

6. Strongly recommend trail and/or pathway links between Reston neighborhoods and county facilities, located both within and on the periphery of Reston.
7. Encourage and support, in any feasible way, completion of the W&OD Trail.

TABLE  
EXISTING OPEN SPACE FACILITIES WITHIN  
A 20 MINUTE DRIVING DISTANCE OF RESTON

AVAILABLE AMENITIES	Baseball Field	Basketball Court	Conservation Area	Nature Trail	Nature Trail (self-guided)	Open Play	Parking	Picnic	Playground	Refreshment	Restroom	Shelter	Soccer Field	Softball field	Tennis Court	Tot Lot	Hiking Trail	Other
Alabama Street (neighborhood)	X	X											X			X		
Baron Cameron School Site (Community)		X					X						3	1/L				model airplane field, 3 football(o), garden plots
Bruin (Neighborhood)	X	X	X	X		X	X	X/h	X		X	X			2	X		
Chandon--Town of Herndon (Neighborhood)							X		X						2			
Colvin Run Mill (Historic)							X/h	X		X	X/h						X	blacksmith shop, craft/club room, mill
Dranesville Tavern (Historic)							X/h											
Frying Pan Farm (Community)			X				X	X			X							blacksmith shop, horse show facility, equestrian trails, 1930's model farm
Great Falls Nike (Neighborhood)	2/h					X	X/h						X	2			X	
Lake Fairfax (County)			X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	boat rental, camping, carousel fishing, miniature golf, mini-train riverboat, swimming pool, sledding
Riverbend (Community)			X/h	X	2/h		X/h	X/h	X	X/h	X/h	X				X	X	blacksmith shop, fishing, equestrian trail, nature center, boat launching, marina
Stanton (Neighborhood)							X	X								X		
Sully Plantation (Historic)							X	X										
W.O & D Trail (Regional)																	X	bicycle trail, equestrian trail

Notes:

1. Type--a county designation which relates roughly to the service area and indirectly to the size of the parcel and the type or number of facilities available or possible on it.
2. "L" denotes a lighted facility
3. "h" denotes accessible to the handicapped
4. "o" denotes overlaid

Source: "Places to Go, Things to Do," Fairfax County Park Authority

Table III A 1



TABLE  
PROPOSED NEW PARKS AND PROPOSED ADDITIONAL  
FACILITIES FOR EXISTING PARKS

PROPOSED FACILITIES OR IMPROVEMENTS	Baseball field	Basketball Court	Conservation Area	Nature Trail	Nature Trail (self-guided)	Open Play	Parking	Picnic	Playground	Restrooms	Shelter	Soccer Field	Softball Field	Tennis Court	Tot lot	Hiking Trail	Other
Alabama Street (existing)			X					X					1	2			practice tennis court
Baron Cameron School (existing) Site							X	X								X	
Chandon (existing)	1/o						X	X					1/o	X		X	
Clarks Crossing (existing)				X													equestrian trails
Colvin Run Mill (existing)							X									X/h	
Frying Pan (existing)							X										lighting
Fox Mill (under Construction)	2/o		X	X			3	X		X	2*	3*	2/o	10	X	X	*1 interpretive shelter; 1 shelter/restroom 2 soccer; 1 soccer/football all tennis courts lighted
Great Falls Nike (existing)								X	X							X	
Lake Fairfax (existing)	1/o					X					X	8	1/o				amphitheater; day camp site; 2 temporary fields; add'l camping sites; camp store; cross- country ski trails; equestrian trail re-shape lake bottom
N. Reston Gov't. Center Site (under construction)	1/o							X				4	1/o			X	practice fields
South Lakes Drive (proposed--new)	1/o		X					X	X		X	1/o		X	X	X	

Notes:

1. "o" denotes overlay
2. "h" denotes accessible to the handicapped

Source: "Places to Go, Things to Do," Fairfax County Park Authority and  
"Highlights of Fairfax County Park Authority Capital Improvement  
Program 1983 Through 1989."

