

TO: John Storer, Sharon Sirois, Libby Simmons, Gretchen Young - City of Dover

CC: Dave Melevsky, Go Green

FROM: Fred Newcombe

DATE: December 1, 2022

RE: City of Dover Site Observations May, June and October 2022

PJC Organic performed site visits at each of the locations that are being treated as part of the 2022 Turf Treatment Project in the months of May, June and October. Included in this report are site specific observations on visual quality, turf density, mowing, root depth, compaction, watering, weed pressure and general comments.

It is important to recognize this season was even more difficult than last due to more severe drought conditions. During the week of May 17th, the City fell into Abnormally Dry conditions as reported by the U.S. Drought Monitor. It remained there until the week of July 5th when the area fell into Moderate Drought conditions. At the beginning of August, it fell further into Severe Drought conditions. There was a slight reprieve during the week of September 27th when conditions improved back to Moderate Drought conditions. We expected to see some drought kill coming out of summer but were pleased to see the turf bounce back as it did at the end of the season.

Continued areas of concern around cultural practices are included, as well as, pictures from 2022 and June 2020. While there is always room for improvement, I think the pictures show that all areas have made progress over the past 3 years. It is also worth mentioning that weed pressure did not increase and none required grub treatment - which was a concern at the beginning of the transition.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2023:

- **Soil tests** should be taken every 3 years. They were last taken July 2020 so we would recommend they be done again in spring 2023 or before. If your budget permits we could take them now before the ground freezes to help with product recommendations for 2023 and putting a bid together.
- **Correct Cultural Practices:** mowing, base path and infield maintenance, irrigation adjustments, field repairs. Get leagues involved to help with maintenance.
- **Prioritize Areas:** re-evaluate fields. Consider doing more on high visibility fields and nothing on fields that aren't being used (or just soil amendments).

While it has been a challenge guiding Dover through this transition it's good to look back and see the change that has come. Let us know how we can be of service as you continue to work towards healthy, sustainable All-Natural Turf Care practices.

Continued Areas of Concern:

Mowing continues to be the greatest area of concern. All areas continue to be maintained at a height of cut (HOC) of 2" or less. This is well below the recommended HOC outlined in our 2020 site visit recommendations, as well as, on signage at the Stonyfield Project at Woodman Park. All turf areas showed damage from being cut with dull blades making turf susceptible to disease and die back. Industry standards recommend sharpening blades after every 8 hours of use. We recommend you have multiple sets of blades so you can swap them out during the season and sharpen during slower times. Correcting HOC and dull blades is necessary for success.



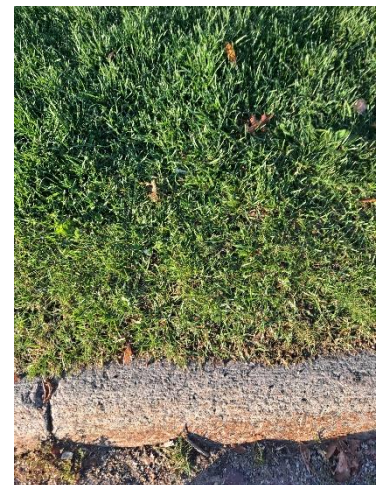
Baseball/Softball Field Base Paths – base paths continue to be inadequately maintained and in some cases pose a safety concern. All baseball paths have an area of 2 ½ - 4' nearest the outfield where the base paths are not dragged and weeds have encroached. Dangerous lips between infield and outfield.

Not Safe to Play On (NSPO) - we feel it is our obligation, as highlighted the previous two years, to suggest Maglaras Ball Fields, Guppey Park and

Sullivan Drive warrant a Not Safe to Play On (NSPO) designation. There is no evidence that any renovation work, remedial or regular maintenance practices have been employed to correct the cause of them being NSPO.

Links to: [Improving Field Safety for Athletes](#) and [STMA Baseball/Softball Field Safety and Maintenance Checklist](#)

Weed whacking – areas along walkways, curbing and around monuments are being weed whacked at less than 1" creating habitat where weeds proliferate and creep onto the sidewalks. Many of these areas should be mowed, NOT weed whacked. Other areas should be weed whacked vertically to create an "edge" not horizontally as is being done. Continued practice only encourages weed establishment.



CITY OF DOVER - Site Visit 2022



SHAW'S LANE 3-SOCCER FIELDS = 185,000SF Use: SOCCER/LACROSSE



MAY Site Visit

Visual: Poor/Fair **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: 1 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** Yes
Weed Pressure/ID: 5% clover, some plantain
Comments: Mowing too short, raise HOC. Fields dry. Irrigation appears not to be on.



