



# PROJECT UPDATES:

**[1] Johnson [2] Cole Center [3] Parks and Fields**

*“Understanding 3 interrelated projects”*

Presented: Select Board meeting (Wed 2/4/26)

# To Cover



## **3 UPDATES:**

- 1. Johnson Future Use Project** (active since March '25)
- 2. Cole/Recreation Center Future** (not initiated)
- 3. Fields & Parks Planning** (not initiated)

**CONTEXT:** *At the 10/29/25 Select Board meeting, SB members & public input called for a full overview of 3-interrelated projects*

# UPDATE #1: Johnson Future Use

(update following the 10/29/25 Select Board meeting)

**SCOPE:** A multi-year project to determine the future use of the Johnson Elementary property. The process is anchored on community engagement will conclude with a Select Board vote (duration: Mar '25 - Jun '27)

**STATUS:** After 8-months of community engagement – On 10/29/25, the Select Board instructed staff to await board/committee “needs” reports (10), as well as needs of both: Cole Center and Parks/Fields (see later slides)

## TIMELINE

- Key 2025 Deliverables:**
- [Survey #1: Use Cases](#) (May)
  - [Survey #2: Decision Criteria](#) (June)
  - [Walking Meeting Report](#) (June)
  - [SB Workshop Report](#) (October)
- [See project webpage for all info](#)

- OPEN 2026 Items:**
- Review Board/Committee report
  - Produce Human Services report
  - Assess interplay with Cole Center and Park/Field projects
  - Financial assessments (via const.)
  - Decide: Advisory Committee (y/n)

After an estimated mid 2027 decision, one of these scenarios would start in 2027 and continue until complete.

1. Design and Build (incl: RFP)
2. RFP and Sale
3. Other (TBD)

**Baseline community engagement:** public mtgs, forums, workshops, surveys, & more

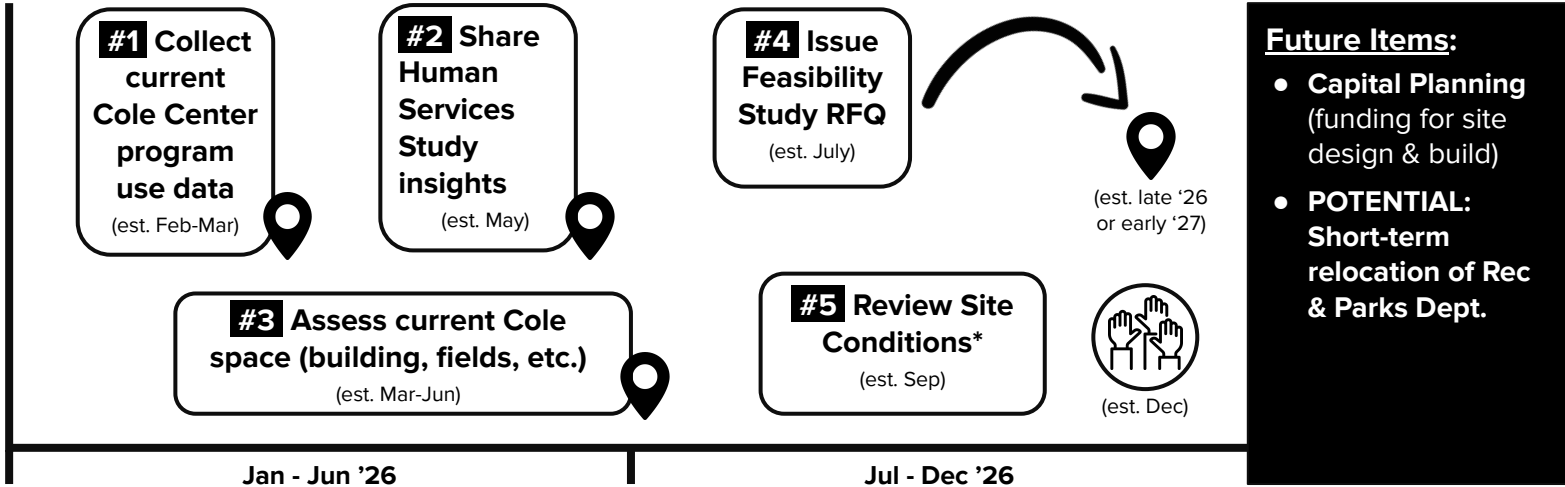


**NOTE:** The above timeline is solely illustrative and should not be considered a firm set of dates

# UPDATE #2: Cole/Recreation Center Future

**SCOPE:** A multi-year project to determine the current/future programmatic needs offered by the Community Services Department and the space/location that is best suited to house these programs/services.

**STATUS:** The Cole building is at the end of its useful life and beyond simple repairs. Data needs to be compiled to determine next steps.