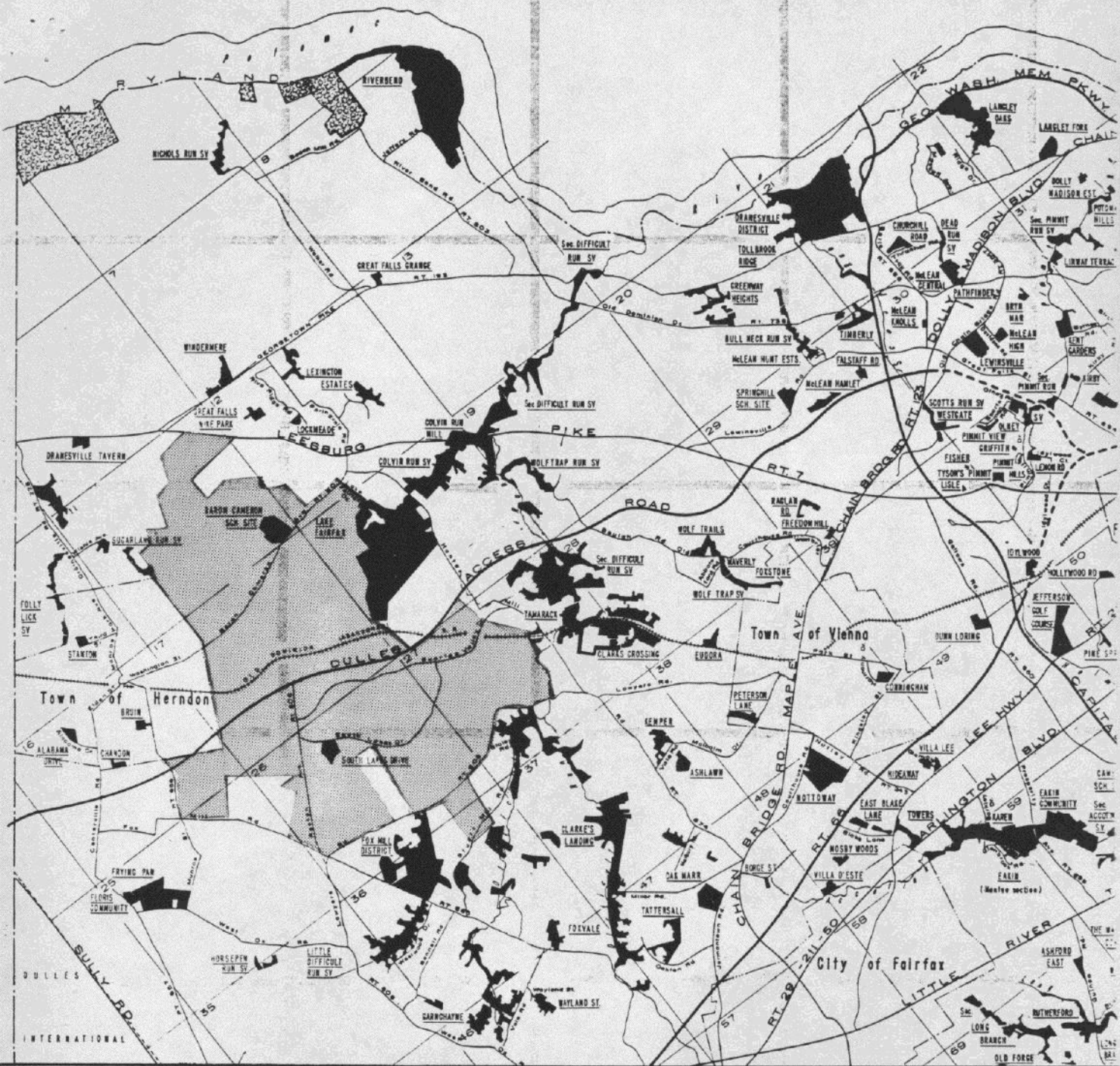
# PARKS, RECREATION AREAS, AND OPEN SPACES OWNED BY FAIRFAX COUNTY WITHIN TWENTY MINUTES OF RESTON

