

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Richard Rossi ✓
Paul Mahoney
Paul Ryder
Bill Ryan
Al Priest
Charles Killelea
Wadie Geraigery

DATE: December 5, 1988

FROM: *James M. Conry*, Executive Director for Management Services

SUBJECT:

Russell Field - Test Excavation of Sub-surface Materials
on Football Field

On Tuesday, 11/29/88, I met with Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi, Bill Ryan of Public Works, Paul Ryder of Recreation and other public works staff at Russell Field to inspect a test excavation of the field for hazardous materials or "trash" fill. A large area near the goal post at one end was excavated to a depth of approximately 4 feet with a bulldozer/backhoe. The toploam materials from the hole were screened and showed no presence of any debris, trash, or hazardous materials. The sand and sandy loam in the excavated area was basically clean and totally lacking in debris or even large rocks.

This inspection was done to determine whether there was a probability that the fill and earthen materials below the sod on the field was "dirty" or "trash" fill, and whether hazardous sharp objects were working their way to the surface. This was found not to be the case. Paul Ryder is now proceeding with development of the specifications for resodding in cooperation with the Public Works Department.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

December 12, 1988

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report No. 39 regarding the maintenance of the city's playing fields to meet the needs of Cambridge High School athletics as well as the needs of the general public, please be advised that:

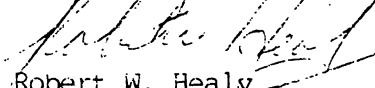
1. Each year, Recreation Director Paul Ryder meets with representatives of the School Department, including members of the CRLS coaching staff, to plan a schedule for use of the city's playing fields for high school athletics. Until the Thomas W. Danehy Park is completed, the football and soccer teams will continue to use Russell Field. I have attached a memo from the School Department which outlines the results of excavation of the field to determine the source of broken glass. As the memo points out, the excavation revealed that there is no trash fill beneath the surface and that any broken glass on the fields represents an isolated incident. In the Spring of 1989, we will attempt to re-sod the portions of Russell Field which have deteriorated as a result of overuse. Specifications are also being developed to resolve the sideline drainage problems. Russell Field is continue to be maintained by a private contractor who will be asked to inspect the field on Saturday mornings when there is a football game scheduled at the site.

2. To ensure the coordinated and timely maintenance of all fields in the city, Mr. Rossi chairs a committee comprised of representatives of the Public Works, Recreation, and Community Development Departments. This committee meets regularly to discuss complaints, develop the annual maintenance specifications, and plan for future renovations. Mr. Rossi will coordinate all school-related matters with Jim Conry, Executive Director for Management Services at the School Department.

3. Utilizing a grant from the National Park Service, the City hired AEA Associates, consultants in the field of urban park maintenance. For the past year, they have surveyed 200 of the city's parks and playing fields and have reviewed the management structure of the Forestry Division of the City's Public Works Department. They will submit their final recommendations by January 1, 1989. The consultants will also be working with the city on a long-term plan for the maintenance of the city's parks and playing fields.

4. The interdepartmental committee, chaired by Mr. Rossi, meets regularly to discuss issues related to user needs and park maintenance. All suggestions and complaints from the community are aired at that time. These meetings have greatly improved the communication flow on such matters.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy", written over a horizontal line.

Robert W. Healy
City Manager



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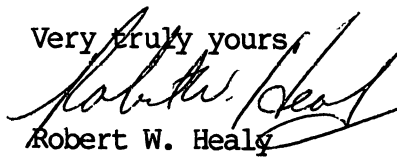
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2. To ensure the coordinated and timely maintenance of all fields in the city, Mr. Rossi chairs a committee comprised of representatives of the Public Works, Recreation, and Community Development Departments. This committee meets regularly to discuss complaints, develop the annual maintenance specifications, and plan for future renovations. Mr. Rossi will coordinate all school-related matters with Jim Conry, Executive Director for Management Services at the School Department.
3. Utilizing a grant from the National Park Service, the City hired AEM Associates, consultants in the field of urban park maintenance. For the past year, they have surveyed each of the city's parks and playing fields and have reviewed the management structure of the Forestry Division of the Public Works Department. They will submit their final recommendations by the end of January 1989 which will include maintenance standards and specifications for every park in the city.

4. The interdepartmental committee, chaired by Mr. Rossi, meets regularly to discuss issues related to user needs and park maintenance. All suggestions and complaints from the community are aired at that time. These meetings have greatly improved the communication flow on such matters.

Very truly yours,

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Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item 39 on
the maintenance of the City's playing fields
to meet the needs of the general public.

In City Council,

December 12, 1988

12-12-88

Placed on File.