**KEY**

- = report
- = public engage/mtg

**Partners**

- Public
- NPS
- Youth Sports

\* To include items like: parking, site movement, massing

NOTE: The above timeline is solely illustrative and should not be considered a firm set of dates

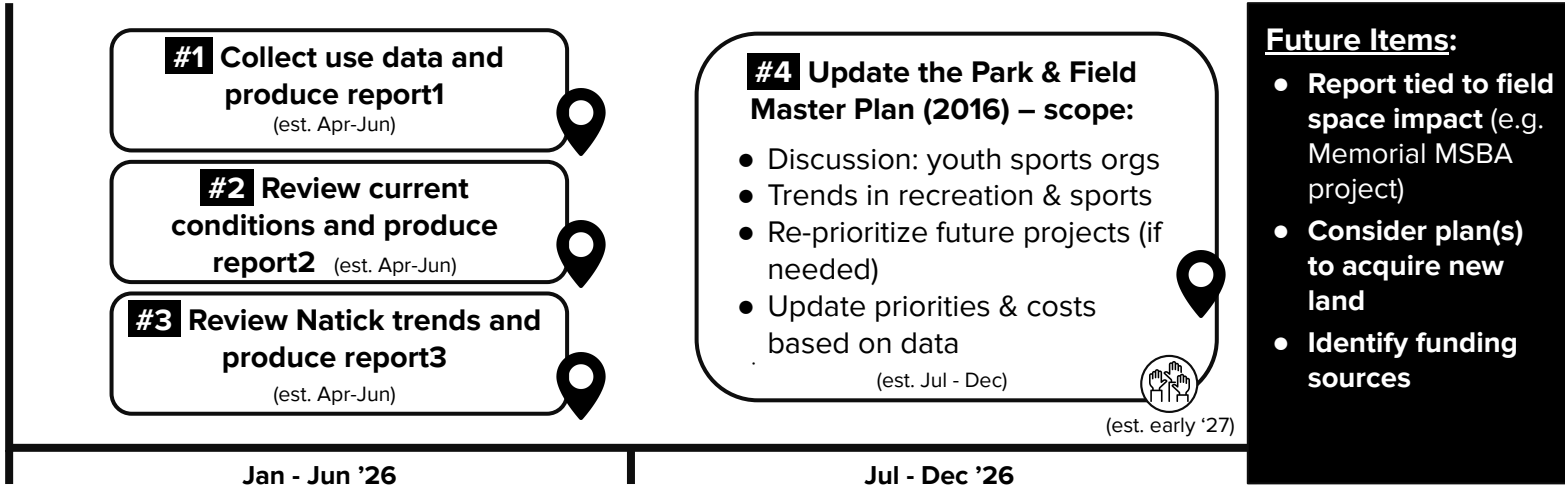
# UPDATE #3: Fields and Parks Planning

**SCOPE:** The Town completed a Parks and Fields Master Plan in 2016 which guided several park and field updates over the past several years. Now that the plan is approaching 10 years it is time for a refresh.

**STATUS:** Changes & projects have occurred to fields since the plan was completed. Data to be gathered/reviewed and funding will be requested in the capital plan.

**KEY**

- = report
- = public engage/mtg



**Partners**

- Public
- NPS Athletics
- Youth Sports

**NOTE:** The above timeline is solely illustrative and should not be considered a firm set of dates

# Interrelated Roadmap



JOHNSON

COLE

FIELDS/PARKS

## FOR DISCUSSION 2/4/26

Town staff *can* prepare an interrelated roadmap. Current staff thinking is that these projects (3) will have some organic overlap & dependencies, but there's not significant value in a firm, interrelated roadmap.

Jan - Jun '26

Jul - Dec '26

# Next Steps / Discussion

1. **JOHNSON FUTURE USE**: Staff to return at an upcoming Select Board meeting (Feb or Mar '26) to review a 6-month project outlook
  - **FOCUS**:
    - [1] **Financial Assessments** (components) re: next steps
    - [2] **Advisory Committee** (yes/no) re: next steps
    - [3] **Integrate input from the 2/4/26 Select Board meeting**
    - [4] **Discuss need for a decision framework** (ie. prelim discussion on possible decision process/criteria/etc.)
  
2. **COLE / RECREATION CENTER FUTURE**: Data collection current and future needs
  
3. **FIELDS & PARKS PLANNING**: Data collection current and future needs

**Thanks!**



# APPENDIX – UPDATE #1: Johnson Future Use

## KEY INSIGHTS TO-DATE (MAR '25 - OCT '25)

### FV Survey #1 (Use Cases)

- Top selections: [1] open space, parks, & fields [2] community center
- Same influence for all residents, while giving the Johnson neighborhood access to more input

**DATE:** May '25 ([full report](#))

### FV Survey #2 (Decision Criteria)

- Top selections: preserve open space, parks & fields
- Minimize impact on neighborhood
- Prefer “work within existing funds”

**DATE:** June '25 ([full report](#))

### Walking Meeting (on-site)

- Attendees asked for financials (by component)
- Emphasis on preserving open space (+ trees)
- Building access (or video)
- Strong desire for transparency around decision-making and community involvement – noting the lack of trust post school closure
- Requests for near-term cleanups & temporary uses

**DATE:** June '25 ([full report](#))

### Post-Workshop Report

- **THEMES:** Preserve Johnson as community hub, oppose sale of land, & shift towards focus on components (v. scenarios that combine components)
- **CONCERNS:** outreach / community engagement gaps & funding source/s
- A post-workshop survey found that most attendees (n = 50) felt that a follow-up survey was informed/influenced by the workshop (3.98 weighted avg, on 5-pt scale)
- Related, the workshop inspired a call for board/committee reports

**DATE:** Oct '25 ([full report](#))

Mar '25



Oct '25