



Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Strategic Plan Update

Athletic Fields Needs Assessment & Master Plan

Town of Brookline, Massachusetts

Information Gathering and Public Engagement Presentation

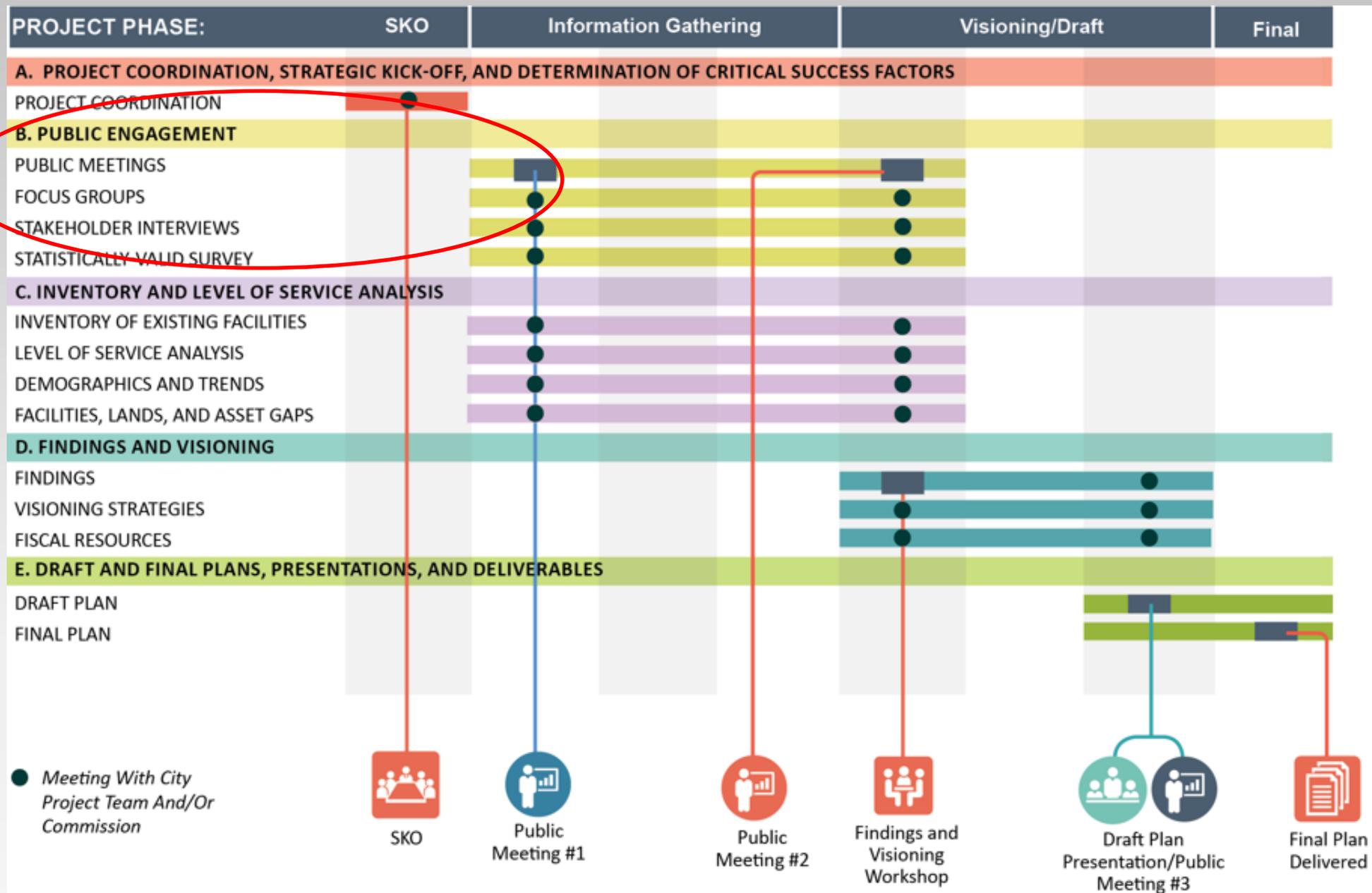
June 26, 2019



We want your input

No decisions have been made

The Process



Information Gathering

➤ **5 Focus Groups, 53+ participants**

➤ Parents, Seniors, Brookline Public Schools, Special Interest Organizations, Green Space Alliance, Town Meeting Members, Parks and Recreation Commissioners, Council on Aging, Dog Owners, Athlete Representation, Coaches, High School Athletic Director, Sports Association, Teachers, Brookline Parks, Open Space and Recreation staff, others....

