Sunday.
- Most home games are played at Mile Lane. Each team usually gets to play 2 games at the IHS stadium per season.

# Spring 2013 Field Utilization

## IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL LACROSSE

- When boy's games are played at Mile Lane, the varsity & jv games are played simultaneously. On boy's games days, if then girls are not traveling, they have no practice field. The boy's games are usually over by 5:30pm
- When boy's games are played at Mile Lane, the varsity & jv games are played one after the other as there is a shortage of girls lacrosse officials. On girl's games days, if then boys are not traveling, they have one practice field for two teams. The girl's games are usually over by 6-6:30pm and that usually cuts into the youth practice time slots.

# Spring 2013 Field Utilization

## WHY CAN'T WE USE.....

- Doyon in the spring for lacrosse? JV baseball uses the 90' diamond at Doyon 5 days per week. What's been used in the fall as a soccer field is the right & center field of the baseball field. The school baseball teams practice after school as do the lacrosse teams. Youth lacrosse or soccer could use the outfield of the JV baseball field after 5:30pm weekdays if there's no game( they usually last longer ).
- The sometimes used "front field" at Doyon is the outfield of the 60' baseball diamond & that's used by youth softball & baseball
- IHS Stadium Field- Used for HS games only so far.

# Spring 2013 Field Utilization

## WHY CAN'T WE USE (cont)....

- Bialek Park. The 90' diamond baseball field is used 5 days per week by either the adult baseball, school freshman baseball or Babe Ruth baseball, so where adult soccer used to play and currently girl's field hockey plays is not available expect on weekends.
- Youth soccer has used the 2 fields at Maplecroft Farms (Raymond Fields ) for over 15 years. They will not have access to those fields starting in the spring of 2014.
- The multipurpose field at Green St is available Mon, Tues, Thurs 3pm-7pm. It is also available on the weekends.
- There are no other fields in Ipswich

# Spring/Fall Utilization

- In Town Soccer current use the Fields at New England Biolabs. These two fields can only be used by Ipswich children, so they can not host any travel games where players from other towns would be present.
- In Town Soccer provide for children from 6-12 years old, and between girls & boys fielded 17 teams this past fall.
- Games are played on Saturdays. Practices are held during the week. The youngest teams use the front of Doyon school and grass at Bialek Park off of Kimball Ave.

# Spring/Fall Utilization

- Travel Soccer fields 11 boy's & girl's teams from 12yrs through HS in U10, U12, U14 classes. These teams play games on Saturdays ( 9am-4pm) and practice during the week ( 4pm-7pm) . Up through the fall of 2013, games & practices were held at Raymond Fields.
- Additionally, a boy's U16 & girl's U18 teams play on Sundays & usually do not practice.

# Fall 2013 Field Utilization

## YOUTH FOOTBALL

- Currently uses Green Street fields for practice and some games for 4 football teams
- There is one lined football field at Green St.
- Practices are held 3 nights ( Tues, Weds & Fri ) per week from 5-6:30pm.
- Games are played mostly on Sundays, but there are some Saturdays
- The youngest team used the baseball outfields in front of Town Hall.

# Fall 2013 Field Utilization

## YOUTH FOOTBALL

- The older three teams ( 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> graders ) share the one lined field
- Football is played with 11 on each side so there are 22 on the field during normal play.
- Sharing one field between 3 teams means having 60+ players on a field. The player density prevents full field practicing for each team except for during limited times
- The fall of 2013 was the first year that Youth Football was allowed to play many of their games at the IHS stadium on Sundays

# Fall 2013 Field Utilization

## IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

- The Varsity & JV teams practice on the small field next to the tennis courts 5 days a week and until 6pm on weekdays. Saturday practices are usually 9-11am
- Varsity games are played at the IHS stadium field on Friday nights or if on the road, Friday or Saturdays
- JV games are usually played on Mondays at the IHS Stadium if home.
- Freshman games are usually played on Thursdays at the IHS Stadium if home.

# Fall 2013 Field Utilization

## IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL FIELD HOCKEY

- The Varsity & JV teams practice on the outfield of the 90' baseball diamond at Bialek Park.
- They have practices or games 6 days a week. Practices during the week end at 5:30pm and games at 6:30pm. There are Sunday practices if Monday games are scheduled.

# Fall 2013 Field Utilization

## IPSWICH HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

- The Varsity, JV and freshman( girl's only) boys and girls teams practice and play at the two full size field and one small field at Mile Lane.
- They have weekday practices or games 6 days a week. Practices during the week end at 6:30pm and games at 5:30pm. There are Sunday practices if Monday games are scheduled.
- Two-three games each of boys & girls are played at IHS Stadium
- Five teams on two full sized fields does not allow for adequate practice space. When games are played at Mile Lane, there is not enough room to run viable practices for the teams not playing that day.

# Fall 2013 Field Utilization

## MISSED OPPORTUNITY

- The full size field in the back of the Doyon School is available during the fall as it also is part of the JV baseball right field and JV baseball only uses this field, in the spring.
- This field is not available because of grub damage.