

From: [Kim Brookes](#)
To: [Carol Ann Desiderio](#); [Emily Granoff](#)
Cc: [Amanda Linehan](#); [Karen Colón Hayes](#); [Carey McDonald](#); [Barbara Murphy](#)
Subject: Public comment for City Council Meeting and voting on Roosevelt Park on Tuesday, May 23
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 4:47:06 PM

Hello,

I've been living in Malden since 1988, and on Ivy Road since 1992. I am often a soccer coach for Malden Youth Soccer, and I coach the JV girls soccer team for Malden High School. I play soccer myself, all around eastern Mass, and in several states at tournaments.

From my perspective, we could have had Malden kids and adults using a beautiful new field at Roosevelt Park for the past several years. Instead, here we are, mired in a battle that neither side can completely prove. I did a little of my own research—not much, just a little. I found a dearth of scientific data on this issue. I found a Swiss study that indicated that turf is better than grass if the field is in heavy use. I believe they identified a tipping point between grass and turf. I know Boston, I think it's Boston, has put a moratorium on new turf until they gather some more information.

I consider myself an environmentalist. I am concerned about how much water will be wasted maintaining a field in top notch condition. I am concerned about the wear and tear on a grass field that is in constant use. I am excited by the idea we can have a cork or other natural material in the substrate instead of the black stuff that contains many materials that are bad for people. Are the pellets themselves bad for people who run across a field full of them? Aren't the black pellets recycled, so they are keeping nasty things out of landfills? Nevermind, we don't want black pellets, so I'll drop that one.

Pine Banks has a beautiful grass field inside the track. My JV team plays on it. This past year, it had holes deep enough to trip on. When notified, Pine Banks staff made repairs pretty quickly, but they seemed to make those repairs with sand, which isn't going to be a long-term repair. There were times when, just like I've had to do at Devir, Amerige, and Linden, I put a cone on the field so players wouldn't hurt themselves.

Varsity plays on the turf at Pine Banks. When it rains, varsity plays. When it rains, JV doesn't. The high school doesn't make up JV games, so our season is usually shortened by two or three games.

A turf field can create a heat island. Can't that be addressed with plantings around the field? The charter school field doesn't feel all that hot to me. I've never had a player suffer heat stroke because of a turf field. I've never had a player suffer heat stroke, because I keep an eye on my players, ensure they get breaks and water, etc. etc.

A well-maintained grass field, properly watered, and allowed to be in use every week day 3-10pm, and weekends 8am-10pm, would be fine. IF it gets built immediately.

I'd rather my JV team had access to a turf field so we could get all our games in.

But whatever happens, get this neighborhood a decent field. People have been talking about how bad that field is since Salemwood was built. For at least ten years, I've heard rumblings that the field was going to be resurfaced.

Instead, it's still not playable as a soccer field; Linden is full of glass and rocks; we lost Devir this year, which is full of pot holes; the stadium is in high demand; and varsity has to take priority at Pine Banks. Malden deserves better.

Malden deserves better than a small, though now large, group of people delaying a project for so long that the costs have grown and we still don't have a field.

I'd like to have made this a well-written letter, but I think I've already missed the deadline for today as it is.

Thanks for reading.

Sincerely,

Kim

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