➤ **Project Team Meetings, 11 participants**

➤ **3 Stakeholder Interviews**

➤ **Site and Facility Tours**

➤ **Meetings with Brookline Parks, Open Space and Recreation**

➤ **Task Force and Recreation Commission, 10 participants**

How long have you been a
resident of the Town of
Brookline?

Length of **residency** in Brookline

4%	<5 years
8%	5-9 years
8%	10-15 years
12%	16-20 years
68%	20+ years

What are the **strengths** of the Town of Brookline's parks, recreation facilities/programs, open spaces and athletic fields?

Strengths

- Maintenance of parks and open spaces
- Quality, variety, walkability, and distribution of parks and open spaces
- Condition of passive parks
- Overall plantings, trees and landscaping
- Recreation has phenomenal reputation
- Field upkeep and maintenance
- Affordability of programs
- Dedicated and committed Town staff
- Engagement of students
- Provides a “identity” for neighborhood parks and communities
- Accessibility of golf – multi-generational activity
- Clay tennis courts
- Recreation staff listens to community
- Community input and advocacy
- Responsiveness of the volunteer community
- Green Dog Program
- Park and Recreation Commission in tune with mission to balance community needs

What are the **areas of needed improvement** for Town of Brookline's parks, recreation facilities/programs, open spaces and athletic fields?

Areas of Needed Improvement (1 of 2)

- Condition of athletic fields, irrigation, drainage, turf condition, amenities – playability
- Lack of athletic fields
- Lack of lighting
- Under utilized ice rink
- Funding levels not been increased, workload has increased
- Maintenance of parks and open spaces
- Transportation needed for seniors, students and others
- Not all areas of Brookline have equitable access to parks and playgrounds
- Biking – safety for bikers
- Tennis court conditions
- Tappan Gym needs updating
- Overall infrastructure of parks, open spaces and recreation
- Communication and marketing of programs, services, and facilities
- Communication related to reservation and allocation policies and procedures
- Lack of outdoor restrooms
- Green Dog Program, hours, policy enforcement
- Lack of dedicated spaces for specific activities (soccer, baseball, dogs)

Areas of Needed Improvement (2 of 2)

- Lack of trash and recycling receptacles
- Lack of amenities in parks and open spaces
- Quality of recreation programming
- Golf course needs better maintenance
- More opportunity for children interactive play – natural landscape
- Gender equity for athletic facilities – gyms, fields
- Lack of senior programs (active and passive)
- Lack of outdoor aquatic opportunities
- Need for indoor recreational aquatics
- Need for Community Recreation Center
- Volunteers and Organizations underutilized

What additional activities do you feel should be offered by the Town of Brookline that are currently not available?

Additional Activities Desired

- Bocce, horseshoes, and lawn bowling
- Additional passive and active recreation
- Indoor ice skating and hockey
- Skateboarding
- Outdoor swimming
- Off road biking
- Nature programs
- Adult senior, teen, millennials and tween programs
- Recreational athletics for youth not involved in school teams
- Community special events
- Drop-in summer camp programs – mobile
- Astronomy
- Ultimate frisbee
- Evening activities for youth in gyms
- Archery
- Cultural arts programs
- Fitness and Wellness

**What new recreational
amenities/enhancements
would you like to see?**

New Recreational Amenities/Enhancements Desired (1 of 2)

- Outdoor aquatic facility
- Skate Park
- Improved participant and spectator amenities at fields (seating, shade...)
- Synthetic turf fields
- Natural turf fields
- Open space
- Smart field lighting
- Outdoor volleyball courts
- New Community Recreation Center
- Police emergency beacon/call station in parks
- Indoor skating/hockey rink
- Parking
- Signage, trail connectivity, and trailheads

