

Andrew Farrar
President Cambridge Youth Soccer
4 Lawrence Street, Cambridge, MA

Testimony, February 5, 2013

The problem with the quality of the athletic fields in Cambridge is not maintenance, but high demand resulting in overuse. The need is for high quality, durable, safe-playing surfaces.

To meet this need additional synthetic turf fields at Danehy are important.

Maintenance will not solve the quality issue. Not according to the Turf Science schools at University of GA, and KY, nor groups like The Sports Turf Management Association, nor highly respected engineering firms like ELA, from State College PA. All these organizations state that strict limits on usage are required. Estimates from these and other sources, range from 6-8 hours per week for a game field, to 18-24 hours a week for a practice field. And the usage is predicated on dry field conditions. Wet fields need to be closed or the field will be ruined for the season.

Cambridge currently has 5 grass fields that should only be used in dry conditions and one turf soccer field that can be used dry and wet. Combined, these fields can provide an estimated 110 hours a week of game and practice time. The 5-6 team CRLS Soccer Program requires 50-60 hours a week. CYS's 20-25 teams require 100-125 hours a week. Combined, that's 185 hours on dry fields. This does not include other high schools and middle schools which by charter, must have access to fields at Danehy nor other youth and adult sports program. Peak demand is likely to exceed 250 hours a week. To meet that demand would necessitate 16 full size athletic fields, and an additional 4 full-sized fields to allow for field rotation as mandated by sound field management practice. That's 20 fields total.

With Regard to Safety- Penn State Center for Sports Surface Research looked at 12 recently completed and peer reviewed studies. There was no proof that injuries on Synthetic Turf are more numerous than grass as claimed by the petitioners, and some indication that Synthetic Turf Protects against more serious injuries including concussions.

The Penn State Center also tested 20 synthetic turf fields for the presence of staph bacteria and found none to be present on any field. They also found no difference between Synthetic and Grass as an environment for infection.

With regard to Environmental Concerns: CT, Montgomery County MD, CA, and the EPA, amongst others, have all studied in-fill Synthetic Turf Systems. The results are consistent, the environmental concerns are in some cases de minimis, and can be managed, and should not prevent the installation of Synthetic Fields in most cases.

We are not recommending the paving of Cambridge with plastic, At Danehy, the total would be less than 5 acres out of 50, and a very small percentage of the 389 acres of green space. There will still be full size Grass fields including Glacken and Magazine Beach and many smaller grass fields for our younger players across the city. The presence of the synthetic turf fields will also likely reduce the stress on our other fields and parks, and allow the grass to remain greener, longer.

Heat is the one area of concern I share with the Petitioners. Synthetic Turf fields are on average 35 degrees warmer than grass fields, and this is maximized on Sunny/Clear Days, with low humidity, no clouds and most likely occurs between 12-3. However, these fields also cool down quickly. Fortunately, Cambridge has only about 8-10 clear days a month and the average high temperature is only about 80 degrees in July and August. The number of days that are both clear and well above average are few. This may predicate some limited time mid-summer, but all day use September through June should not be any problem at all.

As Cambridge has proven: build a better Athletic Facility like the War Memorial, and people will use it, build a better library and people will come, build better fields, and people will play, and play more: the wellness of our children, our students, and our adult citizens will be improved by this investment and commitment, and not just a little, but a lot.

The Board of Cambridge Youth Soccer strongly supports additional Synthetic Turf fields at Danehy Park.

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ATTACHMENT B

Thank you for the opportunity to speak

My Name is Phil Fousek I'm the Boy's Varsity Soccer Coach at Cambridge Rindge & Latin and the Physical Education Teacher at the Cambridgeport School

How adding turf at Danehy will benefit the high school soccer program.

Adding turf will allowed the student athletes at the high school to have the same opportunities that other surrounding communities currently have turf fields.

The tangible advantages include:

Being able to play in bad weather
Being able to have extended playing hours

And

Being able to provide student/athletes a state of the art learning environment

As well as having all levels in the soccer program playing on the same surfaces at the same time enhances the coach's ability to deliver quality instruction to the players.

As for what can't be measured

The current Turf field at Danehy has positively added to the playing experience and enhanced a sense of pride that our ^{athletes} ~~falcon~~ feel every time they play. This fair and safe playing environment allows the city of Cambridge to meet not only the physical needs of our student athletes but also helps full an emotional component for the kids. or student athletes

To speak from the Physical Education Teacher perspective

Turfing the fields extents the amount of use the fields can take. By doing this you provide more opportunity for members of the community to take part in physical activity. ~~This is one of the most important aspect that~~ promotes lifelong physical activity which is a hallmark of the PE department.

Grass vs Turf Fields at Danehy Park

Rustam Booz [rb@handsontoy.com]

Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 9:24 AM

To: Cheung, Leland

Dear Mr. Cheung,

I have been acutely aware of the insufficiency of Cambridge's playing field infrastructure for many years. Aside from coaching youth soccer for over 15 years, my sons Will and Otis are both graduates of CRLS and were both captains of the CRLS boys soccer team and my daughter Ruby is currently at CRLS and is on the girls soccer team. Will and Otis were serious club players who have gone on to play at Princeton and Brown respectively. In supporting their soccer pursuits I have travelled extensively to many of the country's finest soccer venues and have a good understanding of how grass fields need to be maintained and the benefits of "Field Turf" which is being proposed for Danehy.

Here is the problem: Cambridge does not have enough grass fields to support the demand placed on them.

As a result our playing fields are overused and dangerous. Playing fields are an important part of kids' and adults' active healthy lifestyles and our fields cannot stand up to the load. They are second rate. In some cases much worse than that.

Field turf is the best synthetic surface available and is what is currently used in many of the finest venues around the country. The Massachusetts Youth Soccer complex in Lancaster has 5 turf fields and 11 grass fields. The turf fields help and allow them to maintain their high quality grass fields. The benefits of having turf fields are many but what necessitates the conversion to turf is the need for safer, better playing surfaces in Cambridge that will allow for much greater activity and use.

You may have noticed that Harvard has put in 4 turf field over the last several years as well as putting in turf in the Stadium. Why? Because the overuse of the grass fields was a losing battle on the maintenance cost side of the equation AND the understanding that when grass fields are in poor shape they cause injury and adversely affect the quality of the games attempting to be played.

When it rains, grass fields are closed. When soggy they get ripped up. If you have hundreds of games cancelled because of wet fields it exacerbates the problem of our grass fields being overused. Grass needs time to recover and regrow. Turf is always playable. By turning some of our grass fields into turf fields we can take a lot of the load off of the other grass fields and direct it to the turf. This will allow Cambridge to have many higher quality grass playing fields such as Glacken and Magazine and restore grass to many of our denuded park fields such as Sennot, Cambridge Common, and Raymond Park

As to the naturalistic wetland issue at Danehy, putting in turf fields where there are

already playing fields won't change anything. The vast majority of Danehy Park is grass and will stay so. The wetlands at Danehy are and will remain intact and in fact are a vibrant and successful urban wilderness. Nothing changes there. We are talking about converting existing fields that are dangerous, overused, and frequently closed due to weather into first rate all-season fields.

The benefits for increased health, activity, and the opportunity for greater use of the fields is a big win for the city.

Yours respectfully,

Rustam Booz
27 Lawn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Turf At Danehy

1. I would like to go on the record with the understanding that I love grass, and that I would love for everyone to play on grass all the time. I grew up in a rural area where we had lots of nice good grass.
2. But here is the problem. I also love sports. I play many sports and have coached soccer in Cambridge for 15 years. I have raised three kids here who have all been avid users of our sports playing fields playing baseball and soccer.
3. The issue from my perspective is two fold: Access and performance.
4. To make my point, I would like to make a tennis analogue.
5. I love tennis. And I would love to play tennis on grass and have my kids play on grass. Never have, but would love to. But we can't. Certainly not in Cambridge. It was decided long ago, very wisely I may add, that if you wanted to have more people play tennis and make it more accessible to the greater public, maintaining grass tennis courts was untenable and alternative surfaces had to be used.
6. In an urban setting where we want our citizens to be healthy and active, we should increase their access to sports fields and provide them the best quality surface available within our budget constraints. Here we can draw on the tennis example. We need to provide playing fields that meet the needs of the population who desire to play sports. A grass tennis court with divots, bald spots, grass tufts, puddles, mud zones, excessive dust and rocks rising to the top of the playing surface would not be acceptable to any tennis player. In fact it would be a disaster. If there were grass courts in Cambridge they would have very limited access and be prohibitive to maintain.
7. Divots, bald spots, grass tufts, puddles, mud zones, excessive dust and rocks rising to the top of the playing surface are not great for playing sports on a grass field either and unfortunately, they are the norm not the exception found in our grass fields.
8. In my 15 years of coaching and playing on our grass fields I have seen so many bad bounces, twisted ankles, broken bones, closed fields, rescheduling headaches, and frustrated kids and adults alike that I have come to the conclusion that there is a better way to address the demand we place on our fields.
9. There are trade-offs. Synthetic Turf burns are no fun. Synthetic Turf fields can get really hot in the summer. The trade off: you have a great surface to play on that is playable almost all of the time.

10. In our era of heavily programmed kids sports and activities and ever expanding adult sports leagues, and in an era when we have an increased awareness of the health benefits from greater activity and exercise, we as a city should provide quality sports fields to our citizens. We also need parks and general recreation space. They are not mutually exclusive, but let's not confuse the two.
11. A Sports field's primary purpose is to provide a safe, quality surface to play sports on. They are not for dog walking. We have parks for that. They are not for birds and wildlife to take haven, in fact Canada goose feces, let alone derelict pet droppings are a big problem on many of our grass sports fields. Since we have made the commitment to have fields for sports, as a citizen of Cambridge I believe we should make our fields the highest quality, most accessible and truest surface available to play sports on. In this light, synthetic turf is very much part of the solution, not the problem.
12. Cambridge has 389 acres of Protected Open Space
13. Of this 389 acres, approximately 51 acres, that is 13%, is dedicated to Sports Playing Fields including baseball, soccer, lacrosse, football, and ultimate Frisbee among others.
14. Of these 51 acres we are talking about converting an additional 3.5 acres to synthetic turf fields. In combination with the synthetic turf fields at Danehy 4 and Russell (which has restricted access) we will have about 7.5 acres of synthetic turf fields. This is less than 15% of our playing field surfaces and less than 2% of our 389 acres of Protected Open Space.
15. I have no doubt that this 2% total of synthetic turf fields will be the most heavily used Sports Playing Surfaces in Cambridge. This is a good thing because grass, unfortunately, cannot handle the load.

RUSTAM BOOZ
27 LAWN ST.
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

Save the Grass Fields at Danehy Park!

Danehy Park has four soccer fields; one is artificial turf and the other three are natural grass. The City has maintained the grass fields poorly for years. Now, in response to complaints about field quality by adult organizers of youth soccer leagues, the City plans to cover all three grass fields with plastic turf.

Please sign the [on-line petition](#) to stop the turf!

Here's why we oppose the City's plan:

1. **The public process was deeply flawed.** The City simply put the job out to bid, without holding hearings to learn the preference of the general public, rather than just the youth league organizers. Youth Soccer League officials have had undue influence on the process.
2. **There was no health review.** Modern artificial turf contains toxic materials such as heavy metals which can leach into the surrounding environment. Skin contact with turf might be hazardous to human health, especially the health of children. The City did not study any of these issues before putting the job out to bid. (It did get a DEP waiver permitting the disturbance of the soil and clay cap that will be required to emplace the turf fields.)
3. **The City has not first tried less drastic measures.** Before taking the extreme step of destroying the grass fields, the City can and should try improved maintenance, and restricted usage, to keep the grass fields in playable shape.
4. **Turf requires costly maintenance; it's not "maintenance-free."** Turf fields develop sinkholes, tears and divots requiring skilled repair. They require regular brushing for cleaning (since they do not naturally reclaim anything deposited on them, such as spit or dog waste). They require watering during hot days. Turf must be replaced every 8-15 years at a cost comparable to that of initial installation. Thus, if the City chooses turf, it is committing to **spending another 30-75K annually per field** in perpetuity.
5. **Youth League Soccer's needs should not trump those of other residents.** The soccer folks have a legitimate claim to those playing fields. But so do the hundreds or thousands of other City residents who use those fields for athletics, but cannot play on turf.
6. **Turf is simply less pleasant to play on than grass.** Turf hurts more than grass when you fall on it. It burns when you slide on it. It smells bad. It can get uncomfortably hot to the touch (up to 160F) in direct sunshine. We should preserve the grass option for our residents.
7. **There is no balance.** The proposal on the table is to convert all three grass playing fields to turf. Why not convert one or two fields first, then see how the scheduling goes for a few years before converting the remaining fields? Must we replace literally **every** grass soccer field at Danehy with plastic?

