



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR**

JILL LATHAN
DPW COMMISSIONER

ERIC WEISMAN
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Date: March 16, 2022

RE: DPW Commissioner & Parks & Recreation Director responding to City Council requests from recent letter 3.11.22

Agenda Item 213246

That the Commissioner of Public Works contact MA Department of Transportation to ascertain their plan for the recently condemned staircase connecting McGrath Highway to Ten Hills Road.

- This item is within Mobility's preview.

Agenda Item 213283

That the Director of Parks and Recreation update this Council on plans to improve the performance of the natural grass surface of the Lincoln Park soccer field.

We have a few options to remediate this problem:

1. The root layer would be stripped off the 3-4" and add some composted soil that is high in organic matter. The sand-based profile would still be acting as a drainage platform under the high organic content root zone layer. This would allow the added benefits of the 80/20 sand-based profile for drainage and water perforation while also allowing nutrient retention in the top layer of high organic matter. This would also provide the grass a stable rooting compound in the high organic soil opposed to the sand-based profile which provides no stability during germination causing seed migration and failure to stabilize and establish. Using this approach, we would need to close the field for at least a year which would be one growing season. If we sod the area closures would be at least 1-2 months.
2. If we cannot close this field for this construction process and either grow in or sod establishment then, we could look at adding compost as a topdressing every time we aerate and overseed and slowly incorporate these organics back into the soil profile.

Agenda Item 213284

That the Director of Parks and Recreation update this Council on current grass maintenance practices.

Attached is our service schedule for all cultural practice as well as mowing frequency and field care guidelines during the playing season.