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Turf fields on top of buildings?

■ Green space at Georgetown University is at a minimum. About 12,000 students attend the 100-acre campus. That's why officials at the Washington D.C. school might install a grass athletic field on top of a proposed building.

They've already reportedly talked to Dr. Bill Daniel, co-inventor of the sand-based Prescription Athletic Turf (PAT) system, about the feasibility of such an undertaking.

The building is being planned for the 2¹/₂-acre site presently used for Georgetown intramurals.

Horticulture field 'wide open'

■ Looking for a job? How about a career switch into horticulture? According to a Temple University prof, the jobs are there, but the graduates aren't.

Dr. George Manaker, chairman of the department of horticulture and landscape design at Temple's Ambler Campus, says, "each year we get more and more inquiries for qualified graduates. The jobs are out there. But there aren't enough qualified people to fill them."

Temple literature notes that careers in horticulture are wide open, financially attractive, and personally rewarding. "If a graduate wants to work with interior plantings, it takes only minutes to land a job," says Manaker. "Large corporate buildings and shopping malls have opened up the field of interior landscaping design," he says.

A few years ago, a group of Temple horticulture alumnae formed a landscape design network, aimed at stimulating business opportunities for women. It was a good idea. Today the network serves both women and men as an exchange forum for information on a career in landscaping.

Reduce injuries, reduce liability

■ Litigation arising from personal-injury accidents is a trend we all want to avoid. Greg Petry says park directors can reduce injuries and limit their exposure to liability with some planning.

Petry, coordinator for parks in Park Ridge, Ill., suggests monthly in-service safety training programs plus inspections of park grounds. Prepare and use a checklist, he says. It can be the documentation needed to head off a lawsuit.

Some other hints from Petry:

- Schedule inspections on a "regular" basis rather than weekly or monthly. The term "regular" gives the park director some leeway.

- Once you find a safety problem, make sure your boss is aware of it as well. "Push the responsibility up the ladder," Petry says.

- Don't alter playground equipment without permission of the equipment manufacturer. If you do and an injury results, you become legally vulnerable.