Please sign the [on-line petition](#) to stop the turf!

Subject: Re: Turf fields

From: Olivier Appaix <olivierappaix@yahoo.fr>

Date: 2/2/2013 6:47 PM

To: Andrew Farrar <af@handsontoy.com>

CC: Susan Ruff <susan@cambridgeyouthsoccer.org>, Seth Teller <teller@csail.mit.edu>

Hi Andy, I agree with the "maths" you put out, not doubt about it - I play and coach every week, winter included ! I don't think the question is whether turf would or not provide more playing opportunities, because it obviously would. I still disagree about the maintainance : the city never really maintains its grass fields, and there is no doubt about that because I am out there every week of the fall and spring season, and in between as well (I play in the summer, I play in the winter) ! Once they have redone a field, they cross their arms. Maintaining is a real job, something that requires regular care, attention. Not done here, sorry. Ok, bumpy is not great, of course. Hasardous ? Barely. I have never seen one of my players (or even someone of our very large adult group - we have a good 24+ players showing up at each game) get hurt because Danehy 4 is eneven, and the main issue with it is when it gets really dried up. But I see the burns on the turf - some of my kids got some pretty big ones so have we, I included (you don't want to play goalie without pants) ! And I do feel in the joints that it is more demanding there. Go see those ugly turf fields at Massachusetts Youth Soccer out west (because they end up looking ugly too after a few years). So, in my opinion, it is a question of balance. What's the life time of the turf fields (not as adverstized, but as real) ? A grass field is always there - but does require maintainance. Now, I agree with you : Cambridge is urban, its doesn't have that many fields and they are under stress. We have two turf fields for now. We could probably accomodate one more.

1 m\$ for a turf field, that would be paid by issueing bonds I guess - at what interest ? So we think that we get a good deal because we don't have to maintain it afterwards (well, I'd like to see that actually - since when any equipment is maintainance-free ?). By not maintaining what we do have, we create a situation in which we end up "showing" the bad side of things and therefore can then advocate for another solution, but that's because we have not done what it takes to do the right thing for what we have. Unlike some of the stuff I have read, I don't think that grass fields are necessarily better of the environment (you have to water them - though I don't think we do it here anyway) you have to fertilize them, you have to mow them. But we live in environments that are more and more covered with artificial stuff (concrete, macadam, plastic - even houses are made of PVC !!! and other chemicals). Not pretty great for our souls, the health of ourselves and our children. It's funny, but we always realize our mistakes later on when the damage has aready been done. So, caution is what I would advocate here. And you know how much I love this game. But do you know how fantastic it is to step on a good grass field to play a game of soccer ? Turf just doesn't provide that kind of feeling. I personally enjoy Glacken for its grass and for its environment : trees, the lake. The game and sports in general are not just about playing the game - it's about being out there, enjoying the moment, the outdoors, the environment. If we artificialize even more, what's left to enjoy ? Just the game ?

But Glacken too would need a little bit more of maintainance. Magazine beach is also on my mind... (and its location is awful). Actually, with a bit more maintainance it would be possible to play even in the rain. But we systematically cancel games almost as soon as it rains...

Ah, it's not an easy one. I think it is important that we don't push solutions too hard. Again, if I may, I would advocate balance here.

Take care

Olivier

De : Andrew Farrar <af@handsontoy.com>

À : Olivier Appaix <olivierappaix@yahoo.fr>

Cc : Susan Ruff <susan@cambridgeyouthsoccer.org>

Envoyé le : Samedi 2 février 2013 16h13

Objet : Turf fields

Olivier,

In response to your comments on the Petition site:

Field Turf at Danehy

Richard Freierman [richardf@comcast.net]

You replied on 1/30/2013 3:37 PM.

Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2013 12:08 PM

To: vanBeuzekom, Minka

Cc: Davis, Henrietta; Simmons, Denise; Cheung, Leland; Decker, Marjorie; Kelley, Craig; Maher, David; Reeves, Ken; Toomey, Tim (home)

Dear Minka,

I read your post on the petition web page regarding field turf at Danehy Park, and I'd like to ask that you dig deeper into this and consider revising your position. In my opinion field turf on these three playing fields would be a great improvement.

I am past president of Cambridge Youth Soccer, and both of my kids played in the league as well as for four years of soccer at CRLS. When my daughter graduated from CRLS in 2005, I estimated that because of her years in CYS, and 4 years on CRLS varsity, she had at that point played more games on Field 4 fieldturf than any other soccer player in Cambridge Public Schools. Her only field related soccer injury ever was a broken wrist suffered during a fall during practice on field 2 -- one of the poorly maintained grass fields at Danehy.

As I'm sure you know, the demand for field time at Danehy is enormous. Despite the best efforts of our parks crews, there is simply never enough time to properly maintain the grass fields. I have seen field 1 go through multiple cycles of re-sodding, only to have it revert to a field of dirt by the end of the season. It is simply too overused to be maintained as grass. Same holds true for fields 2 & 3.

I think a great deal of the information on the petition site is misleading and downright incorrect. Runoff for example: there is no evidence that runoff from field turf fields is toxic. And further, a well designed field turf field will reduce runoff, as compared to the hard-packed dirt field that is the result of a poorly maintained grass field.

I've lived within a half mile of Danehy since 1984, and I think it's an extraordinary resource for the city. Installing field turf on the playing fields will only enhance this resource, and make it consistently available to all of the youth and adult players who take advantage of it.

Lastly, the repeated use of the term "astoturf" on the petition site

only seems to drive home the point that this is a misinformed debate. Field turf (as on field 4 at Danehy, in the play yard at the Peabody School, and at Gillette Stadium among others) is a very different, and far superior artificial playing surface than Astro turf.

This is an improvement that has been lobbied for in Cambridge for many years. Please don't overreact to this very limited protest.

Sincerely,

Richard Freierman
39 R.C. Kelley St.

Turf Fields

DUNCAN MAC ARTHUR [maccoco@verizon.net]

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 5:16 PM

To: City Council

Dear City Councilors,

I have been a coach or assistant coach for Cambridge Travelling Soccer for the past six years. Both my children played youth soccer before the Travel Years. There is not a field in Cambridge I have not experienced and the only surfaces that have any consistency are the turf fields at Danehy and Russel. For the players, especially the younger ones, the grass field are dangerous: grass either too long (intentionally left long so it won'd burn out, Maher) so it hides holes and other irregularities, or no grass at all (Sacramento, might as well play on asphalt), new grass that gets destroyed in weeks, if not days (Magazine Beach), pop up sprinkler heads that get stuck open and become tripping hazards or human skewers (Glacken). Then there is the issue of goose poop, dog poop, human poop (Sydney), and when it rains these problems are amplified. Turf fields require less maintenance and are less toxic to the environment and the people who play on them because they do not require pesticides, fertilizers or green house grass emitting mowers.

Finally, the kids much prefer playing on the turf fields, whether in Cambridge or even the leafy suburbs where their grass fields get less play and are far better maintained.

I support as many turf fields as the possible.

Duncan MacArthur
245 Grove Stree
Cambridge MA 02138
www.maccoco.com

617 864 2234

From: ellena0007@gmail.com on behalf of Ellen Aronson [ellenaronson@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 2:59 PM
To: Lopez, Donna
Subject: For tonights meeting/Five reasons that I am opposed to turf fields in Cambridge

Five reasons that I am opposed to turf fields:

To: The Cambridge City Council

From: Ellen Aronson, 121 Fayerweather Street, Cambridge, MA 02138 (Parent of a CRLS soccer player)

Date: February 5, 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in with a few reasons why I am opposed to another turf field in Cambridge.

1. I keep hearing of MANY athletes and sports professionals who are opposed to playing on turf fields due to the increased risk of physical injury from the hard surface of turf which does not cushion players when they run or fall - as a grass field would. (<http://www.canadiansoccernews.com/content.php?2760-No-Canadian-Men-In-Vancou>)
2. Playing on a plastic surface in hot weather can increase exposure to Volatile Organic Compounds. See Artificial Turf Field Investigation in Connecticut, Final Report. http://www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/artificialturf/uhc_artificial_turf_report.pdf. In addition, according to Livestrong.com, grass fields only reach 98 degrees, turf can reach 117 degrees causing dehydration, as well.
3. Our urban areas need more natural surfaces and green areas to help mitigate climate change and warming, not less. (Just today, NOAA, The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, announced that Massachusetts experienced it's warmest year on record in 2012)
4. Urban wildlife depend on natural habitats for food and shelter, such as birds and small mammals.
5. We do not need to homogenize every aspect of sports and our world. Let's celebrate the natural environment and the differences in each blade of grass.

Proposed Sports Fields at Danehy Park

Chris Matthews [cmatthews@mvvainc.com]

You replied on 1/30/2013 3:31 PM.

Sent: Monday, January 28, 2013 11:53 AM

To: City Council

Dear Members of the Cambridge City Council,

I would like to voice my personal support for the new sports turf fields planned to be installed this year at Danehy Park.

Soccer is a hugely popular sport in Cambridge and one which grows every year. When one combines Micro Soccer, Kick Start, with the Cambridge Youth Soccer in-town and travelling teams there are many hundreds of boys and girls playing in dozen or so parks around the city every Saturday. With often two practices a week added to this, the wear and tear on the fields, many of which are small neighborhood parks turn to mud in spring and fall and dust in winter (think Ahearn Field on Sixth Street or Sennott Park on Broadway to name two of many.) As a soccer parent I am frustrated by the number of games that are cancelled due to poor conditions, and by the ankle and knee injuries sustained by kids playing on the bumpy terrain. As a landscape architect I understand that something has to give - grass can only support a certain number of little cleats, dog's paws, Crocs, whatever strains the Cambridge environment puts it under.

While Danehy Park is an important neighborhood park, it was also designed to serve the whole city, particularly for active sports, and it takes a lot of wear and tear away from the smaller, more intensely used and easily damaged neighborhood parks. The fields at Danehy in question take up less than 3 acres of a 50-acre park, there will thankfully still be lots of room to do the other things we all love to do in a park. At the moment my family has to travel to Newton to play on a turf field in the winter, just having the one turf soccer field in a city of over 105,000 residents is not much, I am sure the new fields would be very heavily used, thereby protecting other city parks.

Chris Matthews
26 Sixth Street
Vice President, East Cambridge Planning Team

Turf in Danehy

jviternawork@gmail.com [jviternawork@gmail.com] on behalf of Jocelyn Viterna [jviterna@wjh.harvard.edu]

You replied on 1/30/2013 3:23 PM.

Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2013 4:50 PM

To: Lopez, Donna

Cc: vanBeuzekom, Minka; Toomey, Tim (home); Reeves, Ken; Maher, David; Kelley, Craig; Decker, Marjorie; Cheung, Leland; Simmons, Denise; Davis, Henrietta

Dear Ms. Lopez-

I cannot attend the Feb 6th meeting, but I want to go on public record to say that I am strongly in favor of putting turf on the playing fields in Danehy.

It is clear to me that the people campaigning against this proposed plan have no idea what it takes to maintain a grass field. If a field's purpose is to have hundreds of kids and adults running, sliding, kicking, and falling on it in all kinds of weather throughout all seasons, then that field is NOT an ideal place to grow grass.

I am of course in favor of preserving green space for picnics, birds, and all the other reasons people have been giving to oppose this plan.

But I've also spent a lot of time in Danehy over the years, and I assure you that I HAVE NEVER ONCE SEEN ANYONE HAVING A PICNIC IN THE MIDDLE OF THOSE FIELDS.

And given the gravel, sand, and high traffic of the fields, it's not exactly an area where the sparrows hang out looking for their morning breakfast either.

Those fields are used by SOCCER players, not picnickers. And there is barely any grass on them to "save."

I am *not* a soccer player. My kids do *not* play soccer. I only use Danehy as a place where I go to enjoy green space, whether flying kites, jogging, or having a picnic. I taught my son to ride his bike in Danehy last summer. It's an amazing park. And I'm all in favor of saving green space and birds there.

But I can think of about a thousand more effective ways to "save" grass. Save it in true picnic areas, save it in main park ways, save it in green spaces throughout town. But seriously, who thinks we can "save" grass on a field designed for heavy soccer play without a Fenway-sized budget?

I applaud the city council's efforts to improve these fields--and make them safer for Cambridge families--by covering them with turf.

