

Dear Neighbor,

The city is proposing to pave over part of Sacramento Field with asphalt to build a lighted pathway around the sides. This would ruin one of the last natural open fields in Cambridge, and turn it into yet another paved-over multi-purpose public gathering place. The damage would be irreversible.

Ironically, this effort to pave over grassy parts of Cambridge is part of the “Healthy Playgrounds Program.” It benefits contractors who pave with asphalt, cement and other road materials, at the cost of the health of our children. In the last few years, scientific studies have shown clearly that the increased rate asthma, food allergies, and respiratory problems are strongly associated with paving over of natural soil. A recent study showed that children living next to open fields had about half the asthma rates of matched children living next to asphalt and cement. Paving also cause more serious falling injuries for both children and adults than grass surfaces, especially in winter. They can also out-gas carcinogenic petroleum by-products. There is nothing “healthy” about them.

Paving over parts of a natural field is not just unhealthy, it also completely changes the character of the space. It makes the air hotter in the summer. It encourages different functions like bike racing, skateboards, and lighted nighttime use. It permanently contaminates and destroys the natural grass field.

Please help stop this irreversible destruction of Sacramento field.

Your concerned neighbor,



Danny Hillis
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If you want to stop the construction an asphalt-paved track around Sacramento field, please write or call:

Ellen Kokinda, Community Development
ekokinda@cambridgema.gov
Phone: 617-349- 4618

Jan Devereux, Cambridge City Council
jdevereux@cambridgema.gov
Phone: 781-296-2969

E. Denise Simmons, Cambridge Mayor
dsimmons@cambridgema.gov
617 349-4321

Dear Cambridge Neighbor,

Construction is scheduled this fall to make permanent changes to Sacramento field. This is what the city is planning for lights:

Design Concept: Lighting • Pedestrian scale light poles will be installed along all walks. The Cambridge Electrical Department (CED) has the capability to program light fixtures individually, giving them more flexibility in controlling the amount of illumination, and minimizing unwanted impacts • In addition, several of these lights will have shields to further restrict the light distribution pattern • We recognize that programming these lights will entail balancing safety concerns with unwanted lighting impacts and night sky pollution. The CED is willing and prepared to work with the neighbors to get it right.

The plan is to install permanent lighting - THEN they ask us how to "get it right."
What!!!!!!!!!!!!

Although some people believe that this would make the park more secure, we know this isn't true. The field is safe now, and who knows what will happen if the lights turn on.

What happens if these lights attract the wrong sort of activity? Do you want to call the police late at night? What about bike and skateboard accidents when they build an unmonitored runway around the field? Long after the contractors have made their profit and the money is spent, who pays to clean up after late-night parties? What will our children see and hear?

If you want to prevent a lighted runway around Sacramento field, please contact (right now, before it's too late):

Ellen Kokinda, Community Development
ekokinda@cambridgema.gov
Phone: 617-349- 4618

Jan Devereux, Cambridge City Council
jdevereux@cambridgema.gov
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E. Denise Simmons, Cambridge Mayor
dsimmons@cambridgema.gov
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As a concerned neighbor, I appreciate your thoughts and ideas.

Most sincerely,



Taylor Milsal
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May 26, 2016

To Pheobe Sinclair
From Jack Chun

SACRAMENTO FIELD

Danny Hillis has identify the core issue for the Sacramento Field.

Is the Field to be defined with Urban Streetscape ?
Pavement & Lighting, are dominant components.

Can the Field be defined, with the emphasize on Nature ?
Landscape, trees, plants, grass, natural earth, as the defining components.
Sunrise & Sunset would guide the activities & use of the Field.

Danny Hillis' review & proposal, needs to reach all Agassiz residents.
Danny Hillis' review & proposal, needs to be featured in June's Whistler newsletter.

Many thanks,