A

B

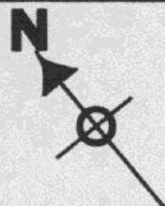
C

D



Approximate Reston Boundaries

NOT TO SCALE



SOURCE: Fairfax County Park Authority



IIIB. PLAYING FIELDS INVENTORY/SYSTEM  
LEVEL OF NEED/SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

1. Background

Reston has experienced continued growth from its inception. Growth of the community is expected to continue at a similar pace over the next ten years. Paralleling this growth has been increased participation in athletic programs serving the Reston area.

The need for suitable playing fields will continue to increase as the years progress. The planning, design and construction of a field facility can take over three years. It is important that the Reston Home Owners Association and the Fairfax County Park Authority analyze and plan for facilities that will be needed over the next ten years. Cooperation and optimum use of facilities is imperative, because of:

- o High cost of land in the Reston area
- o Limited amount of space suitable for recreational facility development in the Reston area
- o High cost of recreational facility development and maintenance.
- o Broad range of recreation facility needs
- o High level of participation in sports

Cooperation must extend beyond RHOA and the Park Authority to include the County Recreation Department, the school system and the sports groups. The competition for facilities in the area surrounding Reston is increasing. The neighboring communities (Great Falls, Herndon, Chantilly) also have growing sports programs. Reston has been using other communities' fields. Soccer, for instance, for years, through the generosity of Herndon sports officials, has been using fields in that community both for practices and games. As the Herndon program grows, other field resources must be found. Facilities for Reston's sports programs must be provided without creating unhealthy competition between sports and with neighboring communities.

Coordinated development of playing fields in Reston has been hampered by many factors. The level of demand has changed since Reston was started. Soccer participation "took off" in the mid 1970s to an extent that took the providers of fields by surprise. Field needs have never caught up with numbers of participants. The separate field sports groups have made their own arrangements for play fields with a range of suppliers: the schools, Park Authority, RHOA, the

developer. Such sport-by-sport arrangements on an as-needed basis have worked against development of a unified long range community playing field plan.

This Committee hopes its reports on field needs will provide a basis for looking forward to more cooperative arrangements to meet those needs, while also providing a projection of what those needs will be between now and the end of the century.

2. Inventory of Fields Existing and Projections with Capacity Limitations

The Committee's initial effort was to bring together and supplement the existing inventories, maps and listing of sports field resources. This allowed the committee to get a clear perspective on existing and proposed field resources.

The Committee's examination of the community's athletic/play field resources and needs demonstrated Reston's reliance on multiple sources of support for adequate playing space. It also demonstrates the unquestioned necessity, as indicated earlier, for inter-agency cooperation in meeting those needs.



TABLE III B1  
RESTON AREA FIELD INVENTORY

FIELD	USE	LAND OWNER
<u>North of Access Road</u>		
Baron Cameron	Adult Softball (lighted)	Fairfax County**
Baron Cameron (2)	Soccer	Fairfax County
Browns Chapel I	Baseball	RHOA
Browns Chapel II	Baseball	RHOA
Browns Chapel III	Baseball (Practice only)	RHOA
Browns Chapel IV	Baseball (1985 loss)	RHOA
Browns Chapel IV	Soccer (1985 loss)	RHOA
Lake Newport (2)	Soccer	RHOA
Lake Fairfax (2)	Adult Softball (1 overlay)	Fairfax County
Lake Fairfax (3)	Soccer	Fairfax County
Hook Road I	Baseball	RHOA
Hook Road II	Adult Softball 1 football Youth Baseball overlay	
Lake Anne Elementary	Soccer (Practice only)	Fairfax County
Forest Edge Elementary	Baseball (2-Practice only)	Fairfax County
Forest Edge Elementary	Soccer (Overlay)	Fairfax County
Ring Road	Youth Softball	RHOA
Wainwright	Youth Softball	RHOA
Access Site*	Soccer (3)	Fairfax County
Access Site*	Softball (1) (Overlay)	Fairfax County

\*available spring '84

\*\*Fairfax County sites include those at Fairfax County Park Authority  
Parks and those on other County owned land including schools.

