

Cypress Field Update



Cypress Field



- Long Term Issue
- Usage
- Safety
- Sustainability
- A Quick Historical Look



April 2008



September 2014



May 2016



April 2017



Cypress Field Usage - Fall



Brookline High School Use

Used constantly from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

- Soccer -- Game field and practice field for boys and girls sub-varsity soccer; until recently girls and boys JV used Cypress as their primary field
- Cross Country -- Boys and girls warm up and hold drills on Greenough end
- Football -- After Daylight Savings Time, football uses lighted part of field for practices

14 week season; 13 hours per week = 184 total hours of BHS usage during fall season

Cypress Field Usage - Fall



Community Use

- Brookline Soccer Club -- Five days per week for 11 weeks
- Youth Soccer -- All day on Saturday for 8 weeks
- Special Olympics -- One evening for 11 weeks

Community use total hours = 195 hours

BHS use total hours = 184 hours

Total Fall Season Usage = 379 hours over 14 weeks

Cypress Field Usage - Spring



Brookline High School Use

Used from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

- Softball
- Ultimate Frisbee

12 week season; 17 hours per week = 210 total hours of BHS usage during spring season

Cypress Field Usage - Spring



Community Use

- Brookline Soccer Club -- Three days per week for 10 weeks
- Youth Soccer -- One evening and all day on Saturday for 8 weeks
- Brookline Youth Baseball -- Two evenings for 11 weeks
- Brookline Men's Softball -- Two evenings for 10 weeks

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Community use total hours = 274 hours

BHS use total hours = 210 hours

Total Spring Season Usage = 484 hours over 11 weeks

Cypress Field Usage - Summer



Community Use

- Day Camp Use -- 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday - Friday for 10 weeks
- Brookline Men's Softball -- two nights per week for 18 weeks
- Special Olympics -- one night per week

Community use total hours = 589 hours

BHS use total hours = 0 hours

Total Summer Season Usage = 589 hours

Concerns



- Reliability -- over use and weather impact results in field being regularly unavailable; need for periods of rest;
- Safety -- uniform playing surface reduces injuries; degradation of soil results in rocky infields; and the lack of availability requires us to schedule outdoor sports inside in crowded gyms
- Long term impact of overuse --
 - **Currently used the equivalent of 8 hours per day for 180 days per year**
 - Unclear Parks and Recreation will continue to be able to rehabilitate quality of field with overuse year after year; limited town use of herbicides and insecticides limits long term viability of any grass field

Benefits of a Synthetic Turf Field



- **Improved Safety** -- consistent, uniform field quality reduces injuries
- **Greater Reliability** -- especially in Spring when practice starts in mid-March, but Cypress is often not available until mid-April
- **Improved Proximity** -- currently 75-80% of student-athletes practice off campus with little to no transportation provided; Football team dresses at BHS and walks nearly a mile to Downes Field in full gear
- **Addresses Increased Demand** -- 150 more students participating since 2013
- **Builds Community** -- more sports play on campus in front of students, families and the community
- **Increased Sustainability** -- low maintenance required after installation;

2006 Parks and Open Space Master Plan



Findings:

- Programs currently (2006) at capacity
- No capacity for intramurals
- De-centralization of fields resulting in time inefficiencies
- Questionable ability of fields able to withstand programmed use w/out being damaged beyond Town's ability to maintain/restore
- A current (2006) deficit of 6 multi-purpose and 6 ball fields

2006 Parks and Open Space Master Plan



Recommendations (accomplish in the next 0-10 year...includes Downes as turf and Skyline and Fisher Hill in the pipeline):

- Convert 2 fields to synthetic turf (Skyline turf = 1 “conversion”)
- Create 4 additional multi-purpose fields (acquire 8 acres)
- Total of 6 multi-purpose could be reduced to 2-4 if turf and lights included
- Create 6 additional ball fields (acquire 12 acres)
- Candidates for turf fields identified as Cypress, Larz Anderson, Amory and Downes outfield

2006 Parks and Open Space Master Plan



Strategies:

- Implement “Clustering” philosophy by establishing service area boundaries to include several parks as a single unit of service
- Reduce duplication of services within “cluster”