

From: [Kari Percival](#)
To: [Yem Lip](#); [Carol Ann Desiderio](#)
Cc: [Friends of Roosevelt Park](#)
Subject: Item 235-23 Questions on Roosevelt Park heightened flooding risk for residents
Date: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 11:14:41 AM
Attachments: [KLM to Malden BoH 12April2023.pdf](#)

Dear Mr. Lip,

Pertaining to Item 235-23 in this week's city council agenda, we are requesting you, as Malden's City Engineer to provide a professional opinion, in writing, concerning the stormwater runoff in relationship to the Roosevelt Park project in a 100-year flood plain.

Artificial turf is classified as an impervious surface by the Malden City Code and also the state regulatory commission. The project claims to add storm water capacity, but we have heard from the EPA that the added gravel layer only replaces a small fraction of the storm water absorbing capacity of existing real soil and natural vegetation. **Flood Mitigation for the neighborhood has not been addressed; it has only been addressed creating water storage space pertaining to the park using past precipitation data and not predicted precipitation projected by scientists concerning climate change and absorption.** According to the Malden Vulnerability Report, Roosevelt Park is key to mitigation of flooding for the school and neighborhood and to mitigate heat island effects. We are concerned that the amount of storm water will overwhelm the artificial turf drainage system and overflow to flood the adjacent residential homes. As an alternative, restoring and maintaining the natural grass playing field with proper grading and drainage would preserve and maximize storm water control and ecological benefits.

The City of Malden is aware this project will not be insurable due to being built in a flood zone but they are comfortable with the flood mitigation measures created in the plan by the project planners. According to planners, Section 108 Loan Application, Appendix B Question #24, the City will accept the risk of being non-insurable. So that means the plan to install artificial turf will not be insurable because of the location on a flood plain. It may become destroyed by seasonal flooding and become unplayable without expensive maintenance.

We are glad that the city council voted to remove and replace the toxic lead soil where 1,2000 Salemwood elementary school children play daily, but we are concerned that adding a new source of toxics, including PFAS, on top, will contaminate the new clean soil and the storm water flowing into the Malden River.

What is your professional opinion? How will the plan possibly affect the homes on Playstead, Dell and Hyde Streets during a 100-year flood rain event? How will the chemical compositions in artificial turf, including PFAS, leaching through the artificial turf pertain to the regulated runoff in stormwater regulations?

Sincerely,

Kari Percival

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Attached documents: Photos illustrating flood concerns, KLM letter to Board of Health detailing flood comparison of flood mitigation of natural grass vs artificial turf.

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