



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

City Hall Annex - Inman & Broadway - Cambridge, Mass. 02139

617-349-4600

Fax 617-349-4669

RECEIVED
91 SEP 27 AM 9:12
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Robert W. Healy
City Manager

From: Michael H. Rosenberg 
Assistant City Manager for
Community Development

Subject: Council Order #74, dated 8/7/91, Re: Softer Ground Cover at the Corporal Burns Toddler Playground

Date: September 25, 1991

Over the past five years of rehabilitating several of the City's public parks it has become a common practice to introduce softer and safer playground surfaces. Several playgrounds remain which contain excessive amounts of asphalt and concrete surfacing. Our recent park rehabilitations have successfully introduced more green lawn areas, sand and rubber or synthetic surfacing.

Specifically Corporal Burns has a few small sand pits with some well worn play equipment. Most of the area between this equipment, a shelter, an adjacent storage building and the ball courts is asphalt. The amount of hard surfacing should be reduced and softer surfacing added.

There is however, no easy or quick solution to the problem short of a total park rehabilitation. The cost of rubber/synthetic surfacing is too prohibitive to use over large areas. Rubber surfacing should only be considered in combination with the introduction of new park furniture, updated play equipment and fencing. Sand cannot be placed on the existing asphalt surface without substantially excavating the site and providing some permanent means of containing the sand. Sod installed in high traffic areas quickly turns to hard packed dirt and cannot be maintained.

In the short term, the sand under the existing play structures could be replenished if compacted or dirty from use. This could be incorporated into routine maintenance by the Parks and Forestry Division of the Department of Public Works.

In the long-term, the Corporal Burns Playground should be completely re-designed with safer play equipment, surfacing and other amenities all planned and constructed in a coordinated manner. The Community Development Department will discuss this project with the City's open space and capital investment committees during the FY'93 budget process.

cc: Robert C. Steck
Open Space Project Planner



City of Cambridge

Reeves

74.

IN CITY COUNCIL

August 7, 1991

VICE MAYOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

WHEREAS: It is the intention of this City Council to provide playgrounds and tot lots for the children of Cambridge which offer safe and congenial opportunities for recreation; and

WHEREAS: Parents of small children living in the vicinity of the Corporal Burns Playground at Flagg and Banks Streets have expressed concern about the condition of the toddler playground, specifically the hard nature of the playground's surface; and

WHEREAS: These parents have requested an alternative ground cover, such as sand, which would provide a safer surface should children fall down during their play; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council request the City Manager to look into the matter of providing a softer ground cover for the Corporal Burns Toddler Playground, and report back to this Council on the feasibility and time frame for such a change.

In City Council August 7, 1991.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton

Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL 349-4300
FAX 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

October 7, 1991

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 33, regarding ground cover at the Corporal Burns Toddler Playground, received from Michael H. Rosenberg, Assistant City Manager for Community Development, relative to this issue.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mev
attachment

CONSENT AGENDA # 2 S-1074

Awaiting Report Item # 33, regarding
the ground cover at the Corporal Burns
Toddler Playground.

In City Council,

October 7, 1991

Placed on file