

**From:** [Doug Soccer-Danoff](#)  
**To:** [Carol Ann Desiderio](#); [Barbara Murphy](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Please approve the Roosevelt budget  
**Date:** Monday, May 22, 2023 9:34:27 AM

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Dear Malden City Council:

I am submitting these words for public comment for your meeting on May 23.

After so many years of impassioned argument, it is time to finally settle the question of Roosevelt Park. I know minds are already made up, but I hope that my perspective as a 10-year volunteer of Malden Youth Soccer might help people understand the opportunity and importance of this project.

Those of us who advocate so strongly for sports do so for reasons well beyond the score in some game. Organized sports help kids work together, grow strong, learn how to improve, and develop true confidence. Sports provide joy and meaning to so many families in our richly diverse city. These benefits must not be allowed to become exclusive – which is what will certainly happen if resources cannot meet the demand.

Grass simply cannot withstand the needs of that space. With such a dramatic difference in usable hours, grass would force meat-cutting sacrifice on the thousands of Malden kids who partake in our sports. Every important question must balance challenging factors. How important are organized sports? What are the demonstrated risks of one solution or the other? Might choosing grass change the course of our environmental destiny? I have inspected these questions deeply and honestly, and conclusions seem obvious... It would be unjust to burden kids with such a costly, disproportionate, and meaningless sacrifice.

I urge your vote to approve the budget to finally return this field to service. We need this field back desperately and the delay has already caused too much harm.

Respectfully,

Doug Danoff, President of Malden Youth Soccer  
120 Glen St

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