

Appendix 3 - Stepney Green Park, proposed 5 a-side Astro Pitches

Current use of Stepney Green Park

- Sports and recreation with formal football use on central grass and 3G pitch (both bookable)
- The location is very popular by local schools for sports and general play, particularly during summer period for sports days and large recreation activities (used regularly by Stepney Green, Sir John Cass, Redcoat, and Bishop Challoner schools)
- Separate toddler and junior playgrounds very popular and regularly used by locals
- Walk through, picnic, soft recreation, family spot overlooking the playground
- Popular with dog use, in particular within the fenced dog use area
- Community events
- Jogging
- Picnics

Description of proposed location:

- Grassed/turfed mound area, highest natural point in the park
- 2 mature trees
- West of proposed site comprises of perennial bedding of different species, and just north of the location comprises a stretch of informal hedge
- Proposed location estimate: 140 – 160 square metres, and rectangular shaped
- An informal pathway allows visitors to cut through to the playground or southern exit

Current use of proposed location:

- Thoroughfare into the playground, and south exit / entrance
- Picnic is very popular in particular beneath the 2 mature trees for shade
- Soft recreation and informal gatherings / chilling out
- Sight line into the playground is extremely good, which is beneficial for parents to relax whilst having a good view into the playground
- Visibility into the astro turf for spectators, in particular for pitch 1 and 2 (west of astro turf)

Impact of proposed 5 a side astro

- Removal informal route through from the main path to the playground and park exit
- Removal of 2 trees and shrubs
- Possible removal or reduction of perennial bedding (located on west of proposed location)
- Removal of a green space/ picnic area used by parents and children within close proximity of playground

- Potential noise from astro football use into the playground, in particular the toddlers play space which is the nearest.

Mitigation of impact of proposed 5 a side astro

- Planting additional trees and shrubs
- Create new perennial bedding area
- Create new picnic area adjacent to the playgrounds

Benefits of 5 a side astro

- Infrastructure and management already in place from the existing astro turf such as changing rooms, services, maintenance plan, security cover and supervision already on site
- Demand for astro usage in the borough, including demand for 5 a side pitches
- Additional income to offset running costs
- Promoting the borough's Healthy Living and Staying Fit initiative by providing additional sports space
- 5 a side pitch will cater for smaller groups. Currently 7 a side is the smallest astro space available at Stepney Green

Additional information

The site achieved its first Green Flag status in 2018, and had a playground renovation in 2019.