With appreciation,

Jocelyn Viterna
10 Shady Hill Square

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Jocelyn Viterna
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www.wjh.harvard.edu/soc/faculty/viterna

Re: Danehy playing fields

harry flamm [hsflamm@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 3:29 PM**To:** Susan Ruff [susan@cambridgeyouthsoccer.org]; City Council

Dear Mayor Davis and City Council members,

As a Cambridge resident, please accept my opinion regarding the proposed installation of artificial turf at the fields at Danehy park:

As a Cambridge Youth Soccer coach, a life-long soccer player, and an avid environmentalist I support the conversion of the soccer fields at Danehy to artificial turf.

1. Environmentally, my laymen's research has convinced me that constant maintenance of natural grass with water, fertilizers and the burning of fossil fuels (along with its pollution and green-house gas emissions), is not as favorable as compared to the lesser maintenance required for artificial turf. Though turf does require its own maintenance and cleaning.

2. As a soccer player, I have recently changed my own personal preference. Whereas previously I preferred natural grass and dreaded playing on (old-style) "astro-turf", I now prefer playing on those fields in the Boston metro-area that have the new style artificial turf. Given the choice of a perfectly maintained and manicured natural grass field -- like professional teams enjoy -- I would certainly opt for that: there is nothing nicer to play on, touch and smell on any given day. But the reality is that our urban and suburban grass fields can't be maintained to that standard. Instead they are often pot-holed, bumpy, full of bald-spots, over-grown or too short -- generally inconsistent to play on. And that is when they are dry. When the grass field is wet from rain, if the field is not closed by the town -- which it often is -- there are divits and mud, and curses by the facility manager. Artificial turf mitigates these issues and allows for a smoother, less physically dangerous, and more "beautiful" game.

3. Lastly, as a coach, it is preferable that less games get cancelled due to water on the field, that there are less injuries due to the condition of the field, and that players can better predict how the ball travels on the surface. (I'd compare urban grass fields to rocky & icy skiing; turf to powder skiing). (I'd also suggest players be encouraged to use turf shoes which have shorter cleats, instead of regular, long, grass cleats).

4. I suggest the field be turf. In addition for your consideration, rather than just having natural lawn-style grass adjoin it, improve the design of the immediate surrounding landscape around these fields at Danehy with more indigenous and dynamic natural plantings, planted berms and shrubs. Let the turf field be a contrast to the natural plantings around it -- don't try to camouflage the fact that the turf is not organic. Improve both the field itself and the immediate natural landscape around it.

Thank you,
Harry Flamm
71 Standish Street
Cambridge

From: John O'brien [JO'Brien@prospecthillacademy.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 3:30 PM
To: Rutenberg, Rebecca
Subject: RE: Upcoming Meeting Regarding Danehy Park

Hi Rebecca,

I greatly appreciate Cambridge City Councilor Leland Cheung's thoughtfulness for including me in this matter. Unfortunately, I have a MCSAO (Mass Charter School Athletic Organization) Board of Directors meeting scheduled that same day, which I must facilitate, being Board Chairman.

I do believe that the addition of turf fields at Danehy Park would greatly benefit PHA's soccer program and all community soccer programs as well. One of the major benefits regarding turf fields is that games can be played in inclement weather (rainy, wet) as opposed to grass fields which can become unsafe, potentially leading to injury. Also, we have experienced "standing water" on Danehy fields, rendering the field unplayable and having to postpone games as a result. This has been a problem in past years when attempting to reschedule postponed home games due to the lack of available fields.

For several years, Prospect Hill reserved Field 3 when we ran a co-ed program. Now we have both separate boys and girls varsity teams. The boys played on Field 3 last season while the girls utilized Field 1. All our home games have been held on Saturday mornings between 8:00 - 10:00am. Our home games for the upcoming 2013 season will start on September 14 and conclude on October 27. This allows us to host 7 boys/girls home games during this regular season time period. That's why postponements have a negative impact on our program, thus our preference for turf fields.

Thanks again for seeking my input.

Best Always,

-Jack

Jack O'Brien

Director of Athletics

Prospect Hill Academy

Board Chairman, Executive Director

MCSAO

Support for turf fields at Danehy

Dawn Baxter [dawnbaxter@comcast.net]

You replied on 1/31/2013 4:55 PM.

Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2013 12:35 PM

To: City Council

Dear City Councilors:

I am writing to ask you to support the proposed new artificial turf fields at Danehy Park. The mother of two student soccer players, I have logged many hours at Danehy. I am always amazed to see how well-utilized the fields are, seemingly round-the-clock, weekdays and weekends. Danehy is a great community resource. That said, the extensive use often leads to fields that are damaged and unusable. Many times this past fall, the CRLS JV and freshman soccer teams were unable to play their scheduled games due to unsafe conditions on the fields. (The varsity team, which plays on the one turf field at Danehy, was able to safely play all of its games.)

While I understand the allure of beautiful grass fields, our reality in the densely-populated City of Cambridge is that our "grass" fields are often mud or dirt fields, dangerous for players and not offering any natural beauty. I urge you to support the addition of the new turf fields.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dawn Baxter

Danehy Turk Fields
Wakeley, John [wakeley@fas.harvard.edu]
Sent: Saturday, February 02, 2013 9:04 AM

Dear Members of the Cambridge City Council,

I am writing to voice my support for the construction of the new turf fields at Danehy Park. I have been coaching soccer in Cambridge for six years. The city's grass soccer fields simply cannot stand the use they get. This makes the fields unsafe due to pits and tufts. Our grass fields get so much use that no increased level of care will suffice. Note this is not to say that our grass fields get even the minimum proper care at present, but that is another issue. Please vote to build these new turf fields at Danehy Park.

Best regards,

John Wakeley

Danehy Fields - Field Turf
Dennis Kelly [dkelly@burnslev.com]

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 2:49 PM
To: City Council
Cc: 'Susan Ruff' [susan@cambridgeyouthsoccer.org]

Dear Councillors,
I have been coaching CYS In town Girls soccer for a few years and most recently a Girls U-10/11 in the Bays League. I am familiar with the numerous arguments advanced by Andy Farrar, President of CYS, for installing artificial turf on Danehy fields. I wholeheartedly support his and CYS' official position disfavoring grass fields at the Danehy site for all the reasons stated by Mr. Farrar.

Dennis Kelly

Dennis J. Kelly

Burns & Levinson LLP

Partner 125 Summer Street | Boston MA 02110 617.345.3436 (d) | 617.345.3299 (f)

617.548.2448 (c) www.burnslev.com

dkelly@burnslev.com

We support plans to use Synthetic Turf at Danehy

Janet Malenfant [badchild@comcast.net]

This message was sent with High importance.

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 3:04 PM

To: City Council

Dear Members of the Cambridge City Council,

This letter is written on behalf of my entire family in support of moving forward with plans to replace two of the grass playing fields at Danehy Park with synthetic turf.

I have been involved with Cambridge Youth soccer for the past 15 years as a parent, team manager and age division organizer while both of my children, ages 14 and 21 have played for CYS. I have also been the parent of a four year CRLS Soccer player. If I had to guess, it's possible that in just one year my son spends anywhere from 80 to 90 hours a season between games, practices and recreational time, on any one of the fields available at Danehy Park. That's around 150+ hours a year and much of the time I've been there as well.

Surfaces are very important. I was a keen supporter of the recent renovation of Field 4, because the older generation of materials had begun to fail and the surface became almost concrete-like. My daughter had to play on that field while at CRLS. She was a goalie and had to wear quite a bit of padding in order to throw herself onto the ground. A shocking number of girls suffered ACL injuries while playing there. We were very happy this fall when my son's U14 team had a new field to play on and I'm sure all of the CRLS teams and the adult leagues were as well.

Field 4 is in such high demand that between CRLS soccer and lacrosse, CYS teams, private high school use and men's adult soccer leagues, it's very difficult to find any recreational time on the field. On any given Saturday, hundreds of players use Field 4, with teams lining up to play one right after the other from early in the morning through the evening. On weekday afternoons all the fields at Danehy are filled with teams from CRLS, private schools and adult leagues practicing.

This fall, the most recently seeded Field 1 (which was ruined after just one season) was difficult and dangerous to play on. When it was dry, the Freshman Soccer Teams kicked up choking clouds of dust. When it rained, the field was a mud bath. My son practices on Field 2 next to it and that field has holes and bumps that are dangerous as well. When it rains both of the fields can take up to a week to dry out enough to play on. (On a side note he also practices on at the Magazine Beach field, which I would rate a 1 out of 10, 10 being excellent.) So... Although we may have beautiful sunshine, the players cannot use the field and practices must be skipped.

A synthetic turf field is safe and easiest to maintain in our urban environment. The high amount of traffic by sports teams demands a functional surface. There is simply no way that the city could build and maintain grass fields, even with the finest irrigation systems

and groundskeepers money could buy. Please move forward with your plans to give our children safe fields to play on.

Thank you,
Janet Malenfant
16 Blake Street
Cambridge, MA 02140

danehy 1+2 turf support
dan anderson [dan@andersonporter.com]

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 3:13 PM
To: City Council

Honorable Council Members;

I am unable to attend the meeting of the City Council regarding the proposed turf at fields 1+2 at Danehy.

I would like to voice my support the proposed turf improvements as a Cambridge resident, CYS U12 Girls coach and as a soccer player who uses these fields regularly. I believe that the proposed improvements will provide a lasting benefit to all users of Danehy Park and its playing fields.

Respectfully,

Dan

Daniel P. Anderson

AndersonPorterDesign
875 Main Street 2nd Floor
Cambridge, MA 02139
617.354.2501

Re: Danehy playing fields

Geoffrey Swift [geoffswift@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 3:59 PM

To: harry flamm [hsflamm@gmail.com]; Susan Ruff
[susan@cambridgeyouthsoccer.org]; City Council

Dear Mayor Davis and City Council members -

I would like to add my voice to the chorus that you hear interested in fieldturf at Danehy Field. I think Mr. Flamm and others have helpfully identified the key virtues (ease of maintenance, ability to play on fields during and after rains, lower risk of injury, etc).

I'd also like to add a perspective as a North Cambridge Resident who has been a neighbor to the Russell Field facility over the past ten years. That field is terrific, and thinking of the increased use the field complex gets year-round now that the turf is available is a tremendous neighborhood asset that would make Danehy even more of a jewel. I don't remember seeing the old, forlorn grass field getting anything close to the utilization that Russell now enjoys: pickup ultimate frisbee and tag football, Cambridge runners and church groups pulling the community to the turf field (while the neighboring grass fields have far less activity). In the fall when my son was participating in kickstart, any time the fieldturf was unused the group would gravitate to the turf: no puddles, no potholes, no goose-poop. It made for terrific soccer.

Also in the fall, as my daughter participated in Bays, we enjoyed the beautiful grass of Maher field, which tends to get light use. Even this field, however, started to suffer from large bare patches and rough goal areas - and we always appreciated the turf fields in Brookline and Wellesley when we travelled there. I'll note the Sacramento field was a non-starter due to poor natural grass conditions, and the Common, while pleasant and historic, was decidedly sub-optimal as a playing surface. Adding additional capacity at Danehy would complement the fields available for use for all Cambridge residence, likely increase usable field time, and lighten use of the remaining natural grass surfaces.

Many thanks for your time and attention to this matter. I am a very happy Cambridge resident, in no small part because of the terrific parks and fields we have available for use. Our investments in these areas are good investments indeed.

Thanks,

Geoffrey Swift
48 Jackson Street
Cambridge MA 02140

In Support of Artificial Turf

Randall Wilson [wilson.randall@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 4:01 PM

To: City Council

Cc: Janet Malenfant [badchild@comcast.net]; Shelley Gross
[gross.shelley@gmail.com]

Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor and City Councillors:

I am writing to respectfully oppose the citizen's petition concerning grass vs. artificial turf for soccer fields at Danehy Park. As the father of a soccer player, I have watched my son, Micah Wilson, and his team mates play on practically every kind of surface in the city for ten years. For the last two years, he has had the majority of his home games on the turf field at Danehy. Unequivocally, the quality of play and the safety enhancements of the artificial surface are markedly better than that found on grass fields. As Andy Farrar, president of Cambridge Youth Soccer, points out in his letter to the City Council, the uneven and damaged grass surfaces pose a safety hazard to our young players. Moreover, it is impossible, given high usage and resource constraints in the City's budget, to maintain the grass surfaces of Danehy Fields 1 and 2 to ensure a safe and consistent surface. Finally, note that the vast majority of the Park will remain planted in grass under the current proposal. Please consider these factors when deliberating the citizen petition.

Yours,
Randall Wilson

In support of artificial turf for Danehy soccer fields
Robin Bonner [r_l_bonner@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 4:28 PM
To: City Council
Cc: susan@cambridgeyouthsoccer.org

To the Members of the Cambridge City Council:

Though I claim no expertise in the matter, I have read many of the email posts that have circulated recently and am writing to support the installation of artificial turf on the soccer fields at Danehy.

