

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 8, 2010

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 7 : ATHLETIC FIELD SITE RANKING FOR  
CONVERSION TO ARTIFICIAL TURF

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This memo is a response to a request from Councilwoman Hughes to provide the most up-to-date ranking of City and School athletic field sites being considered for conversion to artificial turf.

The FY 2011 – FY 2020 Proposed Capital Improvement Program does not include new funding on the City side for installation of artificial turf fields until FY 2017. Funding for four new fields is included in FY 2017 – FY 2020. The Proposed CIP does include funding for ACPS to install an artificial turf field at the School's Hammond Upper Field in FY 2011. Prior year City balances are intended to be used to convert Ben Brenman field to artificial turf in FY 2011. Additionally, as a component of the City's Woodrow Wilson Bridge settlement agreement, Federal funds will be used to install two new artificial turf fields at the Witter site beginning in FY 2011. The sum total of all these planned actions would be the addition of eight new artificial turf fields in the next ten years, with four of those coming within the next two years.

In 2009, City staff developed an updated ranking of potential sites for installing artificial turf fields. For this process, only sites capable of fitting a regulation soccer field (320' x 185') were considered as these sites would provide the most return on the City's investment. A detailed analysis of existing conditions at the eligible sites was conducted.

The scores for field sites are based on nine weighted criteria, specifically: (1) size; (2) direct fiscal impact; (3) process; (4) impact to an existing use; (5) location; (6) field condition; (7) public access & site amenities; (8) indirect fiscal impact; and (9) constructability. Weights for each criterion are reflective of current City goals.

For each criterion, fields were scored on a scale of 1 - 3 with 1 being the least favorable condition and 3 being the most favorable. The total score for each field was calculated by multiplying the weight times the score, then adding these values for all nine criteria. The table below shows the final scoring for the sites considered.

Site	Score
Brenman	2.51
Hammond Upper	2.49
George Washington 1	2.29
Hammond Lower	2.29
Hensley	2.27
Patrick Henry	2.22
George Washington 2	2.11
Stevenson	2.07
Lee Center	2.07
Ramsay	2.07
Braddock	2.02
Boothe	1.98
John Adams	1.78
George Mason	1.58

On October 15, 2009 at a Park & Recreation Commission public hearing, staff recommended Ben Brenman as the next field for conversion. The Commission directed staff to move forward on the design and engineering drawings of Brenman field. Subsequently, this information was presented and discussed with City Council at a work session on January 5, 2010.