

**From:** [Fern Remedi-Brown](#)  
**To:** [Carol Ann Desiderio](#); [Emily Granoff](#)  
**Subject:** Public comment for City Council Meeting and voting on Roosevelt Park on Tuesday, May 23  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 8:00:29 AM

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Dear Ms. Desiderio and Ms. Granoff,

I am a long term Malden resident (since 1988) and parent who cares about our children's welfare and about racial and social justice.

There is a plan for removing lead-contaminated grass in Roosevelt Park. However, the funding for contamination removal should only be approved if it is tied to the installation of natural grass. The artificial turf that is being proposed for Roosevelt Park is not a solution for the students of Salemwood School or the surrounding neighborhoods of Ward 7, precinct 5-1 - the most diverse in all of Malden - who have unjustly been excluded from the discussion, including not being allowed to speak at public meetings, and this conflation of issues leads to racial injustice in our City.

Turf creates heat islands, which are unsafe. In the words of a coalition of regional environmental justice and conservation organizations in conjunction with [Friends of Roosevelt Park Malden](#), "Cities like Malden should be taking steps to meet the demands of a warming climate, but the installation of an artificial turf field at Roosevelt Park would contribute to the urban heat island effect." This effect increases "heat related illness and mortality." Since the plastic surface can heat to unsafe temperatures of 140-170° F in the sun, and anything above 120° F could burn skin, "artificial turf would create a hazard for anyone wanting to use the park on a warm, sunny day – a hazard that could be avoided."

Additionally, PFAS "forever" chemicals are embedded in the plastic of artificial turf carpet. The well-known health effects of PFAS are linked to reproductive issues, increased cancer risk, weakened immune systems and high risk of obesity," known to "hinder child development and growth," according to the aforementioned coalition.

Turf is highly dangerous for our athletes, with a 58% greater chance of injury due to a harder playing surface, in addition to the previously mentioned heat, which can go up to  $\geq 140-170^{\circ}$  F, risking dehydration, heat stroke, poor athletic performance, and burns. And, as mentioned earlier, with turf, there is PFAS chemical exposure. In addition to the prior concerns, this also has known links to cancer, and damage to endocrine, nervous, reproductive and immune systems.

For all of these reasons, anything less than a plan for natural grass for Roosevelt Park is an injustice for this neighborhood and this school community.

Thank you for listening,  
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