While I understand the concerns of those opposed, it is my experience that fields in Cambridge are so heavily used that grass is often impossible to maintain. Installing artificial turf will increase availability of fields in playable condition.

My children have played soccer in the CYS program since 2001. While they enjoy soccer, they do not enjoy playing on dirt; it provides uneven footing and rocks to trip on, and it hurts to fall on. Players are also disappointed when games are postponed because the fields are wet. And rescheduling is an inconvenience to players, coaches, families, and the opponent.

When I asked my 12-year-old son "What would you think if Cambridge installed artificial turf on the other soccer fields at Danehy," he gave a thumbs up and added "Either that or make sure there is actually grass on the field."

Sure grass is pleasantly tactile. But it's not necessarily natural. Artificial turf may have its downsides (I am concerned about how hot they get in the summer -- especially as I often use the walkways at Danehy for walking the dogs), but there are many other grass fields in Cambridge and access to field game & practice times is limited.

Barring any significant safety or environmental concerns that may come to light, I support the plan to install artificial turf on the soccer fields at Danehy Park that are currently grass.

Sincerely,
Robin Bonner
15 Corporal Burns Road

Danahey Turf Fields

Ryan [ryan.a.hammond@gmail.com]

You replied on 2/5/2013 12:31 PM.

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 6:42 PM

To: City Council

Dear Mayor Davis and City Council Members,

I was planning on attending the meeting on Tuesday to join the discussion regarding turfing the Danahey fields. Unfortunately, a professional obligation has arisen which will make my attendance impossible. However, I still want to add my voice to those who are advocating for turfing the Danahey fields.

CYS has laid out the basic case for why your original decision to turf the fields is a good one. Grass fields simply can not be maintained appropriately in an area with the urban density of Cambridge.

The perspective I would like to add is that of someone who has coached my children (now 12, 10, 8, and 6) at various levels of travel soccer. Less than half the kids I coach play with soccer clubs and I want to speak specifically to the experience of non-club players. By the time even parent-coached, non-club players have reached 9 or 10, their basic technical soccer skills are such that playing on turf fields is much more enjoyable for them than playing on the torn up (or non-existent) grass fields. Specifically, overused grass fields with their uneven surfaces hurts their ability to perform basic technical soccer skills such as dribbling, feints and passes reliably. With the exception of Maher field which is heavily controlled, every public grass field we have played or practiced on (these include Sidney Pacific, Sacramento, Sennot, Battery Park) cause the ball to bounce erratically. The "grass" fields available for us to practice on tend either to be so cut up or packed at hard dirt that it is difficult to say you are playing on grass. Fields such as Sennot, Sydney Pacific, and Sacramento most resembles playing futsal on hardwood gym floors, only not as even and reliable. As the technical skills of my kids and their friends have increased so to has their preference for turf fields and gyms where the surface is predictable. For 8v8 games typically played by 11 year olds like my oldest son consistency of surface dramatically impacts the flow and enjoyability of the game.

I will admit that I may be somewhat more sensitive to how the quality of the surface affects kids because my own boys are small soccer players who depend on their skill and touch with the ball to compete with bigger more "athletic" boys. Inconsistent surfaces handicap more technical soccer players relative to pure "athletes" with less soccer specific skills. One of the beautiful things about soccer as a sport is that small kids like mine can compete on equal footing with the classically "athletic" boys. That dynamic is almost completely lost on a bad playing surface and the game quickly becomes a boot it/footrace game. Simply put the kids that work hard to increase their skill deserve turf fields. Please turf the Danahey fields and it would be great if we could find a way in the future to turf Sydney Pacific for U10 games.

Thanks,

Ryan Hammond
280 Western Ave #4
Cambridge, MA 02139

Danehy Playing Fields

Tavares, Mary [MTavares@forsyth.org]

This message was sent with High importance.

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 7:55 PM**To:** City Council**Cc:** Susan Ruff [susan@cambridgeyouthsoccer.org];
Andrew Farrar [af@handsontoy.com]

Dear Mayor Davis and City Council members,

As a 30 year Cambridge resident, I would like to add my support for the proposal to place artificial turf on fields 1 and 2 in Danehy park:

1. **As a parent**, I have watched all 3 of my children play town and high school sports on fields that were weary from overuse. The resulting dust, mud, uneven surface played havoc with their performance, their clothes and shoes, and, at times, proved dangerous. During one of my daughter's JV CRLS soccer games, her teammate suffered a severe ankle sprain when she inadvertently stepped into a depression caused by wear and tear on one of the Danehy fields. The JV team did not have access to the envied turf field reserved for the varsity team.
2. **As a Cambridge Youth Soccer volunteer coordinator** for many years, I cringed at the prospect of rescheduling games with visiting teams due to rain and the deterioration of field conditions. Some years, multiple games had to be scheduled in one week in order for the travel teams to be competitive within their leagues. Additionally, my pride in hosting other cities' teams was often mitigated by the poor condition of some of our fields. Again, the dust, mud and irregular surfaces did not put our city's best foot forward. Happily, the increase in state-of-the-art turf fields has changed that image. They have also made Cambridge a site where games can be played in wet weather. But, we need more fields like those.
3. **As a health professional** engaged in prevention, I believe that the best way to deal with ill health and trauma is to prevent them whenever possible. The image of my daughter's friend writhing in pain on the Danehy field is etched in my brain. But, I saw countless other less severe, but still uncomfortable injuries due to bad fields. We don't need this for our kids! Being on a JV or Freshman team should not mean playing on a messy or dangerous field. Additionally, with the emphasis on preventing child obesity, shouldn't we be doing everything possible to give our kids access to good and safe places to run and play sports?

I sincerely hope that you will favorably consider the placement of turf on Danehy 1 and 2. We are lucky to still have many areas with grass and natural planting. However, our

playing fields need to be fortified to meet the needs of our active population.

Thank you for your attention.

Mary Tavares Sutula
9 Concord Avenue
Cambridge, 02138

Mary Tavares DMD, MPH
Senior Clinical Investigator
The Forsyth Institute
245 First Street
Cambridge, MA 02142
617-892-8261
Email: mtavares@forsyth.org

Danehy fields

Matthew Mazzotta [mmazzotta@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 10:56 PM

To: City Council

Cc: Susan Ruff [susan@cambridgeyouthsoccer.org]

Dear Mayor Davis and members of the Cambridge City Council:

I write as a coach and parent of several Cambridge Youth Soccer players who have also played tee-ball and other sports. Although I prefer grass fields as both a player and a coach, I am cognizant of the fact that there is limited field space in Cambridge and that these fields get an enormous amount of use. I therefore ask you to support the installation of the turf fields at Danehy so that our youth sports players and community members can play on safe, well-maintained fields.

However, I also ask that the Council and Cambridge Public Works undertake an evaluation of field space in Cambridge to see if there are ways of opening more grass fields for multi-sport use. I am by no means an expert, but Cambridge appears to me to have a relatively large proportion of its limited field space devoted to fenced-off baseball fields which cannot be used for other sports. In a city where field space is at a premium, perhaps there are creative ways where some additional field space can be opened for multi-sport use, depending on the season, without sacrificing the needs of Cambridge's excellent youth baseball program. This might also make it possible to better maintain the grass fields that remain by redistributing the amount of use that they get during each season.

Sincerely,

Matthew Mazzotta
140 Lexington Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138

In support of new synthetic turf fields at Danehy
bjhumenp@aol.com [bjhumenp@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 11:23 PM
To: City Council

Dear City Council,

As a former soccer player with the Eastern Massachusetts Women's Soccer League and a current coach/manager of a U-14 boys' travel team for Cambridge Youth Soccer, I am writing in support of applying field turf to fields #1 and #2 at Danehy Park. When given a choice, my players consistently request practice time on Danehy field #4 rather than the grass fields at Danehy or Magazine Beach. In fact, the fields at Magazine Beach are examples of relatively newly created grass fields which have not held up well because of the high demand for their use. Playing on poor quality uneven and bumpy fields -- sometimes with standing water -- is dangerous, contributes to poor soccer skills, and is not as enjoyable as it should be. Having to reschedule practices or games after rain which leaves grass fields unplayable is difficult when the demand for appropriate and safe playing fields already is so great. Moving forward with applying field turf to the proposed fields at Danehy Park will expand the hours of usable field space to countless children and adults around the city while decreasing long-term maintenance needs.

Thank you,
Barbara Hume
33 Essex Street
Cambridge

in support of tuft fields at Danahey
Ed Kuh [ed@fayerweather.org]

Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 8:19 AM
To: City Council

Dear City Council,

I am writing as a parent of two boys who are active athletes in both town and school sports in Cambridge. We have found that the turf fields have made a big difference in both safety and accessibility for teams and players. Games are often cancelled due to muddy fields and athletes are often in danger of twisting an ankle or knee due to uneven fields. The CRLS JV soccer team has to walk or bike all the way to Magazine beach to practice on an awful field and play on a horrible field at Danahey Fields 1 & 2.

The modern turf fields drain well and I believe as a tax payer are a good investment for the city and all its citizens. I fully support adding two new turf fields to Danahey Park.

Sincerely,

--

Edward Kuh
Head of School

Fayerweather Street School
765 Concord Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02138

Field Turf at Danehy 1&2

Abram Klein [aklein@edisonmission.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 11:16 AM

To: City Council

Cc: debbieak20@comcast.net

Dear members of the City Council:

I'm sorry that I can't make the meeting tonight, but I want to express my support for the installation of Field Turf at Danehy Fields 1 & 2.

I am a long-time Cambridge resident and am a Danehy Park neighbor. My family and I consider it a treasure. We have 3 kids -- now ages 15, 12 and 10. They have enjoyed birthday party picnics, Winter sledding, Spring kite-flying, taking Summer walks at dusk and counting dozens of bunnies with flash-lights, meeting friendly dogs in the Fall, lying on the grass in the sun, playing in the water fountains or at the playground structures, and much much more. I would never want to see this wonderful aspect of Danehy park harmed in any way. Cambridge does a great job with parks and preserving green spaces, and I strongly agree that this is a premium and an important value for the City. Luckily, Danehy is a large multi-use facility and my kids have NEVER used Danehy 1&2 for any of the above activities; they use Danehy 1&2 for sports. Even after adding turf at field 1&2, Danehy will still have tons and tons of grass -- to read the petition, it seems that the plan is to pave over all of Danehy park.

The reality of the situation is that those particular "grass" fields really don't survive the amount of use they get and the harsh local weather. We've been very lucky with the weather the last two or three years, but I recall Danehy Field 1 being closed for many months several years ago to be resodded, only to be completely destroyed within 4 months of use in a rainy Spring and having to be closed again. What a waste. Those fields end up being mud or dirt and dust with lots of holes -- not green spaces. Even the Patriots installed field turf after years of being unable to have their field be up to snuff -- you know it is an uphill battle if the local sports team that wanted to keep grass playing field finally gave in (in part because of the advances in field turf technology)!

The youth soccer program and the High School both badly need improved field space. This is of significant value to Cambridge parents whose kids attend high school and middle school or participate in youth sports. And what Cambridge starts a youth lacrosse program like many neighboring towns? What about all the adult groups that use our fields for frisbee, flag football, soccer, etc.? We should not be a City that has to stringently restrict field use and use police resources to restrict resident usage of the fields.

Finally, I can also tell you with certainty that the young (5th grade) soccer players I coach LOVE playing on a nice turf field. They are always so so excited when we get to play away games in neighboring towns with great turf facilities, and are jealous of the 6th graders who get to play at Danehy 4 (the one CYS turf field).

I urge you to support the City's plan to install the field turf at Danehy 1&2.

Best,
Abram and Debbie Klein
20 Stearns Street

Lopez, Donna

ATTACHMENT AA

From: Cheung, Leland
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 3:02 PM
To: Lopez, Donna
Subject: FW: Yes to field turf at Danehy 1&2

Leland

Leland Cheung
Cambridge City Councillor

PERSONAL

Cell: (617) 444-9080
Leland@ElectLeland.org

WORK

(617) 349-4280
LCheung@CambridgeMA.gov
<http://www.CambridgeMA.gov/ccouncil/Cheung/>

AFFILIATIONS

Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, Board Member Governor's Asian American Commission, Commissioner Democratic State Committee, Executive Committee Member National League of Cities, Board Member & Vice Chair of University Communities Committee Massachusetts Municipal Organization, Personnel and Labor Relations Policy Committee Member Democratic Municipal Officials, MA State Chair Young Elected Officials Network, Expanding Democracy Leadership Committee Member Young Democrats of Massachusetts, Political Director Eisenhower Fellowships, 2012 Fellow Truman National Security Project, Partner

-----Original Message-----

From: Bob McGaughey [<mailto:bmcgaughey@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2013 2:56 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Yes to field turf at Danehy 1&2

Dear City Council,

I very strongly support the installation of field turf at Danehy fields 1&2. This would be a great asset for the city that will be used and appreciated for many years.