JUNE Site Visit

Visual: Good/Poor **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: 2" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** Yes
Weed Pressure/ID: 5% clover, some plantain
Comments: Mowing too short, raise HOC. Irrigation system not properly adjusted, not hitting areas, areas going dormant



OCTORBER Site Visit

Visual: Good **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: 1 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** Yes
Weed Pressure/ID: 5% clover, some plantain
Comments: Mowing too short, raise HOC. Wear areas free kick, goal mouths need repair with loam/compost, seed to bring to grade; growth covers to encourage germination. Benefit from additional core aeration.



Shaw's Soccer - June 2020



Shaw's Soccer - June 2020

SHAW'S LANE 2-BASEBALL FIELDS = 70,000SF



MAY Site Visit

Use: SOCCER/BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/LACROSSE

Visual: Very Good **Turf Density:** Very Good

HOC/Mowing: 2 2 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"

Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** Yes

Weed Pressure/ID: clover, plantain

Comments: Mowing too short, raise HOC. Fields dry. Irrigation appears not to be on. Basepaths not being maintained.



OCTOBER Site Visit

SHAW'S LANE 2-BASEBALL FIELDS = 70,000SF

Use: Baseball, Softball, 7v7 Soccer, 11v 11 Soccer

Visual: Very Good/Poor

Turf Density: Very Good/Bare

HOC/Mowing: 2 - 2 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"

Compaction: Fair 3"/Poor 1" **Irrigation:** Yes

Weed Pressure/ID: clover, plantain

Comments: 11 v 11 Soccer in SB outfield has resulted in no turf coverage, worn bare. Need repair plan



Shaw's Baseball - June 2020



Shaw's Baseball - June 2020

SHAW'S LANE MULTIPURPOSE FIELD = 50,000SF



MAY Site Visit

Visual: Very Good **Turf Density:** Good
HOC/Mowing: 3" **Root Depth:** 3 ½ - 4"
Compaction: Yes severe 1 1/2" **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, plantain
Comments: Fields dry. Irrigation appears not to be on.



OCTOBER Site Visit

Visual: Very Good
Turf Density: Good/Bare
HOC/Mowing: 3" **Root Depth:** 3 ½ - 4"
Compaction: Yes severe 1 1/2" **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, plantain
Comments: Field layout could easily be changed up for 7 v 7 soccer by moving nets perpendicular from existing orientation on regular basis; instead have severe damage in goal mouths and free kick areas. Need repair plan.



Shaw's Multi Purpose - June 2020



Shaw's Multipurpose - June 2020

CITY OF DOVER - Site Visit 2022



GARRISON PARK = 70,000SF Use: SOCCER/BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/LACROSSE



MAY Site Visit

Visual: Good **Turf Density:** Fair/Good
HOC/Mowing: 2 ½ - 3" **Root Depth:** 2 ½ - 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** Yes
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, dandelion
Comments: Basepaths not being maintained



JUNE Site Visit

Visual: Poor/Fair **Turf Density:** Patchy
HOC/Mowing: 2 ½" **Root Depth:** 2 ½ - 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** Yes
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, dandelion
Comments: Basepaths not being maintained



OCTOBER Site Visit

Visual: Poor/Fair **Turf Density:** Patchy
HOC/Mowing: 2 ½" **Root Depth:** 2 ½ - 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** Yes
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, dandelion
Comments: Basepaths not being maintained



Garrison Park - June 2020



Garrison Park - June 2020

CITY OF DOVER - Site Visit 2022

LONGHILL MEMORIAL PARK = 50,000SF Use: CRICKET?/SOCCER



MAY Site Visit
Visual: Fair **Turf Density:** Patchy
HOC/Mowing: 2 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3 – 3 1/2 "
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** Yes
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, plantain
Comments: Mowing too short, raise HOC. Cricket pitch overgrown, inconsistent coverage



JUNE Site Visit
Visual: Good/Poor **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: <3" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** Yes
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, plantain
Comments: Mowing too short, raise HOC. Cricket pitch overgrown, inconsistent coverage



OCTOBER Site Visit
Visual: Fair to Good (left) **Turf Density:** Patchy
HOC/Mowing: 2" **Root Depth:** 3 – 3 1/2 "
Compaction: Yes – 1" **Irrigation:** Yes
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, crabgrass, ground ivy along back tree line
Comments: inconsistent cover, crabgrass has taken over cricket pitch.



Longhill - June 2020



Longhill - June 2020

CITY OF DOVER - Site Visit 2022

HORNE ST BALL FIELD = 35,000SF Use: Softball/Baseball



MAY Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Good **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: 3 - 3 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes severe 1 1/2" **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: some clover, plantain, dandelion
Comments: Mowing while wet leaving clumps. No basepath maintenance, field lined



JUNE Site Visit

Visual: IF-Poor, OF-Improved **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: OF 3 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes severe 1 1/2" **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, plantain
Comments: No basepath maintenance



OCTOBER Site Visit

Visual: Fair **Turf Density:** Fair
HOC/Mowing: 2 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: = Extreme <1" **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: some clover, plantain, dandelion
Comments: Outfield turf much improved, extremely compacted not helped by apparent driving of car on OF. Basepaths not maintained.



