

**From:** [Heatherebarry](#)  
**To:** [Carol Ann Desiderio](#); [Barbara Murphy](#)  
**Subject:** Roosevelt Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:45:54 AM

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Dear City Council,

I really hope this is the final vote on Roosevelt Park. I have written a number of times but I want to reiterate my support for making Roosevelt a playing field that the many youth sports organizations in the city can use.

While we all wish grass would be sustainable there, we've heard all the reports about the difficulties in maintaining it, as well as the cost. Artificial turf is not inexpensive either, but it will allow children to play on it no matter the weather, whether from the sports teams or from Salemwood.

I had one of my practices on Roosevelt for a season of soccer and it was miserable between the sogginess that crept into everything, whether it had rained or not, to the mosquitoes attracted by the dampness.

Malden is lucky to have as many sports options as it does to get kids out from behind their screens and interacting with other kids and exercising. As a Board Member of Malden Youth Soccer, we're delighted to see our numbers bounce back and start to exceed pre-COVID numbers. We have 800+ kids engaged this season. Field space has been tight, especially with Devir and Roosevelt off line. It would be great to have Roosevelt as an option for the many sports leagues in the city.

We play on both grass and turf. Grass is wonderful; turf is durable and can be played on in the rain.

I hope you will vote to have turf on Roosevelt so that the kids can use it year round in all weather.

Thank you,

Heather Barry

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