

Order # 209444:

That the Executive Director of the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development and the Director of Finance advise this Council, in writing, why, with an appropriation of \$9.3 million, the grass field at Argenziano/Lincoln Park was incorrectly installed the first time. Since it was not installed to specification and needed to be re-installed, it's important to understand which contractors were involved in the installation of the field at each level and phase, including the actual installation, engineering and quality control.

Response: The team designing and constructing Lincoln Park have decades of experience designing and constructing municipal parks and athletic fields.

There was an error made. Mackay Construction did not get approval of all submittals from Weston Sampson before delivering the soils to the field. When the soils were placed, the City and Landscape Architect observed that it was not draining as expected. A soil test was conducted and verified that the soils were not to specifications. McKay Construction removed the soils and replaced them with new soils that were to specifications. All of this work was done at their cost. The existing field was correctly installed and saw an abundance of construction oversight and soil testing to assure that. Please see responses to specific questions below in red:

At a minimum provide information for the following questions:

1. Which contractor was responsible for constructing the subterranean base/seeding/planting/installation?
 - **MacKay Construction**
2. Who was responsible for writing the specifications?
 - **Weston Sampson Landscape Architects**
3. Who was responsible for ordering the materials and when?
 - **MacKay Construction**
4. Who was overseeing the installation?
 - **Weston Sampson, City of Somerville**
5. Who was responsible for the quality control?
 - **Weston Sampson, City of Somerville, Mackay Construction**
6. Did the specification need to be revised or edited after the installation error was identified?
 - **In an abundance of caution, and to assure that the field drained as well as possible, the team brought in a fields and soils specialist, Tom Irwin Advisors to review the soil specifications to assure ensure maximum percolation and playability. The soils specification was changed to reflect those of a professional grade sports field.**
7. Were there any staff changes as a result of this error?

- No, however additional staff was brought in on the part of Mackay, Weston Sampson, and Tom Irwin to oversee additional soil testing and mixing prior to and after delivery.
8. Would the Administration recommend using the services of each of the contractors and why?
- The Landscape Architects, Contractors, and Consultants that were hired are considered to be among the best in the area. The error was rectified, at no cost to the City and all quality control measures were triple checked. This field was built to specifications and is a high performance natural grass field. (see attached drawings)