



## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson  
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

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January 29, 2021

Hon. Mitchell J. Silver  
Commissioner of NYC Department of Parks & Recreation  
830 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10065

Re: Resolution Supporting the Proposed Reconstruction of the Inwood Hill Park Soccer Field

Dear Commissioner Silver:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, Community Board 12, Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 42 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1, not voting, supporting the proposed soccer field renovation with the addition of bike racks and waste receptacles, lowering of the fence as noted below, and possible use of a hand-free/foot-activated water fountain, and recommends that the New York City Public Design Commission approve the design when it comes before them for final review, and urging the City Council, Borough President, and Mayor to allocate funds for a comfort station within the Dyckman Ballfields consistent with the need for such a facility and the distance to the nearest such facility.

**Whereas:** The Inwood Hill Park Soccer Field, located at the northern end of the Dyckman Ball Fields, is uneven with ruts and pits, poor drainage, an inferior surface area, limited seating, and no protection for errant balls going into the Hudson River; and

**Whereas:** At a well-attended public scoping meeting in November 2019 to obtain community input, many members of the public advocated for the reconstruction of the Inwood Hill Park Soccer Field to bring it to a better playing condition, advocating specifically for an artificial turf surface and recognizing that the field is located within a floodplain; and

**Whereas:** The NYC Parks Department presented on 1/12/2021 to Community Board 12, Manhattan's Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee a plan to level the playing field, resurface it with artificial turf anchored with an 8" curb, add accessible spectator seating, install below-grade drainage, install a 12' fence along the western perimeter which bends to a distance of 20' at the northern & southern perimeters but does not extend behind the goal areas; and

**Whereas:** This project is budgeted at \$8.72 million (Mayoral-funded) and is expected to take about a year for construction, during which time that section of the ballfields will be closed to the public; and

**Whereas:** This project will seek to add water service to the field so as to provide a water fountain and a sports mister, should the underlying plumbing infrastructure be adequate to support such fixtures; and

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**Whereas:** Additional bathrooms are needed in this area, since the closest comfort station is more than half a mile away on Dyckman Street, and could be sited at the southern end of the soccer field to the north of the softball fields, but the installation of water and sewage lines and construction of a comfort station is well beyond the budgetary scope of this project; and

**Whereas:** Parks agreed that the final project would include bike racks & waste bins, the former of which Parks agreed to add and the latter of which are included as part of the design but were not shown in the actual renderings, and to use a hands-free/foot-activated water fountain should they be available; and

**Whereas:** Two trees will be removed, and five will be added; and

**Whereas:** It subsequently was learned that Parks proposes to make the fencing 8' rather than 12', an aesthetic improvement consistent with protection of errant balls during play; now therefore be it

**Resolved:** Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the proposed soccer field renovation with the addition of bike racks and waste receptacles, lowering of the fence as noted above, and possible use of a hand-free/foot-activated water fountain, and recommends that the New York City Public Design Commission approve the design when it comes before them for final review; and be it further

**Resolved:** Community Board 12, Manhattan urges the City Council, Borough President, and Mayor to allocate funds for a comfort station within the Dyckman Ballfields consistent with the need for such a facility and the distance to the nearest such facility.

Sincerely,



Eleazar Bueno  
Chairperson

cc: Hon. William Castro, Borough Commissioner NYC Parks  
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman  
Ms. Jennifer Hoppa, Northern Manhattan Parks Administrator

Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator  
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator  
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member  
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member  
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member  
Hon. Signe Nielsen, Commissioner NYC PDC