TABLE III B2  
RESTON AREA FIELD INVENTORY

<u>FIELD</u>	<u>USE</u>	<u>LAND OWNER</u>
<u>South of Access Road</u>		
Bordeaux	Baseball (T-ball only)	RHOA
Bordeaux	Soccer	RHOA
Hunters Woods Elementary	Youth Softball	Fairfax County
Hunters Woods Elementary	Soccer (Practice only)	Fairfax County
Hunters Woods Elementary	Baseball (Overlay)	Fairfax County
Running Cedar	Baseball	RHOA
Twin Branches	Baseball	RHOA
Quartermaster	Soccer	RHOA
Foxmill Elementary	Baseball (2-Practice only)	Fairfax County
South Lakes High School	Baseball (lighted)	Fairfax County
South Lakes High School	Soccer (1 game, 1 practice)	Fairfax County
South Lakes High School	Youth Softball	Fairfax County
South Lakes High School	Baseball (Practice only)	Fairfax County
Terraset Elementary	Baseball (Practice only)	Fairfax County
Terraset Elementary	Baseball (Practice only)	Fairfax County
Sunrise Valley Elementary	Soccer	Fairfax County
Sunrise Valley Elementary	Baseball (Practice only) (Overlay)	Fairfax County
Sunrise Valley/Barton Hill	Soccer (Practice only)	RHOA
Sunrise Valley/Headlands	Soccer (Practice only)	RHOA
Sunrise Valley/Glade (The Greens)	Soccer	RHOA
Dogwood Elementary	Soccer (Practice only)	Fairfax County
Foxmill District Park*	Baseball (2)	Fairfax County
Foxmill District Park*	Soccer (2)	Fairfax County
Transco	Soccer (2)	RHOA

\*Available spring '84



### 3. A Field System

The next effort of the committee was to survey the resources and suggest a field system that would make optimum use of playing fields now in existence and provide a framework for identifying the optimum resolution of future needs.

To meet existing and projected needs for playing fields in Reston, the RHOA/RCA Land Use Committee recommends a three-tier system on as follows:

- A. Fields for informal play and practice
- B. Neighborhood fields with limited scheduled use
- C. Sports complexes for the majority of scheduled games and tournaments

#### A. Fields for informal play and practice

No priority of development is intended by the order in which these tiers is listed. (See also February 10 Meeting Notes.)

Although the field sports' problems of quantity and quality of fields has been amply demonstrated, far less attention has been given to the needs of younger children, in particular for small open areas for spontaneous play. Numerous totlots are available for the youngest children, and the other children who play organized sports do have fields to play on, however limited their availability and quality. Committee members pointed to a need for additional play sites within the neighborhoods where children live and play that could as easily be used for kite flying as for pickup baseball games. To some extent, nearby school sites meet this need. The committee believes, however, that more attention should be given to the development of spontaneous play areas. Such play areas could be used for informal practice sessions by field sport teams thus freeing up regulation neighborhood fields for play. There are a number of areas where informal play fields could be developed or existing open areas enlarged to provide these needs--and which would not infringe upon the neighboring uses to the extent a regulation playing field would.

#### B. Neighborhood fields

The neighborhood field would be scheduled for team use during play periods but available for other uses during other times. The concept of neighborhood fields with limited scheduled use has been addressed by RHOA. The committee notes with favor that RHOA daily reserves at least one neighborhood field for use by Reston residents/unscheduled users in case all other fields are in use. That is a particular scheduling nicety that may not be widely

understood. There are, however, too few of these neighborhood fields to accommodate the demands of organized field sports, particularly for practices. As noted in the recommendations, a number of fields--especially those at elementary school sites--could be upgraded for neighborhood use, taking some of the pressure off of the sports complexes for playing fields.