Horne - June 2020



Horne - June 2020

CITY OF DOVER - Site Visit 2022

MAGLARAS BALL FIELDS = 120,000sf Use: Baseball, Football



MAY Site Visit

Visual: Poor **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: 4 – 6” **Root Depth:** 3”
Compaction: Yes 2” **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, dandelion, plantain
Comments: Fields appear not to be maintained, NSPO



JUNE Site Visit

Visual: Poor **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: 3” **Root Depth:** 3”
Compaction: Yes 2” **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, plantain
Comments: Fields not being maintained, NSPO



OCTOBER Site Visit

Visual: Poor **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: 2 1/2” **Root Depth:** 3”
Compaction: Yes 2” **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, dandelion, plantain
Comments: Closest field appears to be worn from football practice, back field better turf coverage. Base paths rototilled, still have grass and weeds, NSPO



Maglaras- June 2020



Maglaras- June 2020

CITY OF DOVER - Site Visit 2022



GUPPEY PARK = 55,000sf Use: Softball



MAY Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Good **Turf Density:** Fair/Good

HOC/Mowing: 3" **Root Depth:** 3"

Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** No

Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, chickweed, plantain

Comments: Basepaths not maintained, NSPO, dull blades

No picture

JUNE Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Good **Turf Density:** Fair/Good

HOC/Mowing: 2 ½ - 3" **Root Depth:** 3"

Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** No

Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, chickweed, plantain

Comments: Basepaths not maintained, NSPO, dull blades



OCTOBER Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Good **Turf Density:** Fair/Good

HOC/Mowing: 2 ½ - 3" **Root Depth:** 3"

Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** No

Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, chickweed, plantain

Comments: Basepaths not maintained, NSPO, dull blades. Truck appears to be driven on field and base path.



Guppey- June 2020



Guppey- June 2020

CITY OF DOVER - Site Visit 2022

SULLIVAN DRIVE BALL FIELD = 35,000sf Use: Softball



MAY Site Visit

Visual: Infield Poor Outfield Good
Turf Density: Poor/Good
HOC/Mowing: 1 ½” **Root Depth:**
Compaction: Yes 2” **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, chickweed, plantain
Comments: Basepaths not maintained, NSPO, dull blades.



JUNE Site Visit

Visual: IF Poor OF Good
Turf Density: Poor/Good
HOC/Mowing: 2” **Root Depth:** 3”
Compaction: Yes 2” **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, chickweed, plantain
Comments: Basepaths not maintained, NSPO, dull blades



OCTOBER Site Visit

Visual: IF Poor OF Good
Turf Density: Poor/Good
HOC/Mowing: 2 ½ - 3” **Root Depth:** 3”
Compaction: Yes 2” **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, chickweed, plantain
Comments: Basepaths not maintained, NSPO, dull blades



Sullivan Drive- June 2020



Sullivan Drive- June 2022

CITY OF DOVER - Site Visit 2022

WOODMAN PARK = 82,000sf Use: Baseball



MAY Site Visit

Visual: Improved **Turf Density:** Fair

HOC/Mowing: 3" **Root Depth:** 3"

Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** No

Weed Pressure/ID: clover

Comments: Mowing with dull blades, while wet, leaving clumps. Basepaths not maintained



JUNE Site Visit

Visual: Improved **Turf Density:** Fair

HOC/Mowing: 3" **Root Depth:** 3"

Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** No

Weed Pressure/ID: clover

Comments: Mowing with dull blades, Basepaths not maintained



OCTOBER Site Visit

Visual: Improved **Turf Density:** Fair

HOC/Mowing: 2 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"

Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** No

Weed Pressure/ID: clover, dandelion, plantain

Comments: Mowing with dull blades, while wet, leaving clumps. Basepaths appeared to have been rototilled, ps, field still damp @ 12:00pm



Woodman- June 2020



Woodman- June 2020

CITY OF DOVER - Site Visit 2022

HENRY LAW PARK, Upper = 30,000sf Use: Passive recreation



MAY Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Poor **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: 2 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** Yes
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, broadleaf plantain
Comments: Areas of bare soil. No repairs made from Museum construction. Mowing too short, raise HOC.

No picture

JUNE Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Poor **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: 2 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, broadleaf plantain
Comments: Areas begun to go dormant. Mowing too short, raise HOC.