Bob McGaughey
97 Lake View Ave

[SPAM] No Astroturf for City Parks!

portiaspeace@hotmail.com [portiaspeace@hotmail.com] on behalf of MentalHealth NOW
[mentalhealthnow@post.harvard.edu]

This message was sent with Low importance.

You replied on 1/30/2013 6:41 PM.

Friday, January 25, 2013 8:54 AM

Peterson, Lisa; City Council

Dear City Councilors and Commissioner Peterson,

As a taxpayer living in a city that proclaims to support green living, I was appalled to learn that Cambridge is considering putting in plastic turf at Danehy Park and perhaps other recreational sports parks. This is in direct conflict with the aforementioned commitment to being a green city, and a violation of the trust of those of us who choose to live here because of that commitment.

I need not cite the statistics of dangers associated with astroturf for those who play on it, let alone the pollution and chemicals involved in manufacturing. Please consider this decision if it has been made, and realign and commit to our "green" city.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucinda Jewell
15 Channing Street
Cambridge, MA

Lucinda Jewell, Ed. M.
Chair
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance

Please no AstroTurf for City Parks

Leah Klein [leah.lscjj@gmail.com]

You replied on 1/30/2013 3:42 PM.

Sent: Friday, January 25, 2013 9:11 AM

To: Peterson, Lisa; City Council

Dear City Councilors and Commissioner Peterson,

As a taxpayer living in a city that proclaims to support green living, I am so disappointed to learn that Cambridge is considering putting in plastic turf at Daney Park and perhaps other recreational sports parks. This is in direct conflict with the aforementioned commitment to being a green city. I think astroturf on top of a former dump site is probably the worst thing for it. I'm afraid for the environmental repercussions.

I need not cite the statistics of dangers associated with astroturf for those who play on it, let alone the pollution and chemicals involved in manufacturing. Please consider this decision if it has been made, and realign and commit to our "green" city. I am a proud resident of Cambridge for so many reasons and I'd love to keep it that way.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Leah S. Klein
83 Reservoir St.
Cambridge, MA

ATTACHMENT DD

please don't allow plastic turf at Danehy park

Becky Sarah [bsarah@gmail.com]

You replied on 1/30/2013 3:39 PM.

Sent: Saturday, January 26, 2013 9:33 AM

To: City Council

Please do not allow the city to put plastic down in Danehy Park and remove the grass. This plastic can cause skin abrasions when people fall, and of course people always do fall when they are playing sports.

Also, we would need proof that this is environmentally safe and it seems that instead there is substantial evidence that it's not safe. As the plastic degrades in the sunlight, toxics particles leach into the water.

This will turn into a surface we are afraid to let our grandchildren run around on, which kind of defeats the purpose of having a park.

Frank Ackerman and Becky Sarah

14 Whittier St.

Cambridge Massachusetts

Fwd: Save the grass fields at Danehy Park

Young Kim [ycknorris@gmail.com]

You replied on 1/30/2013 5:34 PM.

Sent: Sunday, January 27, 2013 9:08 PM

To: City Council

Dear Councilors,

A concerned neighbor forwarded this to me and I am shocked and disappointed at the thought of Astroturf playing fields at Danehy Park as the petition claims the City is planning on implementing. I am writing to you to urge and enlist your help in blocking this plan and keeping the park in its natural state. I would like to thank Councilor Minka vanBeuzekom and any other Councilors who may already have signed the petition.

Putting in Astroturf to save maintenance cost, in my opinion, goes completely against the visionary and innovative foresight of those involved in creating Danehy Park which reclaimed what would have been a wasteland of a landfill into "one of Cambridge's most valuable resources, offer(ing) its residents the opportunity to enjoy variety of creational activities in the midst of a busy urban setting."¹ The City took great care in designing a park with natural environment including, to name a few,

1. There are no ugly, visible landfill gas vents as "there is no landfill gas collection system at Danehy Park, though extensive geotechincal engineering has been performed to ensure public safety."²
2. "two acres of thriving wetland habitat"²
3. "The creation of the park used 1.5 tons of grass and wildflower seed (with over 20 wildflower varieties) and 18 acres of sod. Over 1,000 plants were planted including approximately 30 different varieties of trees, shrubs and wetlands species."¹

My wife and I enjoy walking in Danahy Park and truly love the smell of the fresh cut grass in warm weather. I beg you to preserve the natural environment of Danehy Park by not allowing installation of Astroturf at the park.

Sincerely yours,

Young Kim
17 Norris Street

Plan for Additional Artificial Turf at Danehy

Julie Croston [juliecroston@comcast.net]

You replied on 1/30/2013 3:11 PM.

Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 1:12 PM

To: Davis, Henrietta; Simmons, Denise; Cheung, Leland; Decker, Marjorie; Decker, Marjorie; Maher, David; Reeves, Ken; Toomey, Tim (home); vanBeuzekom, Minka

As a Cambridge resident and as a mother of two soccer players, I'm writing to oppose the conversion of any more fields at Danehy Park to artificial turf.

Danehy Park, though built on a landfill in turn built on a claypit, is now a de facto habitat for wildlife in our city, shared as it is with people. In Cambridge, any progress toward biological diversity in our green spaces has inherent ecological value and contributes, I believe, to the wellness of our urban citizens. Replacing grass with artificial turf over so large an area as planned will degrade the area's ability to support birds, other animals, and the food webs that include them.

Though not "nature" in the most traditional sense, the ecosystem at Danehy Park should be supported rather than dismissed...for the sake of urban residents as much as the nonhuman users of the park.

Convert city-owned or city-acquired spaces that do not currently have habitat value into additional playing fields with artificial turf, if need be, but leave the grass alone at Danehy.

The park was constructed as a multi-use recreational area. The history and landscape art at the park, the wildlife that has made its home there, the dog park, the opportunity for play and sport—all of these are important. One subset of the park's end users, and indeed the opinion of one part of that segment, should not be privileged over others. Instead, there should be full consultation with the community to solve this problem.

Soccer (which, indeed, also contributes to the wellness of urban citizens) is played all over the world in a wide variety of conditions on a wide variety of surfaces, as you no doubt know. Is the heart of the game and its safety really dependent on artificial turf? Say it ain't so.

Julie Croston

Mom to two Cambridge soccer players, ages 6 & 11

And Tobin Friends of Fresh Pond Club Founder/Leader

Tobin Community School and parent member, Tobin School Science Council

juliecroston@comcast.net

(508) 737-7458 (cell)

Danehy Park

fsdmrust@gmail.com on behalf of Sara Rust [sara@felixrust.com]

It has come to my attention that the city of Cambridge intends to tear out the natural grass playing fields at Danehy Park and replace them with artificial turf. This is a terrible idea. I'm guessing its probably cheaper to maintain plastic than it is to nurture Mother Nature, but is that the kind of community we want to live in? I live just a few blocks from the park and my family has been using it for numerous purposes for 10 years. Please rethink this plan. I want to preserve as much nature for my kids as possible. Not to mention the fact that playing on dirt is safer.

Thank you for you attention,

Sara Rust

175 Richdale Ave #109 Richdale Ave #109

Cambridge, MA 02140

Danehy Field, New Turf Fields & Risk Assessments
ronnie millar [ronniegmillar@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 11:47 PM
To: City Council

Dear Councilors,

I am a long-time neighbor in North Cambridge.

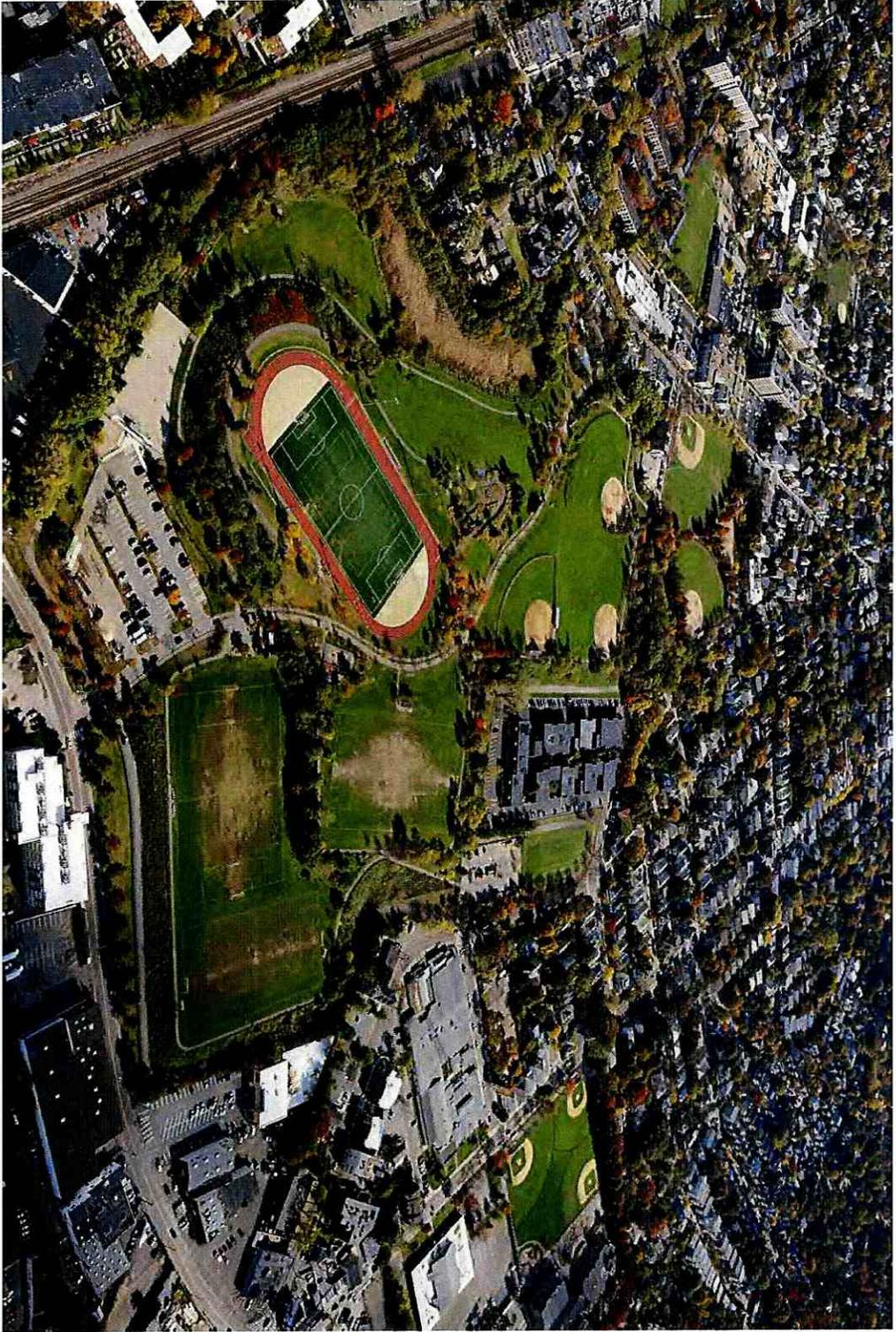
As you consider the benefits, costs and risks of installing two additional turf fields at Danehy...

Please make sure that a full risk assessment is carried out regarding the toxic soil at Danehy, and that a full study is carried out on the impact of installing a new turf field on top of hot-spots on this landfill. I understand a turf cover can add an extra 30 degrees to the mix on a hot day. Will this be a problem for this section of Danehy?
Is the gas pressure going to be increased?