#### C. The playing field/sports complex

The most efficient way to provide sports fields--construction, maintenance, scheduling and use--is in multiple field complexes. Baron Cameron Park--one of the 3 sites the committee was asked to review in particular--has evolved into such a complex. (See separate recommendations regarding this site). Development of athletic field complexes in Reston has been inching forward but has stopped short of optimum sports complexes.

One of the difficulties of this trend to date has been the use of overlay fields, which can be adapted to use by several sports. None of the organized field sports have been satisfied with overlays. Only one sport can use an overlay at a time, and overlay fields tend to wear in ways that are detrimental to use by multiple sports. Overlay fields were first designed on the assumption of spring baseball and fall football. Soccer is more popular than football and is played spring and fall. Overlay fields are a stopgap measure and should be viewed as such. Sports complexes in the future should also include ample parking and space for amenities such as facilities for picnics and concessions.

#### 4. Implementation

One technique for realizing the three-tier field system would be to have RHOA assume responsibility for the informal play and practice fields and the neighborhood fields (that are not located at schools) and the County Park Authority assume responsibility for the sports complexes, which would serve as county-wide facilities. (See, for example, March 1 Meeting Notes.)

The committee did not discuss possible sites or financing for any of these tiers. However, it was suggested by the committee Chairperson that future field development and maintenance should equitably involve all relevant parties. Given the developer's responsibility to provide the land, and RHOA's responsibility to maintain it, an equitable arrangement might have the county accepting responsibility for all major sports complexes as it does, for example, for the Lake Fairfax Park complex, with the field users--the organized sports groups--making a fair contribution to field acquisition, development and maintenance. No specific



formula is recommended but one should be worked out in the near future.

#### Population Projections and Field Need Status

After completing the inventory of existing and planned resources and after developing a "system" of play field types, the next step for the committee was to project need. First it was assumed that sports participation--very high in Reston - a family oriented and athletic suburban community with active, successful sports programs--would remain constant as a percentage of the total age group.

Based upon techniques used by Fairfax County to project population components and the projections of Reston Land Corporation with respect to new home sales, a projection by age group was developed.

TABLE III B-3  
DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS  
RESTON TOTAL POPULATION BY AGE GROUPS 0 - 19

Year	1980		1990		1997 - 2000		
Total Population	37,000		46,000		55-58,000		
<u>Age Group</u>		% of Total		% of Total		% of Total	2 Decade % Growth +57%
0 - 4	3034	8.2	3636	7.9	4395	7.6	+45
5 - 9	3629	9.7	4240	9.2	5029	8.7	+39
10 - 14	3819	10.3	4406	9.6	5266	9.1	+38
15 - 19	2888	7.8	3485	7.6	4322	7.5	+50



It should be noted that while the overall population grows by 57% ± over the next two decades (from 37,000 in 1980 to 58,000± in the year 2000) the age groups grow by more modest 39% and 38% rates in the most intensive sports field use age groups. The size of these age groups will decline after 2000 due to aging of the community. Thus, a peak field use period can be projected during the 1990s. Based on these population projections, the field need projections (see pages 22 - 24) were generated. These show that demand for the Reston area athletic facilities will increase beyond the facilities now planned. The shortfall is due to the fact that (1) existing fields can not be used in their present condition, (2) overlay fields need to be eliminated and (3) few new athletic facilities are planned past 1985. The playing fields system needs to be structured and maintained from top to bottom as per the committee recommendations.

The field demand is projected by expected demographic characteristics of the community. Based on those projections, the committee recommendations are expected to meet the community's field needs if fully implemented by the appropriate public and private interests. Projections are based on the best data available and on current participation by age group for each field sport. The reader should note, however, that while the Committee is confident of these projections, they are, ultimately, best guesses. Trends can be altered by economic or other factors. From year to year sports programs may experience participation levels above or below those projected. As the quality of fields and therefore play improves the programs may grow in popularity. Therefore, the field requirements found in part V could be underestimated. However, as noted at note 4 in Appendix C.1, participants per field is based on an assumption that every participant will play a game on the same day. Some communities - such as the Maryland suburbs and the new community of Columbia - make more extensive use of facilities by scheduling to avoid one day a week peak use. It appears, however, that implementation of the Committee recommendation will not necessitate any compromise in the current playing field peak factors. If the other recommendations are adopted every team can be accommodated to play a game on the same day of the week.

