

Artificial Turf at Noyes Park

Presentation by
Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association
to
Department of General Services
March 21, 2013

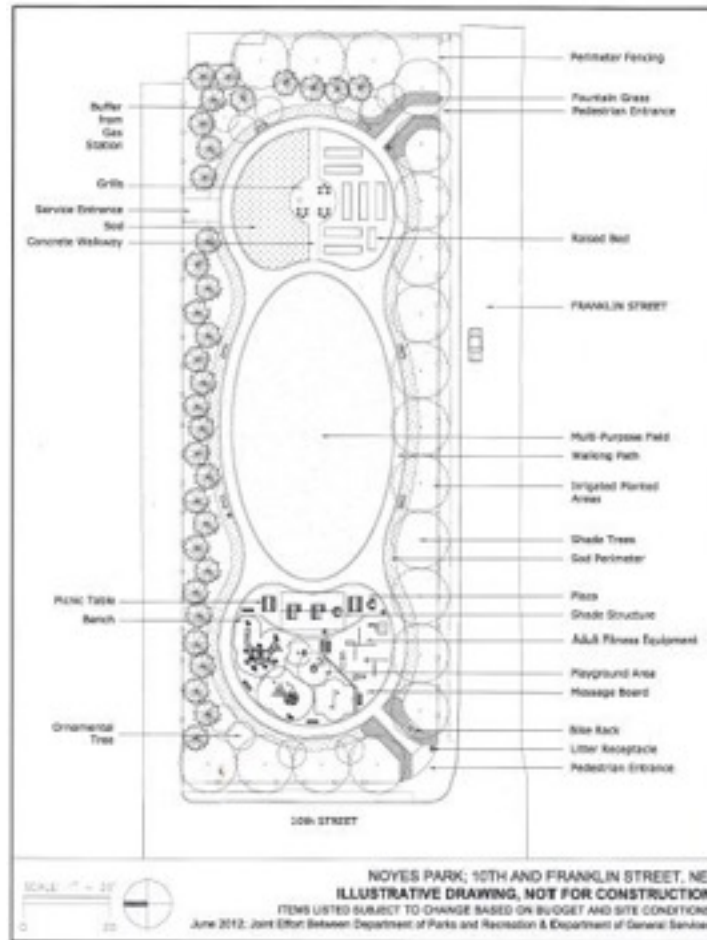
History of Noyes Park

- Vacant parcel at 10th and Franklin Streets, NE in Brookland
- Stop-and-go planning effort for community park
- Year-long vetting process led by DGS & DPR
- RFP Issued: August 13, 2012
- Planned Construction Start Date: Spring 2013

Community Wish List

- Tot Lot/Play Equipment
- Adult Fitness Equipment
- Perimeter Walking Path
- Community Garden
- Community message board
- Shade structure
- Perimeter fencing
- Central grassy area

Illustrative Drawing of Noyes Park



Plan for Artificial Turf in Noyes Field

DGS view is that artificial turf offers:

- Cost savings
- Maintenance-free
- Durability

Costs of Artificial Turf

- FOIA request for cost information
- Response: “DGS is not in possession of any documents that would be responsive to your request.”
- Installation costs are high -- \$65K
- Maintenance costs - cleaning, repair
- Replacement costs - useful “life” = 8-10 years

Maintenance of Artificial Turf

- Artificial turf is NOT maintenance-free.
- Cleaning/Disinfecting - food, beverages, dogs, bodily fluids
- Repair - vandalism, burns, cigarettes, fireworks, street shoes
- Keeping it attractive - regular grooming and brushing, stain removal, fading

Durability

- Noyes Park field is not designed for competitive sports.
 - Too small
 - Permits not needed
 - Access not controlled (e.g., food & drinks welcome)
- Noyes Park field is designed for picnicking, light play, movies-on-the-green, etc.
- Rugged durability is not needed.
- Natural turf is better suited for intended recreational purposes.



Riggs LaSalle



Palisades



Jelevf



Controlled Access to Artificial Turf Field

Other Issues with Artificial Turf

- High heat
- Health concerns
 - Are toxic constituents safe for children? For food?
- Hard surface
 - Increased severity of injury?
- Sustainability
 - Effects on stormwater runoff? Downstream aquatic life? Birds?

Summary

- Artificial turf offers little-to-no cost advantage.
- Artificial turf is not maintenance-free.
- Durability of artificial turf is not needed for the intended recreational purposes of Noyes Park.
- Artificial turf raises a host of other negative issues.
- As Walt Whitman said: Leave the grass.