OCTOBER Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Poor **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: 2 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** Yes
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, broadleaf plantain
Comments: Scalping around planters w/ weed whacker, downed limb debris along fence smothering turf. Needs more intensive management (A/OS) to improve



Henry Law Upper- June 2020



Henry Law Upper- June 2020

CITY OF DOVER - Site Visit 2022

HENRY LAW PARK, Lower = 75,000sf Use: Passive recreation



MAY Site Visit

Visual: Poor **Turf Density:** Patchy
HOC/Mowing: 3" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes 1 1/2" **Irrigation:**
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, broadleaf plantain
Comments: Very compacted, bare spots



JUNE Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Poor **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: 2 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, broadleaf plantain
Comments: Areas begun to go dormant. Mowing too short, raise HOC.



OCTOBER Site Visit

Visual: Poor **Turf Density:** Poor
HOC/Mowing: 2" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Extreme – 1" **Irrigation:**
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, broadleaf plantain
Comments: Very compacted, bare spots, shows signs of drought stress



Henry Law Lower- June 2020



Henry Law Lower- June 2020

CITY OF DOVER - Site Visit 2022

CITY HALL = 7,500sf Use: Lawn



MAY Site Visit

Visual: Very Good **Turf Density:** Good
HOC/Mowing: 6+” **Root Depth:** 3”
Compaction: Yes 2” **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, plantain

Comments: Allowing turf to get to 6+” before cutting. Should double cut. Mowing with dull blades, still weed whacking along concrete curbing – scalping turf. Bare areas not repaired, near parking spaces



JUNE Site Visit

Visual: Improved **Turf Density:** Fair
HOC/Mowing: 3 1/2” **Root Depth:** 3”
Compaction: Yes 2” **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, plantain

Comments: Mowing with dull blades, still weed whacking along edges – too short



OCTOBER Site Visit

Visual: Very Good **Turf Density:** Good
HOC/Mowing: 3” **Root Depth:** 3”
Compaction: Good >3” **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, plantain

Comments: Mowing with dull blades, still weed whacking along concrete curbing – scalping turf. Bare areas not repaired, near parking spaces



City Hall- June 2020



City Hall- June 2020

CITY OF DOVER - Site Visit 2022

McCONNELL CENTER = 20,000SF Use: Lawn



MAY Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Poor **Turf Density:** Improved
HOC/Mowing: 3 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, plantain
Comments: Over mulching will kill shrubs. Poor edging along walkways



JUNE Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Poor **Turf Density:** Improved
HOC/Mowing: 3 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion
Comments: Mowing with dull blades, while wet, leaving clumps

No Picture

OCTOBER Site Visit

Visual: Fair **Turf Density:** Improved
HOC/Mowing: 2 1/2" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes – Very 1" **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, plantain
Comments: Improvement in turf coverage



McConnell- June 2020



McConnell- June 2020

CITY OF DOVER - Site Visit 2022

PUBLIC LIBRARY = 12,500sf Use: Lawn



MAY Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Good **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: 4" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, plantain
Comments: Mowing with dull blades, while wet, leaving clumps



JUNE Site Visit

Visual: Poor **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: 3" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Yes 2" **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: clover, plantain
Comments: Mowing with dull blades, leaving clumps

No Picture

OCTOBER Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Good **Turf Density:** Thin
HOC/Mowing: >3" **Root Depth:** 3"
Compaction: Extreme – 1 – 1 ½" **Irrigation:** No
Weed Pressure/ID: plantain
Comments: Improved turf coverage



CITY OF DOVER - Site Visit 2022

NORTH END FIRE STATION = 7,500sf Use: Lawn



MAY Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Good **Turf Density:** Fair/Good
HOC/Mowing: 4+” **Root Depth:** 3”
Compaction: Yes 2” **Irrigation:** Hand water
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, chickweed
Comments: Mowing while wet, plow or salt damage along street



JUNE Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Good **Turf Density:** Fair/Good
HOC/Mowing: 4+” **Root Depth:** 3”
Compaction: Yes 2” **Irrigation:** Hand water
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, chickweed
Comments: Mowed when wet, clumps, smothering turf

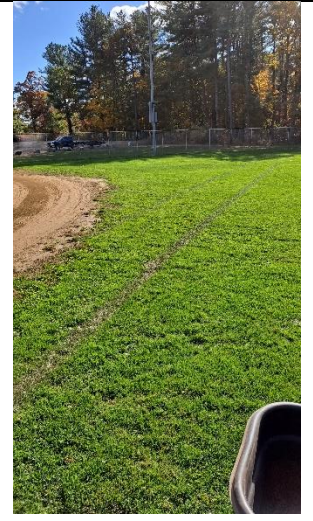


OCTOBER Site Visit

Visual: Fair/Good **Turf Density:** Fair/Good
HOC/Mowing: 4+” **Root Depth:** 3”
Compaction: Yes 2” **Irrigation:** Hand water
Weed Pressure/ID: Clover, dandelion, chickweed
Comments: Scalped along street



BASEPATH MAINTENANCE



FIELD WEAR