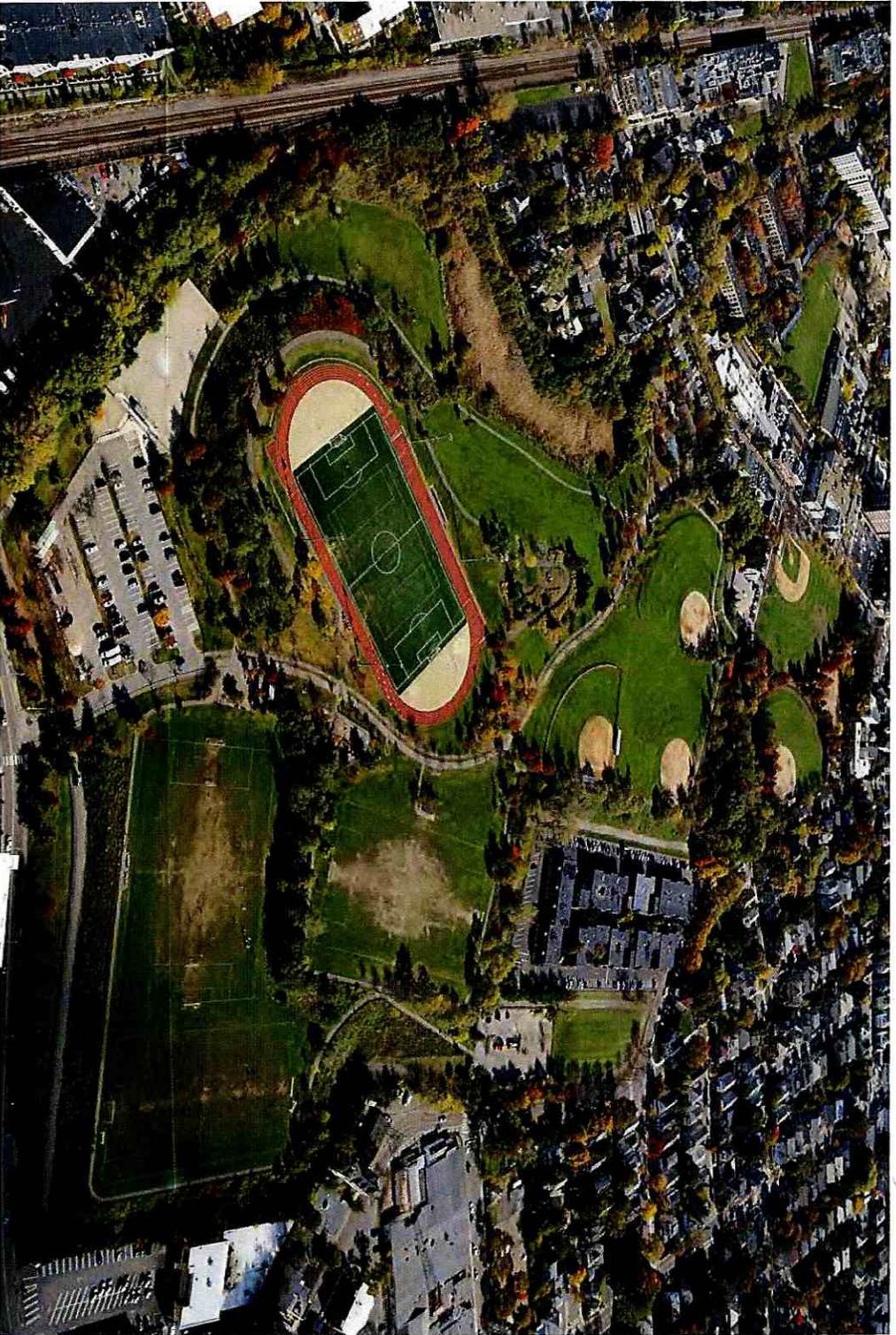
How deep will the excavation be, and is it correct that the current risk assessment is good only to two feet,
and that with respect to 'health' it is only valid in "current conditions"?