## 6. Field Quality

Although this report primarily addresses questions of quantity--how many fields will be needed by the field sports groups--several quality issues must be mentioned.

(1) Playing fields in Reston are often of insufficient size for the sport using them. (2) Playing surfaces are sometimes dangerously deficient.

Regarding the surface problem, some fields lack grass, have poor drainage, are affected by erosion. Some have surfaces that at the least are detrimental to the game if not safety

hazards, i.e. uneven contour, rough, rocky playing areas that affect the bounce of the ball and the play of the game.

The surface problem in part relates to intense use, particularly by soccer, which uses some fields nearly year round, in good weather and bad, for team tryouts, practices and games. New fields are pressed into service immediately upon their being graded and seeded.

The user sports have been concerned appropriately with quantity. There just have been too few fields for the number of participants. However, the sports organizations must begin giving equal attention to the quality of Reston's playing fields.

As noted in the conclusion, upgrading a field to regulation dimensions and providing a superior playing surface is far less expensive (when possible) than building a new field. By starting with more and better informal play/practice areas and then upgrading neighborhood fields, when possible, the optimum use of field space and resources will be accomplished.



TABLE III B4  
COMPARISON OF EXISTING, PLANNED AND NEEDED FIELDS

FIELD INVENTORY  
 GAME FIELDS

	<u>RHOA</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Baseball/softball	11	9 (5 overlay)	20
Soccer	7	12 (5 overlay)	19
Football	1	-	1
<u>PROPOSED</u>			
Baseball/softball	-	3 (1 overlay)	3
Soccer	-	4 (1 overlay)	4
Football 1	-	-	
<u>TOTAL REQUIRED</u>			
	1990	2000	
Baseball/softball	17 (youth) 6 (adult) <u>23</u>	18 (youth) 7 (adult) <u>25</u>	
Soccer	18 (youth) 2 (adult) <u>20</u>	19 (youth) 2 (adult) <u>21</u>	
Football	2 (youth)	2 (youth)	
<u>TOTAL AVAILABLE</u>			
Baseball/softball	23 (includes 6 overlay)		
Soccer	23 (includes 6 overlay)		
Football	1		

TABLE III B4

Youth Baseball/Softball

<u>1980</u>	<u>Total Youths</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>%Participants</u>	<u>Players per Field</u>	
5-9	3629	363	10%	90	
10-14	3819	533	14%	65	
15-19	<u>2888</u>	<u>100</u>	3%	60	
total 5-19	10,336	996 (9.6%)			
<u>1990</u>	<u>Total Youths</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>%Participants</u>	<u>Players per Field</u>	<u>Fields Needed</u>
5-9	4240	425	10%	90	5
10-14	4406	625	14%	65	10
15-19	<u>3485</u>	<u>100</u>	3%	60	<u>2</u>
total 5-19	12,131 (+17.4 Δ '80)	1150 (9.5%) (+15.5% Δ '80)		total	17
<u>2000</u>	<u>Total Youths</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>%Participants</u>	<u>Players per Field</u>	<u>Fields Needed</u>
5-9	4395	450	10%	90	5
10-14	5029	700	14%	65	11
15-19	<u>4322</u>	<u>125</u>	3%	60	<u>2</u>
total 5-19	13,746 (+13.3% Δ '90)	1275 (9.3%) (+10.9% Δ '90)		total	18



