

April 2016

# Draft Gardiner Park Concept Plan

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

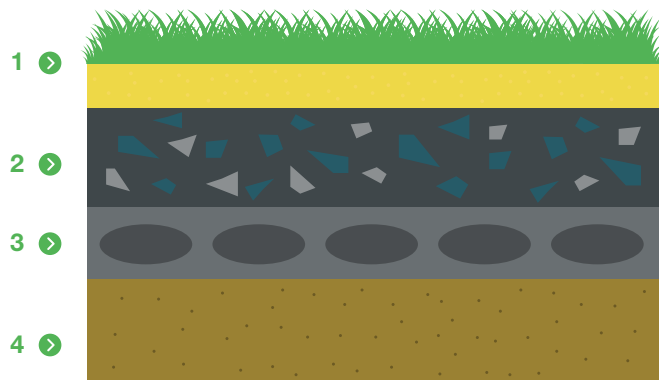


### SYNTHETIC GRASS SURFACES

#### How is a synthetic grass sports field constructed?

Synthetic grass sports fields are made up of a number of layers.

1. The top layer is synthetic sports turf or grass, at least 60mm high with infill granules made from a virgin rubber and/or organic material.
2. The second layer, underneath the synthetic grass, consists of shock padding to minimise injury and facilitate natural competitive play.
3. The third layer is the drainage layer.
4. The bottom layer is a 'pavement' made of a compacted road base, normally between 300mm and 500mm to ensure there is minimal movement of the surface. The pavement layer may be different in every field and is normally designed to meet the soil and sub-base needs of the ground.



Example of a typical synthetic sports field system with infill, shockpad, horizontal drainage cell and 'pavement' layer.

#### What are the infill options?

There are a number of infill options on the market including:

- Virgin rubber infills made from Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer (EPDM) or polymers from the Thermoplastic (TP) family, which assists with the yarn standing upright similar to natural grass
- Organic infill made from rounded sand, or a pure cork infill or a combination of cork and coconut husk
- Recycled tyres made from styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR) that are normally combined with rounded sand to ensure the performance medium needed

Council has committed to not using recycled SBR tyres.

#### If the infill is ingested is it dangerous?

The latest research shows not, but Council is requesting world's best practice and as part of the tender process will be asking that any virgin rubber product has been tested to EN 71.3 – the same test used for rubber toys being ingested.

## Are these fields safe to play on?

Sport has been played on synthetic grass surfaces for 50 years. With technological advances synthetic surfaces are constantly being improved and the major sports codes, such as FIFA, World Rugby and AFL have all developed performance standards for their sport to ensure the safety of participants. The use of these surfaces is continually monitored to ensure that the standards meet their sport's needs. These standards will be specified for the design of Gardiner Park as the safety of all sports facilities is a key consideration for Council.

## Does the field need to have a shock pad?

To provide the safest possible surface for football codes where participants fall over or are tackled during play a shock pad is recommended. Rugby Union for example is a contact sport with participants falling from line outs and World Rugby recommends the use of a shock pad. The vast majority of fields for AFL and Football in Australia have a shockpad installed.

## How will Council select the most suitable synthetic playing surface?

Council has sought advice from Australia's leading independent consultant on synthetic sports turf so that Council can procure the best possible turf for the sports to be played at Gardiner Park. The turf will be tested to international and national sports standards and specifically for soccer and AFL, to ensure compliance, safety and playability outcomes.

## Can synthetic grass fields host other sports?

Generally, synthetic sports fields are built to the performance standards of their International Federation (e.g. Rugby Unions' is World Rugby, soccer's is FIFA etc). The requirements of the football codes are complementary enabling multiple sports to use the same playing field.

For instance the new fields at Blackman Park, Lane Cove (NSW) have been designed to host Rugby Union, soccer, Australian Rules (AFL) and Cricket.

## How does water drain away from the surface?

Water falling on the surface will either drain through the surface and into sub-surface drains, or fall across the slope in the surface to drains around the perimeter of the playing field. The design of the playing field at Gardiner Park aims to cope with heavy rainfall events, minimising the risk of ponding or drainage issues.

## What other synthetic fields have been installed in Victoria recently?

Similar fields that have been installed in Melbourne in the past five years include:

- **IYU Park** – Pakenham, City of Cardinia  
– Soccer and Cricket
- **JJ Holland Park** – Kensington, City of Melbourne  
– Soccer, Cricket and AFL
- **Melbourne Grammar School** – Soccer and AFL



JJ Holland Park,  
Kensington



Melbourne  
Grammar  
School

## Do synthetic surfaces get hot?

The temperature of synthetic surfaces does rise more than natural turf, especially on days where the temperature is above 30°C and there is no cloud in the sky. As part of the process to construct the synthetic playing surface, Council will stipulate that suppliers research and present the latest technology around heat reduction that are presently on the market which can lower the surface temperature by as much as 25% on hot, cloud free days.

## Where can I get more information about the project?

Drop into an information session to speak directly with Council staff and have your questions answered. These informal sessions will be held at Council's Works Depot, 293 Tooronga Road, Malvern on:

- Thursday 14 April 2016, 10am–12pm and 6pm–8pm, and
- Saturday 16 April 2016, 10am–12pm.

For further information on this redevelopment project please contact Recreation Services on 8290 1193, or visit [connectstonnington.vic.gov.au/gardinerpark](http://connectstonnington.vic.gov.au/gardinerpark)

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