Many thanks,

Ronnie Millar
31 Jackson Street
Cambridge MA 02140



Danehy Park-01.jpg



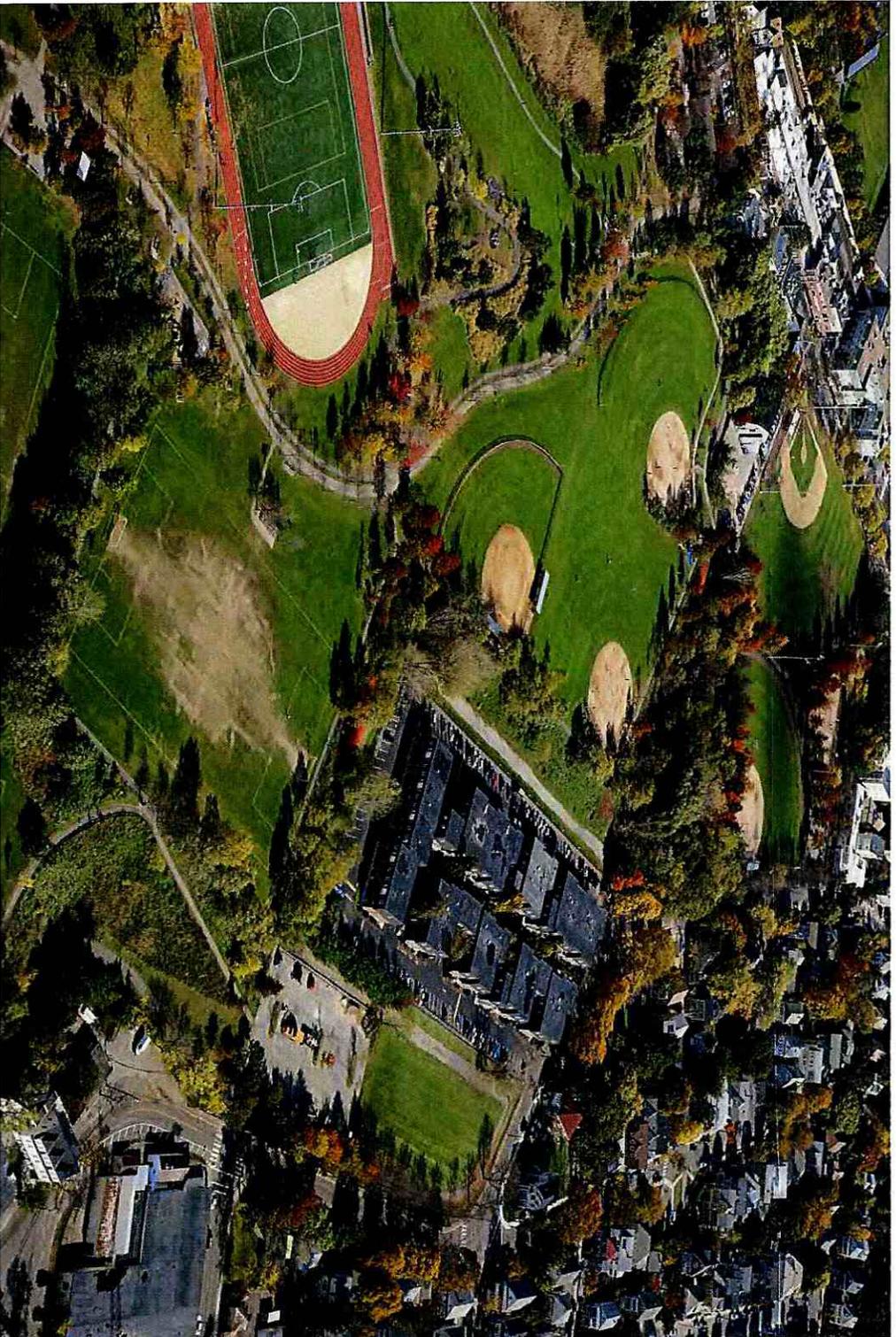
Danehy Park-02.jpg



Danehy Park-03.jpg



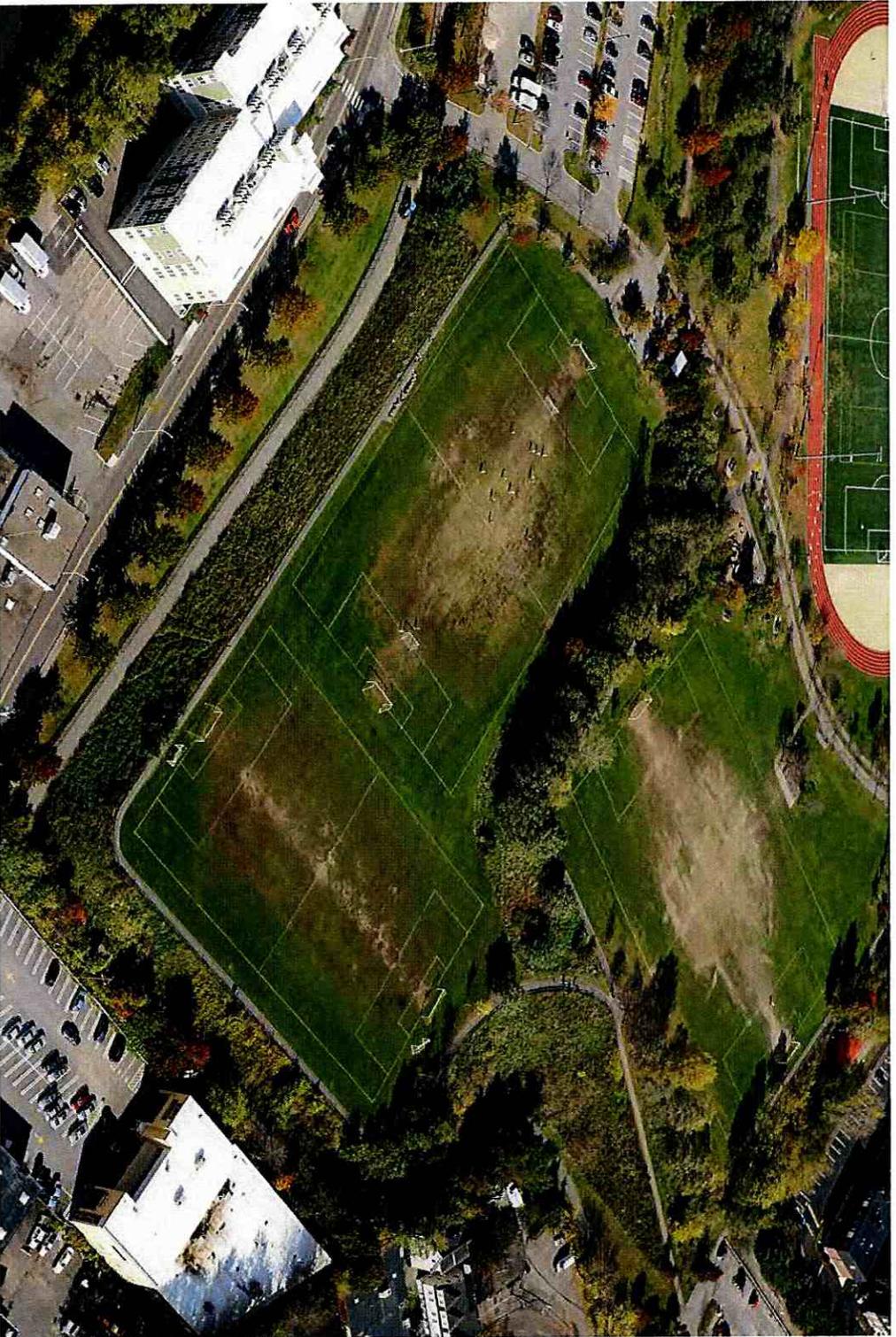
Danehy Park-04.jpg



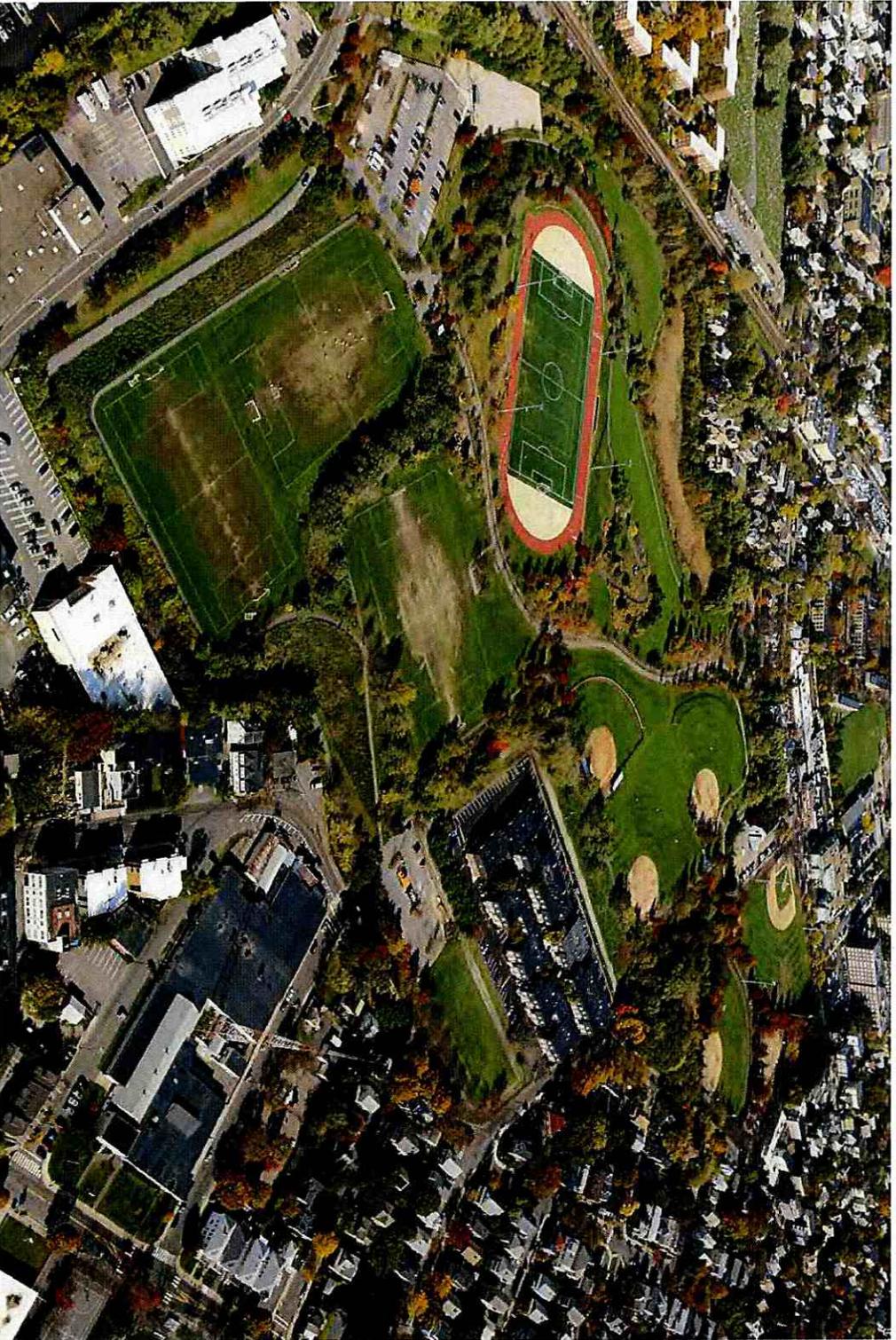
Danehy Park-05.jpg



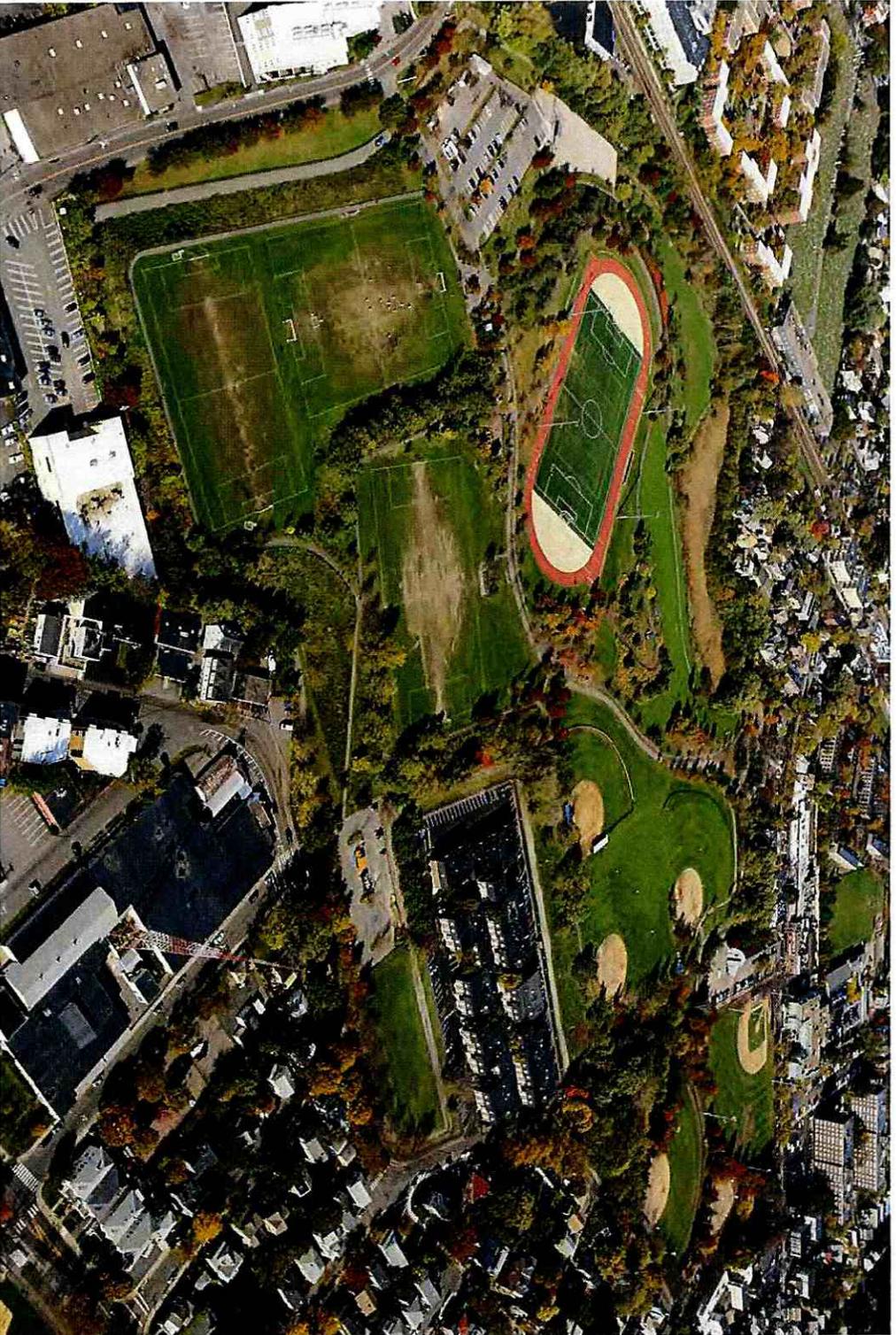
Danehy Park-06.jpg



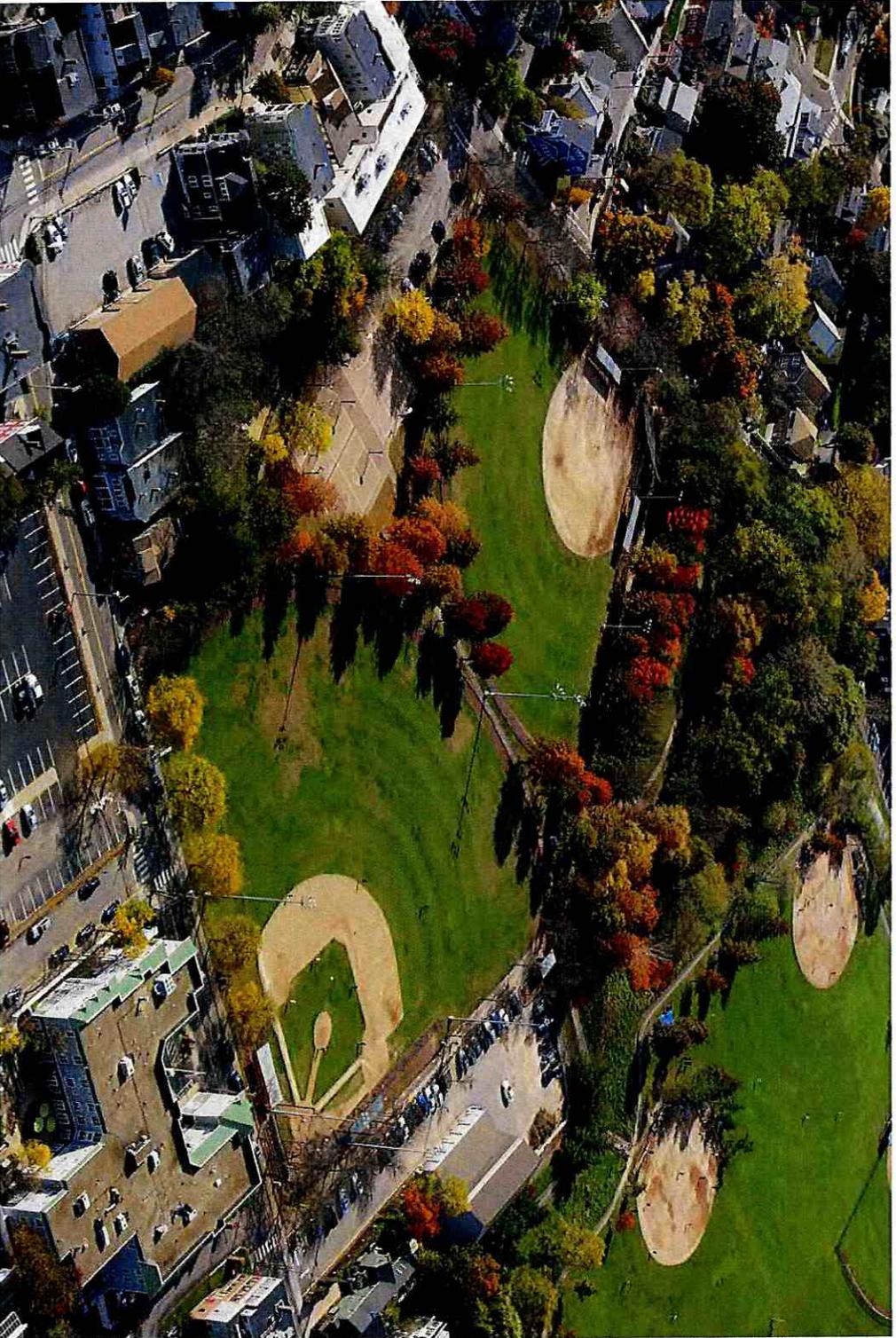
Danehy Park-07.jpg



