

Dear Council members,

I am writing as an active member of the over-55 soccer community to respectfully share our perspective regarding the proposed budget item that would convert the artificial turf field at the North Potomac Community Recreation Center to natural grass.

Our group relies on this field as a consistent, safe, and year-round recreational space. The current artificial turf surface allows older adults to stay active in nearly all weather conditions, supporting both physical health and community engagement. Natural grass fields, however, are frequently closed during and after heavy rain, which significantly reduces access. In addition, grass fields often develop ruts, bare patches, and persistent wet areas—conditions that can increase the risk of injury for older athletes.

Maintaining a reliable, even playing surface is essential for our age group. The existing turf field provides exactly that, enabling us to use the facility throughout the year without interruption. Preserving the turf would continue to support the County's goals of promoting wellness, active aging, and equitable access to recreation.

We greatly appreciate your leadership and your commitment to providing high-quality recreational resources for residents of all ages. Thank you for considering our request to keep the North Potomac field as artificial turf so that our community can continue to benefit from safe, dependable, and year-round play.

Respectfully,

Holger Serrano

February 6, 2026