

## **“AFTER EFFECTS”**

### ***A Photographic Essay on the Effects of Cyclocross Races on Parks***

**The photos shown here were taken at several MAC races in 2004 by SpectaSport founder Ken Getchell. They are representative of the effects of cyclocross races on community parks and other facilities.**

**The first half of the essay deals with typical conditions that most parks can expect.**

**The second half deals with the worst-case scenario, a deluge that creates a “mud bath”.**

## **GRANOUGE ESTATE, DELAWARE -- OCTOBER 23, 2004**



Granouge is the estate of Alfred I. DuPont, (yes *that* DuPont). Every year it hosts one of the biggest and richest cyclocross races in North America. These photos show the track where it goes around, and through, a garden on the estate



These photos show the water tower hill on the estate. The small ridges seen in the right photo settle naturally. In fact, Mr. Dupont does not require any restoration to his grounds following the annual bike race -- not even overseeding. Keep in mind that the pictures you are looking at are of Mr. Dupont's "front yard" and his driveway is only about 25 yards behind where the photographer of the photo on the left was standing. Compare this to the soccer fields on the next page.





These Pee Wee soccer fields are about five miles away from the Granouge Estate. The photographs were taken on the drive home following the Granouge race and show the “damage” that even very young children can do to sports fields. Note the footprints and cleat marks in the photo on the right (remember, these are elementary school age children). Compare the wear-and-tear in these photos to that in the previous photos taken *the same day* at Mr. DuPont’s estate.

**Philadelphia's Fairmont Plateau  
October 24, 2004**







These two photos were taken from the same spot, about 120 degrees rotation apart. Note that the cycle course on the left shows virtually no wear -- as compared to the extreme wear on the Rugby fields (which were NOT part of the cycle course) on the right.



When this photo was taken, three-and-a-half (out of five) races had been completed. The turf here looks better than Wimbledon's grass courts do near the end of the famous tennis tournament.



This photo was taken after the final race of the 2004 "Phillycross" at Fairmont Park. Wear-and-tear on the park was extremely minimal.

## **HIGHLAND PARK, NJ -- November 21, 2004**



This was a very wet race and serves as an example of a "Worst Case Scenario". The flooding in the parking lot highlights how miserable the weather was before and during this event. The following "Before/After" photos show Highland Park's Donaldson Park immediately following the race on November 21, 2004, and after restoration on December 13, 2004





November 21, 2004



December 13, 2004

This is the portion of the course that had the deepest ruts following the race. Note that, despite initial appearances, comparatively little of the grass was actually damaged. The area will be invisible once the grass germinates in the spring.



November 21, 2004



December 13, 2004





November 21, 2004



December 13, 2004

Though some portions of the course were still visible after the race, keep in mind that it was December and the grass was dormant. Also, this tends to be a very soggy park (it abuts a river and is lower than most of the rest of the town) and the level ground on the lower portion of the park (foreground) was still quite moist even three weeks later. The “after” photo on the right gives a good comparison of the lasting effects on soggy soil (foreground) and drier soil (hillside in background)





November 21, 2004



December 13, 2004

### ***The Amazing Disappearing Race Track***

No restoration was done to this portion of the track. The ruts settled naturally, and the rain washed-off the mud that had only coated the grass.