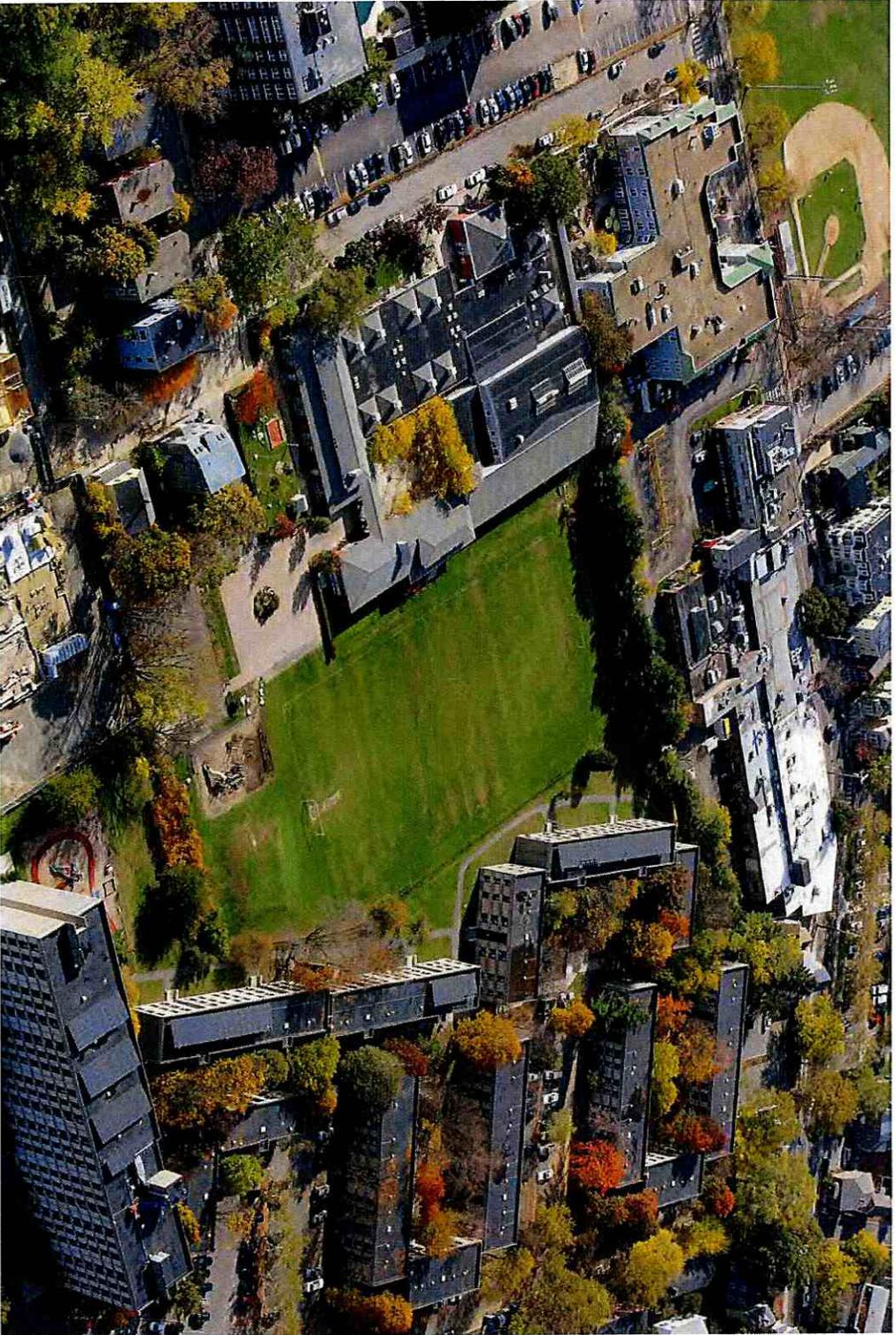
Danehy Park-08.jpg



Danehy Park-09.jpg



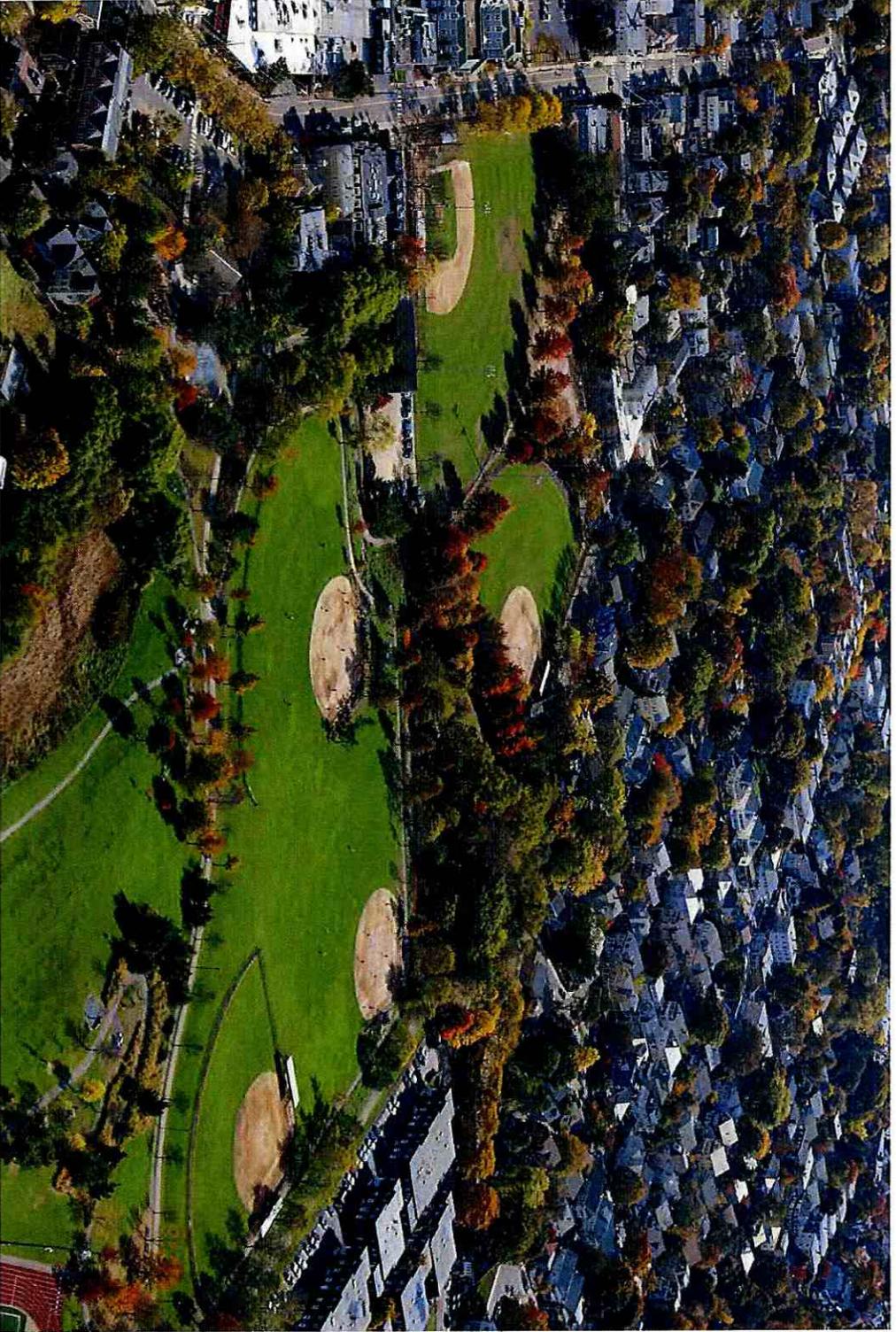
Danehy Park-10.jpg



Danehy Park-11.jpg



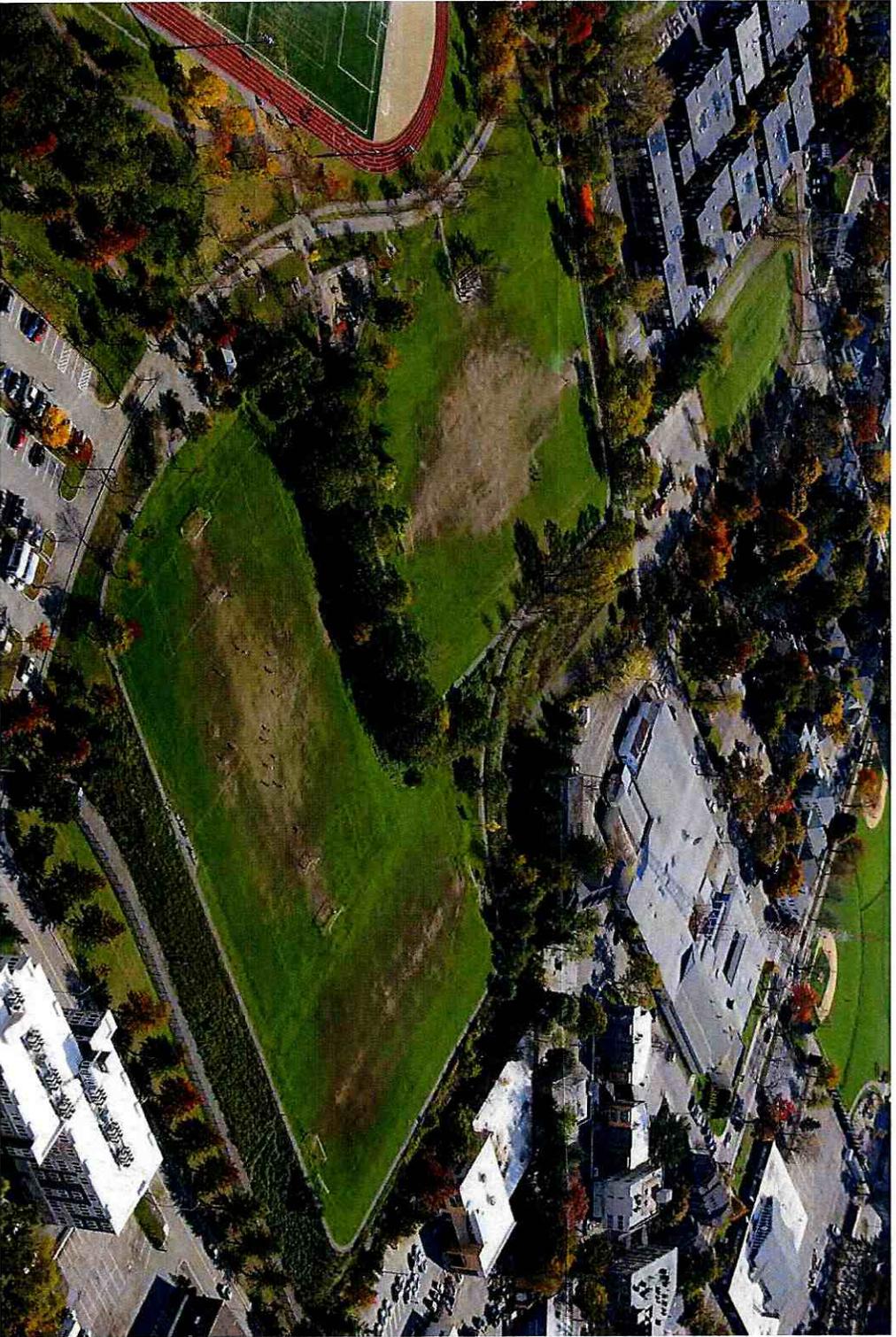
Danehy Park-12.jpg



Danehy Park-13.jpg



Danehy Park-14.jpg



Danehy Park-15.jpg



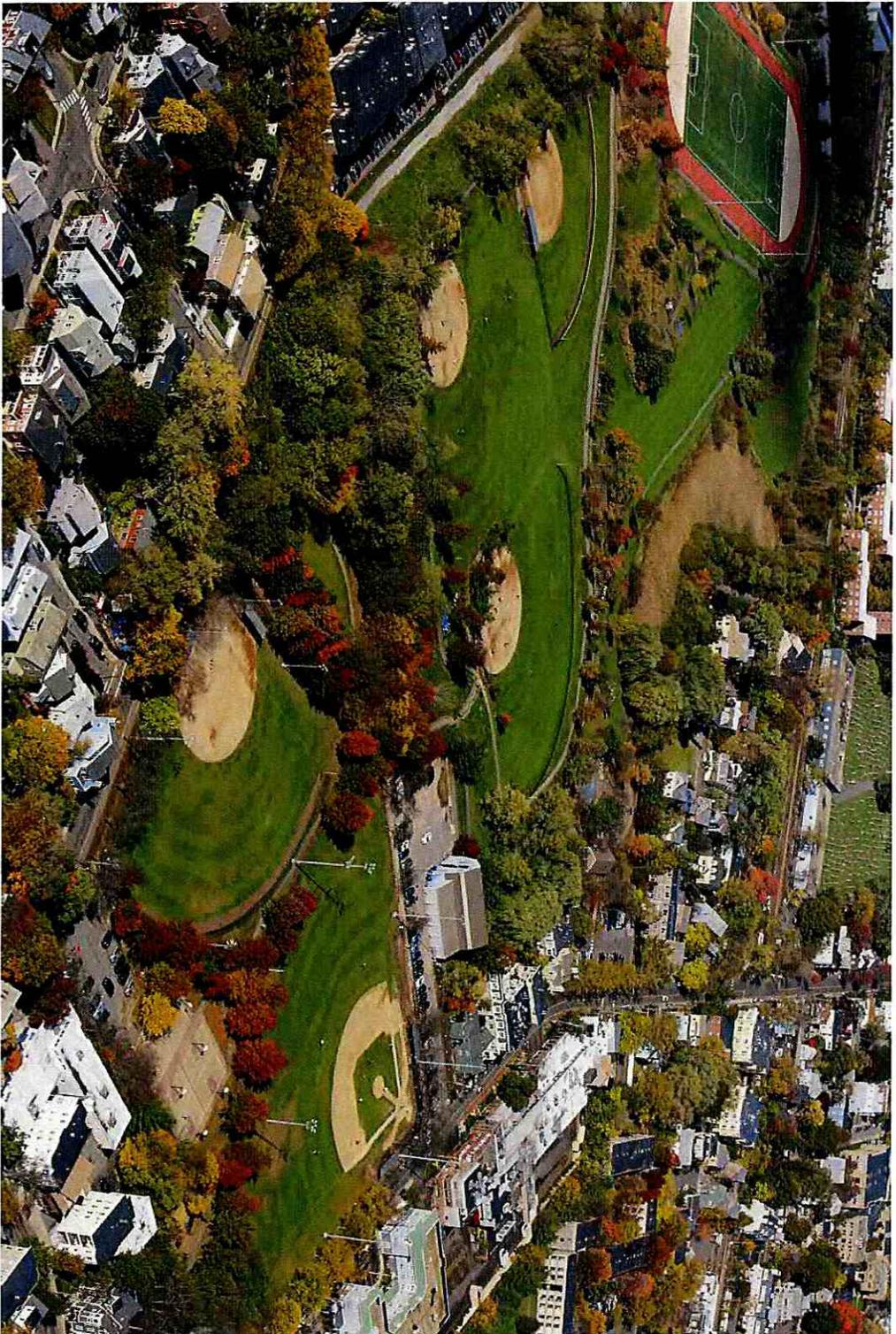
Danehy Park-16.jpg



Danehy Park-17.jpg



Danehy Park-18.jpg



Danehy Park-19.jpg



Danehy Park-20.jpg