

**From:** [Kathleen McGourthy](#)  
**To:** [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)  
**Subject:** Roosevelt Park Field  
**Date:** Monday, March 27, 2023 8:27:50 PM

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Dear Ms. Desiderio,

Please ensure that my email gets read into the record of any appropriate meetings regarding Roosevelt Park.

Dear City Council,

My name is Kathleen McGourthy and I am a Grade 5 teacher at Salemwood School. Last week we had our first day since the fall that the patchy grass of Roosevelt Park was dry enough that our students could play on the grass at recess. They had been begging us for weeks, since there is no place to play soccer, football or run when we are confined to the plaza. I told one group of boys, if I win the lottery, I will buy you the best grass out there, grass that has no puddles or big bare spots on it so you can play all year long on it. And the teachers are happier too when we can get out to the grass field, since the plaza is too crowded and antsy kids who want to run risk tripping on the very uneven pavement and the stairs. The joy is palpable when the kids can run on the grass.

I also coached our grade 4 and 5 "Girls on the Run" team at Salemwood School this past fall. The team building activities and games we played as part of the social-emotional component of Girls on the Run involves lots of sitting on the grass while journaling, crawling and playing on the grass during games and activities. Our kids need real grass. Most of our kids live in apartments that don't have grassy yards to play on.

I could also give you scientific data about how turf is simply less green, is made from "forever chemicals", causes heat risks, and causes turf burns. Have you ever seen 10 and 11 year old Brazilian kids play soccer? They will be getting turf burns every day if there is turf instead of grass. Don't our kids deserve the safest place possible to play? For these kids this school is their home, and they deserve to be safe.

Sincerely,

Kathleen McGourthy  
Grade 5 Foundational ESL Teacher  
Salemwood School

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