

July 9, 2012

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING UPDATE

Site Investigation Status: June-August 2012 Investigation

Questions Answered

The Town began the next phase of its environmental study of the Greenwich High School athletic fields on June 25, 2012. We have received several questions about this study, and have prepared this Update to answer these questions. Please let us know if you have any further questions or concerns.

Highlights:

- *Fields 6 and 7 are now open. The environmental study activities have been completed on these fields, and they are now ready for use.*
- *Fields 3 and 4 will remain closed until the environmental study is finished.*
- *The building and parking lots are open throughout the environmental study, and are safe to occupy.*

What are you doing on the fields?

The last major phase of the environmental study of the Greenwich High School athletic fields is in progress. This phase of the environmental study is focusing on the deep soils beneath the artificial turf fields. Soil samples are being collected deep beneath the fields to determine if there are chemical impacts beneath the turf.

AECOM staff involved with in the study activities are wearing personal protective equipment because they are handling the potentially impacted soil. Great care is being taken to prevent this soil from getting onto the surface of the field or even mixing with the drainage layer beneath the fields.

Why are the artificial turf fields closed?

The artificial turf fields have been closed during the environmental study of the Greenwich High School athletic fields because of potential “slip/trip” safety hazards and not because of any environmental concerns.

The surface of the artificial turf must be cut to allow for the soil samples to be collected. Once the surface has been cut, a potential slip/trip hazard is created, because someone running over the surface and planting their foot on the cut turf could slip and hurt themselves. Thus, the fields will be closed during the environmental study.

Are the fields “environmentally” safe?

Yes. There has been no change in the environmental conditions of the fields, nor has there been any change in the federal or state regulators position that the fields are safe for continued use.

How will the slip/trip hazard be repaired?

After the soil samples have been collected, the cut in the artificial turf will be repaired by gluing the turf back together – similar to how the seams in the artificial turf material are glued. Once the cut is glued, the field is once again safe for use.

As an extra precaution, personnel from the Town Parks and Recreation Department are also inspecting the newly glued seams to determine if the work is satisfactory.

Are fields 6 and 7 now open?

Yes. The environmental study is completed on fields 6 and 7, and these fields are now open for use.

When will fields 3 and 4 be open?

The environmental study is still ongoing beneath fields 3 and 4. These fields will remain closed until the environmental study is complete. At that time, the Town will send out another notice letting Town residents know that these fields are once again open.

For all information requests, please contact:

Kim Eves, Greenwich Public Schools Director of Communications
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OR, please visit our website for further information:

<http://www.greenwichschools.org/>
see link for “Updates for Environmental Testing at GHS”