New Recreational Amenities/Enhancements Desired (2 of 2)

- Accessible public art
- Salt water pool
- Batting cages, bleachers, shade, storage
- Full size baseball diamond
- Dedicated dog parks
- Community gardens with raised beds
- Reservation/field allocation procedures and policies
- Convert Larz Anderson Ice Rink for non-winter multi-purpose usage
- Develop teen challenge course/adventure features in parks
- Add fitness equipment area in parks
- Consider repurpose/reuse indoor facilities – Tappan Gym
- Better grass in parks in areas not considered athletic playing fields
- Additional water features in parks
- Restrooms in parks

What
improvements/changes
would you make to current
reservation policies or
procedures?

Improvements/Changes - Reservation Policies & Procedures

- Field allocation policy to maximize usage with playable conditions
- Enforcement of policies and procedures
- Mandatory cleanup
- Managing lights
- Establish priorities for gym use
- Increase communication of policies and procedures
- Add policy signage at facilities
- Improve customer experience – streamline, add online option
- Increase access to Tappan gym
- Review priority scheduling policies and advertise
- Renew MOA for facility and field usage with School
- Clarify third party contracts
- Review internal communication for field and facility operations, maintenance, and reservations

Are there any portions of the
Town of Brookline that are
underserved?

Areas Underserved

- North Brookline – limited open space
- Seniors
- Teens
- Tweens
- Millennials
- South Brookline - parks
- High school athletes
- Adults – recreation programs
- Public Housing residents
- Persons with disabilities

**How can Brookline responsibly
address identified
improvements/changes given
its resources?**

Resource Allocation

- Land acquisition, land conservancy
- Partnership – Community Preservation Act
- Property Transfer Tax
- Marijuana Tax
- Developer/construction fees
- Naming rights/sponsorships
- User fees
- Partner with other communities – Boston (Cleveland Circle)
- Land bank/real estate foundation
- Uber/Lyft surcharge

How can the **user groups**
assist in addressing identified
improvements/changes?

User Groups Assistance

- Compliance and following policies and procedures
- Utilize energy of volunteers
- Establish culture of cleaning up after usage
- Develop user group communication
- Allow organizations to perform maintenance
- Collaborative fundraising by organization

Who are the **key partners and stakeholders** in the community with regards to assisting with the Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Strategic Plan Update and Athletic Fields Needs Assessment & Master Plan implementation?

Key Partners and Stakeholders

- Residents
- Schools
- Private schools
- Select Board
- Neighborhood Associations
- Local Universities and Colleges
- Sports Associations
- Community Organizations
- Developers/real estate brokers
- PTO
- Children's Hospital
- Senior Center/Council on Aging
- Foundations and Philanthropists
- Students
- Brookline Housing Authority
- Diversity Commission

What are the **key issues and values** that the Town of Brookline needs to consider?

Values

- Residents
- Schools
- Accessibility, Diversity, Inclusivity, Resiliency, Equity
- Parks
- Open Spaces
- Recreation programs
- Cultural makeup of Brookline
- Numerous Universities and Colleges in Brookline
- Proximity to Boston
- Public safety
- Brookline Town Meeting Member format
- Green Dog program

Key Issues

- Population growth
- Schools
- Transportation
- Lack of available land
- Natural grass – synthetic turf
- Green Dog program
- Lack of indoor recreation facilities
- Possible development of recreation and field facilities – Pine Manor, Brimmer & May

What are the **priorities** that the Town needs to consider?

