



Adrienne Klein, Enforcement Analyst
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (SF BCDC)
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale St., Suite 510
San Francisco, CA 94105

September 8, 2020

Dear Adrienne Klein:

Request to Retroactively Amend Permit No. M1998.060

After your communications with me, please find below the requested information to submit a request for a retroactive Amendment to our existing BCDC Permit No. M1998.060.

Per our communications, the purpose of this submittal is to render to you an explanation and description of the Friends Field Renovation Project undertaken by the City of Mill Valley on Friends Field, at the Mill Valley Community Center, a portion of which is within the BCDC shoreline band. Below is an outline of the project, followed by a description of how it was carried out, and a calculated estimation of proportion of work done within the shoreline band.

Attachments include: a copy of our existing permit, an illustration of the field showing location of the shoreline band (from permit), signs that were posted at the field during construction, web addresses of video files of public meetings where this project was discussed, and a copy of the news release that appeared on the City website at the time of the project (linked to in a City newsletter).

Outline of Project

Overview

The Friends Field Renovation Project was undertaken to remove and replace the grass surface, and restore the field's original constructed grade. On a sand based field such as this, this work is typically carried out approximately every 7 years, however this had been deferred on Friends Field since it was built in 2001. The total project cost was \$171,710, funded as a Capital Improvement Project (CIP), with the help of a \$50,000 donation to the City. A contractor was hired for the grading component of the project, and the sod installation was provided by the supplier of the sod; all other work was carried out by City maintenance staff.

Background

Friends Field is a sand based sports field covering approximately 130,000 square feet, shared by the Mill Valley Community Center and Mill Valley Middle School. It is situated next to a slough, which runs the length of the field on its east side. From this eastern side, the BCDC shoreline band extends into Friends Field, accounting for a visual approximation of about 30% of the field, including about 38,000 square feet of grass.

Sand is used as a growing medium on sports fields for its fast draining properties, allowing for faster return to safe non-slip surface conditions, and its ability to resist compaction, which promotes healthy root growth. However, over the years, ground settling occurred across the field, and a layer of dense organic matter built up at the surface. The settling was compounded by the fact that much of the site was previously used as a waste disposal and landfill site. Dips and depressions from settling resulted in an uneven playing surface and poor irrigation distribution uniformity, resulting in significant over watering. The layer of organic matter which had developed also impacted drainage, limiting the fast-draining capacity of the field and preventing beneficial deep root growth.

Field Regrading and Surfacing

In order to maintain an even playing surface, adequate drainage capacity, and uniform distribution of irrigation, the City undertook to restore Friends Field to its original constructed grade. The project was broken down into 3 parts: 1. Remove existing surface from the field 2. Import sand and grade field surface to original grade 3. Install grass sod and irrigate.

The work was carried out as follows:

1. Remove Existing surface from field, May 28th – June 3rd, 2019
 - City crews removed surface of field to depth of between ¾ inch - 2 inches
 - Approximately 350 cubic yards of material removed
 - Removed material was moved to a site adjacent to the pedestrian bridge leading to Hauke Field South
 - Irrigation sprinkler heads marked and buried
 - Field was then roto-tilled to break up remaining organic material and aerate sand
2. Import sand and grade field surface to original grade, June 4th – June 14th
 - Laser guided equipment to determine elevations and “rough grade” sand base
 - 800 tons of USGA Topdressing Sand delivered to the field, from Brown Sand Inc.
 - Imported sand spread across field for final finish grades, including “feathering” edges to meet surrounding paths and paving
 - Irrigation repairs made, heads dug up and adjusted to new grades
3. Install grass sod and start irrigation, June 20th
 - Installation of sports field grass sod, Bermudagrass “Tiffway II”
 - 120,000 square feet delivered, about 115,000 installed

Proportion of Work within BCDC Shoreline Band

The linear length of the BCDC shoreline band fronting the project area is 480 feet. The total area of the field which was graded and had sod installed was approximately 115,000 square feet, of which about 38,000 square feet is within the BCDC shoreline band – almost exactly one third of the total area of the project. Thus, the following estimated quantities of material were removed, imported and planted in this area:

- 120 cubic yards of material removed
- 260 tons of sand imported
- 38,000 square feet of grass installed

Outcome and Total Cost

The outcome of this work was the restoration of the field to a close approximation of its original constructed grade, including within the BCDC shoreline band. The total cost of the project was \$170,710.

Attachments: 1. Permit No. M1998.060

2. Illustration of BCDC Shoreline Band within the field (from permit)

3. PDF File of Construction Notice Posted at Sides of Friends Field

4. Web addresses of recordings of Mill Valley Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, at which project information and updates were given

5. News release of project for City Website and Newsletter: "City Completes Friends Field Renovation Project," July 2019

Please let me know if there is any further information I may provide you with.

Sincerely,

Antony Boyd, DPW Operations Superintendent
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Mill Valley, CA 94941
(415)388-4033 (City Hall)
(415)384-4708 (Direct, Corporation Yard)

CC: Julio Arroyo, Maintenance, Operations and Safety Director
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80 Lomita Drive
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