



Melissa Battite, CPRP
Director of Recreation and Community Programs

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July 22, 2022

Dear Neighbor,

You are receiving this letter because you are an abutter of the Lincoln Park.

In the last year or so, a number of factors have snowballed to cause the LHS Athletics Program to frequently experience time overruns in their scheduled field use. The factors include the Lexington Public Schools change to later start times, which result in a later start time for afterschool LHS Athletics field programming, a statewide shortage of officials for games, the need for back-to-back games to accommodate the lack of officials, and more frequently late visiting teams resulting bus shortages and traffic during the later travel times.

The time overruns experienced by LHS Athletics have a trickle-down effect that results in the loss of field time for the community organizations that depend on the fields for their programming like Lexington United Soccer Club (LUSC), Lexington Youth Lacrosse (LYL), and United Cricket League (UCL). Over the past 9 months, a working group comprising a Recreation Committee member, staff from the Recreation and Community Programs Department, the Lexington High School Athletic Director and representatives from the impacted community organizations have worked to reduce the impact of this new problem. In the spring of 2022, an additional 15-minute buffer time was added between the permits for LHS Athletics and for these other organizations. The approach was very successful in reducing unforeseen delays and cancelations for the community organizations.

The rollout of this buffer approach in the fall season faces an additional hurdle in that there is not enough daylight to accommodate the addition of such a time buffer. To address this, during their regular, monthly public meeting on July 20, 2022 the Recreation Committee unanimously approved the following:

"...to approve that the field lights at Lincoln #2 remain on until 9:00pm and the parking lot lights remain on until 9:15pm, Monday through Friday, September through Veterans Day (November 11, 2022) in response to time overruns caused by Lexington High School Athletics. All field use will be permitted following the Department's *Athletics Field and Court Use Policy*."

Please contact me with any questions. I may be reached at 781-698-4800 or mbattite@lexingtonma.gov.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melissa Battite".

Melissa Battite, CPRP
Director

Cc: Recreation Committee; Lincoln Park Sub-Committee