Top Priorities

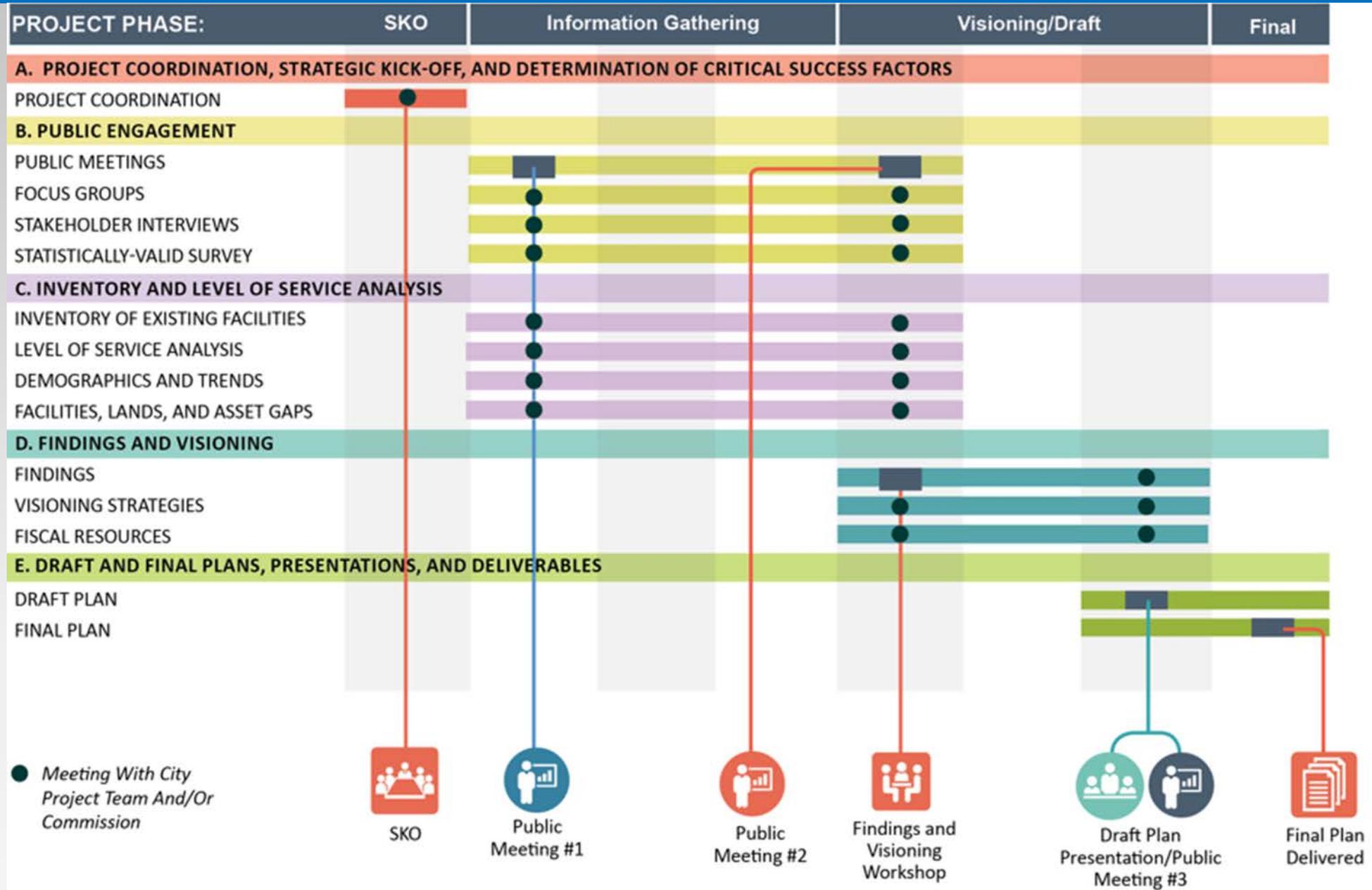
- Preserve and increase green space
- Improve field playability and capacity
- Improve reservation procedures and policies
- Improve park maintenance and conditions
- Maintain what Brookline currently has
- System wide plan for facilities development – Master Plan
- Increase funding for parks, fields and recreation facility maintenance
- Acquisition of additional field and open space
- Rework Town – School MOA
- Improve transportation to parks and fields
- Add additional usage for Larz Anderson
- Community Multigenerational Recreation Center
- Indoor/outdoor recreational aquatic facility
- Increase tree canopy
- Improve communication and marketing – internal and external

Other comments,
suggestions, feedback?

Comments, Suggestions, Feedback

- Incorporate other planning documents
- Allow Park and Recreation Commission to make decisions regarding parks, open spaces, recreation and athletic fields

Next Steps



Thank You For Your Time & Consideration!

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