TABLE III B4

Soccer

<u>1980</u>	<u>Total Youths</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>%Participants</u>	<u>Players per Field</u>	
5-9	3629	943	26%	150	
10-14	3819	1025	27%	150	
15-19	<u>2888</u>	<u>154</u>	5%	150	
total	10,336	2122 (20.5%)			
<u>1990</u>	<u>Total Youths</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>%Participants</u>	<u>Players per Field</u>	<u>Fields Needed</u>
5-9	4240	1100	26%	150	8
10-14	4406	1200	27%	150	8
15-19	<u>3485</u>	<u>175</u>	5%	150	<u>2</u>
total	12,131	2475 (20.4%)			18
<u>2000</u>	<u>Total Youths</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>%Participants</u>	<u>Players per Field</u>	<u>Fields Needed</u>
5-9	4395	1150	26%	150	8
10-14	5029	1350	27%	150	9
15-19	<u>4322</u>	<u>225</u>	5%	150	<u>2</u>
total	13,746	2725 (19.8%)			19

TABLE III B4

Football

<u>1980</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>%Participants</u>	<u>Players per Field</u>
5-9	150	4%	320
10-14	226	6%	320
15-19	<u>14</u>	.5%	320
total	390 (4%)		

<u>1990</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>%Participants</u>	<u>Players per Field</u>	<u>Fields Needed</u>
5-9	175	4%	320	1
10-14	275	6%	320	1
15-19	<u>25</u>	.5%	320	-
total	475 (3.9%)			<u>2</u>

<u>2000</u>	<u>Players</u>	<u>%Participants</u>	<u>Players per Field</u>	<u>Fields Needed</u>
5-9	175	4%	320	1
10-14	300	6%	320	1
15-19	<u>25</u>	.5%	320	-
total	500 (3.6%)			<u>2</u>



## 7. Implementation

As the committee discussed problems and formulated solutions, it became very apparent that a major element was missing within the existing community bureaucracies to deal with the field sports issue: There is no coordinating body in Reston with representation from all field sports to help RHOA and RCA formulate a coherent fields policy/program. In order for the community to have a high quality system of playing fields which adequately, but not excessively, meets citizens' needs, somebody or some group must monitor fields plan development and needs projections on a continuing basis. The committee feels that the RHOA Field Sports Council, which currently coordinates scheduling of RHOA fields between all Reston sports groups, should be up-graded to standing committee status with the following responsibilities:

1. Continue to coordinate field scheduling among the various sports;
2. Monitor trends in participation levels, field usage, and field requirements for all field sports active in Reston;
3. Project changes in fields needs for the various sports;
4. Monitor the quality of the various available fields and formulate strategies for insuring that all fields in Reston remain playable;
5. Recommend changes and/or additions to the fields system;
6. Serve as liaison between the County Park Authority, the County School Board, and RHOA in the development of a fields system and/or other strategies for providing adequate fields in Reston;
7. Report at least annually to RHOA/RCA of its work and recommend policy on the entire fields issue.

The RHOA Field Sports Council is the logical choice for this role, because it already exists and because it includes representatives from all Reston's field sports, as well as the RHOA Council. Land Use Committee members feel strongly that the only way a sensible, long-term fields policy can be achieved is through a coordinating committee which is able to mesh the plans, programs and needs of all the competing interests involved with this issue.

## 8. Recommendations

1. Upgrade open areas and existing informal play fields to expand use for informal play and informal practices.
2. Create new open play fields for informal play and practice use.

3. Improve substandard neighborhood fields and large play areas for limited scheduled competition as neighborhood fields.

4. Upgrade playing at county schools where feasible (including Dogwood and Hunters Woods schools and elsewhere) to provide adequate playing conditions.

5. Continued development and opening to the public of new sports field complex facilities at Fox Mill District Park and Northern County Government Center.

6. Following the acquisition by the Park Authority of future school site at North Reston Stevenage Road that has been determined by the Fairfax County School Board as surplus, recommend approval of the plan submitted by Reston Land Corporation by appropriate county agencies and bodies.

7. Eliminate <sup>coexisting</sup> overlay fields from all playing field complexes.

8. Establish the RHOA Field Sports Council as RHOA's field sports policy and coordinating body with appropriate responsibilities, AS ASSIGNED BY RHOA ED